

St. Bartholomew's Newsletter

March 2004

The Assistant Rector's Remarks

The Rev. Margaret Pollock, Assistant Rector

Dear people of St. Bartholomew's:

I write this on Ash Wednesday. Later today David will bring home ashes to impose on my forehead: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Normally, as your priests, David and I perform this act for each other at St. Bartholomew's altar, before inviting the congregation to receive ashes. But this year, as most of you know, I am undergoing cancer treatment, so it is not a normal time for me. Neither will my Lenten spiritual discipline be "normal" this year.

Like it or not, because of my medical condition I'm already doing many of the classical acts of penitence: reduced diet, physical mortification, relinquished habits and pleasures, retreat from the world. I even have a shaven head. But since I didn't choose any of these as spiritual discipline, I still face the question: exactly how should I keep a holy Lent this year? It is a question, not only for me, and not only for this year, but for each of us, each year.

The purpose of spiritual undertakings is to draw closer to God. Since this is a matter of relationship, there is no formula, and you cannot choose alone. Rather, the first step is conversation with God, not only questioning but listening: how is God leading you to deepen that most precious bond between Savior and saved, Creator and creature, Spirit and spirit?

Perhaps you remember Jesus' lament over the holy city of Jerusalem from Luke's gospel, appointed for the Second Sunday in Lent this year: "How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Luke 13:34). Jesus speaks to each one of us as well. He longs to gather us. What stands in the way?

Usually, the general impediment is human self-

absorption. Somehow, we are not paying attention to God. Instead, we are caught up in things that seem more demanding! and immediate! than the benign figure of God that hovers on our more distant horizon.

Self-absorption may be the general hindrance to a closer walk with God, but the specific presentations of self-absorption in individual lives are hugely varied, and not always readily discerned. Rare is the person who does not need, really need, a wise spiritual counselor and guide to help sort out God's leadings, personal impediments to God's embrace, and how to yield to the grace that will resolve the impasse. David and I are always available to you for this, and we can recommend other priests and gifted laypersons as well. Please do not hesitate to ask for spiritual counsel.

But, now, what about those of us who encounter this Lent, not in a state of self-absorption, but humbled instead by illness, or grief, or trial? I believe that, for us, a holy Lent lies in reaching for joy. It is a known paradox and great mystery, that pain and sorrow and incapacity possess the power to lay the human spirit open to the Divine. And the Divine is Joy. This is illogical, but true.

For myself, I stand on the verge of the next forty days anticipating and praying for a glimpse of Joy. I have developed a few intentions to keep my gaze focused on that delight. Please pray for me, as I do continually for you, that God may lead me gladly into a Holy Lent.

*Peace and love in Christ,
Margaret+*

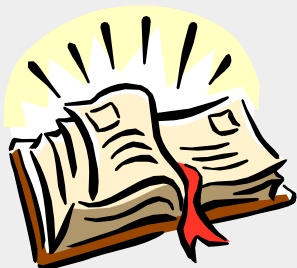
How is God leading you to deepen that most precious bond between Savior and saved, Creator and creature, Spirit and spirit?"

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.

**Local Outreach**

The Local Outreach Committee will meet March 6th at 9:00 a.m. to put together bags/baskets for the Betty Krahnke Center.

Also, anyone who has given an item for the MOM'S Club program and wants to report the donation to the IRS may obtain a tax donation form by calling the church office at (301) 948-8201.

Notes from Vestry Retreat

Saturday, February 21, 2004

The Vestry held its annual retreat on Saturday, February 21, 2004 at the home of Bill Fitts, our Treasurer. At this retreat, goals for the coming year are established, committees are formed, and initial planning for church activities are developed. A summary of Committee suggestions are shown below.

Worship: Anne Wasson, Irene Spurge, Bill Fitts, Jeff Taylor.

Some suggestions for the group's consideration were: use of the 1928 prayer book and chanting at the 8 a.m. service; alternate use of Rites 1 and 2 at the 11 a.m. service; a more contemporary service, perhaps at 9:15 a.m.; a possible Saturday service; having the priest stand behind the altar; more Biblical history in the sermons; use of more joyful and uplifting hymns; incorporating a cherub choir, folk music, bands, and guest choirs into the services; having more plays and pageants for the children.

Publicity: Mike Frazier, Frank McMurtray, Herb Grabau.

This group will focus on advertising the church and its activities, including the printing and distribution of flyers, postcards, brochures, etc.

Welcoming and Membership: Vickie Fisher, George Leigh, and Art Elgin.

This group will look at ways to make sure that newcomers to the church are welcomed and encouraged to make St. Bartholomew's their church home.

Fellowship: Judy Docca, Cynthia Phillips, Deborah Turton.

This group will be responsible for keeping a calendar of social events for the church and will work with the publicity committee to get word of upcoming events to parishioners and the community. Some suggestions of possible events included small dinners at parishioners' homes; a support system for pastoral care (organizing food for shut-ins, etc.); youth activities outside of church; ministry to singles.

Other topics discussed at the retreat included:

Education: Suggestions included a sex education class for parents and teens; continuation of Bible study classes, with emphasis on Bible history, and Alpha-like classes with a limited time frame; classes that would attract people from outside the parish.

Facilities: All agreed that the church is good, but has age-related problems. It was suggested that, in the future, a new church could be built, while keeping the old building as a chapel.

Outreach: It was agreed that there should be more communication with the parish and the community about the activities of the outreach committees.

If you would like to participate in any of these function, contact a committee member or the church office.

Doors of Mirembe Soon to Open

The past couple of months have brought wonderful energy and resources to our project for AIDS orphans in Kenya. In February, St. Bartholomew's wired \$2,942 to The Rev. Sosiness and Mary Demo. They have provided a budget for applying these funds to complete the Mirembe Girls Home and make it habitable. By the end of March, the Demos intend to: purchase trees for timber for furniture; pay local carpenters to make all the basic furniture for the home; purchase bedding, a kitchen stove and refrigerator, pots, pans, dishes and cutlery; install ceilings; and complete the septic tank. The push is to make the home ready for the girls to move into it around the first of April, when they have a trimester break from the boarding schools they attend scattered across Kenya.

Other work that will need to be accomplished to prepare the home for the girls includes obtaining a permit from the government, and hiring a matron and a watchman. Next on the list, soon after the girls move in, will be arranging for electricity and telephone hookups.

Also part of the Demos' work with the girls coming to the home will be an orientation, to help them learn to live with each other. In the Kenyan setting this is important, as society tends to be organized along tribal lines, and our girls come from many different tribes, in many different areas of the country. It is a remarkable aspect of the Demos' work with orphans over the years, that they do not favor just their own tribe, but reach out to children in need, no matter their tribal heritage.

We await a letter and photos from the Demos, that were mailed several weeks ago. And presently, Father and Mary Demo are working with the girls to collect letters from them describing their lives: something else for us to look forward to. Father Demo reports that the girls were so overwhelmed by the Christmas cards and notes St. Bartholomew's sent them, that they hardly knew how to respond to us. These children had never received anything like this in their lives before. So, the Demos have been encouraging the girls just to write about their lives, and how they feel, and how their lives are different because they are able to have an education.

Getting Together: My health permitting, in the next several weeks I hope to gather together everyone who has directly supported our Mirembe ministry, either as child sponsors or as contributors to the orphanage. I would like also to include any others who have not yet joined this ministry, but would like to know more or to become a part of the Mirembe work. If you fall into this category, please let me know by email so I may include you in the invitation: margaretpollock@comcast.net

Peace and love in Christ,
Margaret+

Child Sponsors

In March, St. Bartholomew's will prepare to wire the funds for the next trimester, for sponsoring our Girls of Mirembe. We now have many parishioners and others outside of the parish who are sponsoring a total of ten girls, of the twelve the home is designed to house. If you are one of these wonderful people, please check to be sure that your contribution is up to date. Every penny is needed.

If you would like to become one of the supporters of our Girls, please contact Margaret or the church office

E-mail Addresses

The Vestry is compiling a list of parishioners email addresses. This list will 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 also has 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". Also, Sue Lowry will be collecting email addresses after services and at church functions. Thanks

"The push is to make the home ready for the girls to move in around the first of April."

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"

On March 6, 2004 we're starting a new tradition here at St. Bart's: the "First Saturday Morning". The first Saturday of each month will be a time of fellowship and work to strengthen our parish. The morning starts at 9 a.m. with coffee and donuts, and we'll be working until noon. You can come anytime it's convenient for you. Several Church organizations will be meeting, so this is a great time to become involved in one of these. We're looking for not only people handy around the yard and buildings, but also people to do work inside such as organizational work, small committee tasks and cleaning. The Christmas Bazaar Committee plans to meet at 9:30 a.m. to begin work on several of its projects. The Local Outreach Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m., and the Altar Guild will meet at 10 a.m. Anyone interested can come and find out what they do. It will be a work day when the little chores of fixing and cleaning can be done. Of course, the repair and maintenance people will be working throughout the three hour period. If you're not sure what you might be able to help with contact George Leigh at 301-774-0599 or Deborah Turton at 301-482-0675. Please call the parish office 301-948-8201 to let us know if you are coming.

Vestry photo here

St. Bartholomew's Vestry – 2004

New and Welcoming Committee

As everyone knows, it is important that our congregation grows. At the Vestry retreat last weekend we formed a new committee, the "Welcoming and Membership Committee" and we need members! The purpose of the committee is to develop a plan for welcoming newcomers and for following-up with newcomers. We hope to recruit both new and older members of St. Bartholomew's for this work. Please let Art Elgin or myself know if you are interested in helping with this important project.

February 16, 2004

To The Parishioners of St. Bartholomew's,

I want to thank each of you for the lovely Waterford Crystal tray and red roses. The tray will always be in a special place with my china and used on special occasions.

St. Bartholomew's, my church since birth, will always be special to me. The early church was founded on a strong and firm foundation that has brought us to this point in 2004. As registrar, it has been interesting to work with the policies formed in the early days that are just as good and practical today. I cherish these memories.

Thanks again as we go forth doing God's work.

Sincerely,
Louisa Riggs

Public Relations Committee

The public relations committee is seeking volunteers to help design a program that will inform the community about the opportunities and benefits of membership at St. Bartholomew's. The committee will seek to print articles about events at the church and to develop a marketing plan designed to bring new members into our church.

St. Bartholomew's has many outstanding features including marvelous Sunday school programs for all ages of children, during church Sunday school, a friendly and supportive congregation and ministers, and outreach programs designed to support the local community and unique worldwide issues.

If you have ideas please contact Mike Frazier by e-mail at mfrazier@bna.com or come to a 9am meeting planned for the Saturday workday at the church.

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar Committee is already at work. We picked the dates – December 3 and 4 – and want to get more parishioners involved. The bazaar will include bake and crafts tables as well as the café serving soup and barbecue in the undercroft as in previous years. We plan to move the white elephant sale to the Education Building, so we'll have more space for everyone's neglected treasures. We would like to offer local artisans the opportunity to rent a table and sell their work in exchange for a table fee and small percentage. If you know a local potter, woodworker or other craftsperson who might be interested, let us know.

We know everyone in the parish has skills so be sure to share yours. We particularly need someone who likes to work with wood to make picture frames and signs.

The first meeting is March 6 at 9:30 a.m.. Give us a call to see how you can help. Sonja Elgin (301) 869-8332, Morna Golletz (301) 482-2345

Lenten Sunday Evening Dinners

On Sunday, February 29, St. Bartholomew's is starting a series of five Lenten suppers. After a meal of soup and bread brought by the participants, the adults and teens will be viewing the PBS program "From Jesus to Christ" There will be a separate and fun program for the younger set. We'll begin at 6 p.m. and finish by 8 p.m.. This is a great way to incorporate fellowship in your Lenten practices. If you would like to come, please sign up in the Undercroft or contact Deborah Turton. Please plan to come.

**Christ died
for the for-
giveness of
our sins**

The Ladies Guild

The next meeting of the Ladies Guild is scheduled for Monday, March 15, 2004. All women of the Parish are invited to a Pot-luck luncheon and a business meeting which follows.

We are beginning new projects to support the Bazaar in December. One of our members, Sonja Elgin is co chairman with Morna Golletz. That committee will be meeting at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday in March at the Church. The annual Azalea sale will begin in May and you will be kept informed as to the opening day and times. We continue our Lions dinners and though we work, we have a lot of fun too. The March Lions Club dinner will be on Thursday, March 25th. Our group made a donation to the Church of \$300 toward the fuel oil this winter. This is in addition to paying for all of the Pargas used by all groups as they use the stove.

Pancake Supper

Our pancake supper was super thanks to the many volunteers who came to help and to our congregation's great turnout! When the doors opened at 6:00 we filled up immediately and continued to serve approximately 100 people in less than two hours. We did not charge but accepted donations. And as expected, we received much more money than needed to cover our expenses and the remainder has been contributed to the church operating fund.

One only needed to enter the undercroft to notice the great fun, conversation, joy and fellowship that was taking place. Thanks to the many people who made this effort such a great success!

Pancake photo here

Pancake photo here

Sunday School News

We continue our study of the life of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke. We are very excited in having several new Sunday School teachers; Heather McMurtray, Beth Augustin, and Joanne Frazier. Lauren Bray has also agreed to help the Kindergarten Class. Mary Grabau has been recovering from a strained back and the children have missed her greatly. We hear she is feeling much better and will be back soon (and we won't let her carry her many projects!).

We look forward to several fellowship activities in the coming months in addition to our weekly study and projects. These include an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Day, Mothers Day Tea, Father's Day Picnic and the planting of an Herb Garden with history plants from Monticello.

We encourage you to join us as a teacher (only one Sunday a month) or a special event leader (give us a idea). Also please encourage any new children to come and join us in our faith, fellowship and fun activities. All visitors are cherished and welcome!

2004 Budget

The St. Bartholomew's budget for 2004 is trim and difficult. Here is a summary of the budget as approved by your Vestry, Projected income is less than projected savings. Therefore, the balance must be taken from our savings made over previous years.

INCOME

Pledges and Contributions	145,000
Miscellaneous Receipts	300
Undercroft Activities	0
Church Activities -- Dinners, Bazaar (Net of Expenses)	2,300
Other	<u>1,440</u>
TOTAL INCOME	149,040

EXPENSE

Clergy Salary and Benefits	119,933
Administrative Assistant	12,500
Organist & Music	4,275
FICA & Medicare	1,130
Office & Administrative Expenses	11,600
Christian Education	5,200
Worship Expenses -- Music Materials, Altar Guild	500
Outreach Programs	1,500
Diocesan Contribution	12,663
Church Electricity, Fuel & Maintenance	4,700
Rectory Electricity, Fuel & Maintenance	1,300
Parish Life Center Electricity, Fuel & Maintenance	2,000
Cleaning Contractor & Supplies	6,500
Grounds Grass, Snow Removal, Maintenance	3,700
Stewardship	700
Parish Life	<u>400</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	188,601

TOTAL LOSS

Diocesan Support	17,000
Special Gifts & Memorial Funds	<u>15,000</u>
NET LOSS -- REDUCTION IN SAVINGS	7,561

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J2A (Journey to Adulthood)

We continue to the study the Gospel According to the Simpsons. Additionally, we are planning to meet one night a month, beginning on March 26th at the Oatland Log Cabin. We will watch an episode of the Simpsons, have discussions, order pizza and eat! We also hope to make arrangements for other outside activities for youth fellowship. We welcome Les Cannon who has joined us as an adult leader.

Our young people (13-18) are encouraged to join us at any time and no time like the present!!!! Bring friends.

The Adult Inquirers Class

The Adult Inquirers class began 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.

Scheduled Activities

Upcoming Events

March 6 St. Bartholomew's Saturday Morning — 9:00 a.m.
March 7 – Lenten Sunday Evening Dinner — 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
March 28 Dinner and Discussion
April 4 Palm Sunday
April 11 Easter Sunday

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. The Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Adult Inquirers Class
10:10 a.m. Junior 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
2nd & 4th Sundays J2A meets in the PLC (during Sunday School)
Sunday Fellowship Coffee Hour follows both Sunday services

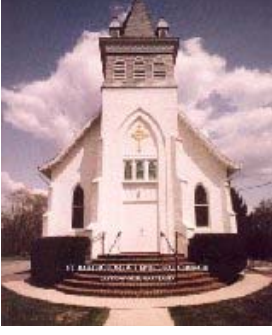
Regular Weekly Schedule

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)
Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. Lenten Holy Communion Service

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



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