

# St. Bartholomew's Newsletter

July/August 2004

## The Rector's Remarks

*The Rev. David Pollock, Rector*

Dear People of St. Bartholomew's

June was a wonderful month for St. Bartholomew's. We began with two baptisms, heard the report of Robert Franken on growth, and hosted the Bishop and enjoyed a gorgeous day for a picnic on Father's Day. Although the summer is a time for us to relax a little and recharge our energy for the fall, we will be continuing on with Sunday school during the summer and developing our plan for growth.

The vestry appointed a task force chaired by Deborah Turton with members Eric Duffy, Rand Golletz, John Kaufmann, Kathryn Cousins and Joanne Frazier to digest all the material Robert Franken gave us, and respond to his recommendations. There will be opportunity for you to discuss those recommendations in September, with the vestry making its final decision about our growth plan in October.

We look forward to that report to build on the great progress we have made this spring. As you take this summer to reflect on your spiritual life and how much St. Bartholomew's means to you, be prepared this fall to become more involved with our program life in addition to our worship life. Jesus calls each of us to go out and make disciples of all people. As a church we are working very hard to provide the opportunity for you to grow in your faith and reach out to others and bring them into our parish family. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

*Peace and love in Christ.  
David*



## Summer Service Schedule

St. Bartholomew's Church went to its Summer Schedule on June 27, 2004. Late service will be at 10:00 a.m. The 8:00 a.m. service will not be affected and will remain at 8:00 a.m.



## Bishop Chane Visits St. Bartholomew's

On June 20, 2004 the Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, Bishop of Washington, came to St. Bartholomew's. At the 10:00 service he gave an excellent sermon about, among other things, getting along with people that may seem different than you. We had 100 parishioners at that service. Afterwards, the Bishop was able to join us for our annual Fathers Day picnic.



## First Saturday

"First Saturday" workdays have been a big success this year. Lots of work was accomplished, donuts and coffee were great, and there was some very good fellowship.

We are taking a break for the summer. There will be no "First Saturday" workdays in July and August. Please plan on helping on September 4th!

**Christmas Bazaar**

Jamie Kaufmann is coordinating Gift Baskets for the Christmas Bazaar. Each basket will have a theme, and parishioners will be invited to donate new items to fill these baskets. The baskets will then be sold through a silent auction at the Bazaar. Collections will commence in September for the first two of six baskets. Two more will follow in October with the final two completed in November. Projected themes with examples include:

Winter Wonderland (hot chocolate mix, mittens, hats, scarves, pressed firelogs, blankets, etc.)

Family Fun (board games, popcorn, videos, DVDs, CD, Tapes, card games, snacks, etc.)

Entertaining (nonperishable American and International food items, wines, beverages, napkins, candles, etc.)

Crafts (any variety of craft materials)

Literature (new reading material for all ages)

Christmas (religious items, ornaments, paper goods, cards, candles, candy, gift wrap, etc.)

**Our Growth Consultant — Robert Franken**

In April, Robert Franken, our growth consultant, held private individual meetings with several parishioners, as well as met with the Vestry at its April meeting. Robert Franken, our growth consultant, returned to St. Bartholomew's on Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. and gave his report and his recommendations for us. There were about 40 of us at that meeting — 15 from the early service and 25 from the later service. After an interesting presentation on the demographics of the Diocese and the greater Laytonsville area — population growth, family income level, church going statistics, etc., he proceeded with a number of specific recommendations and comments for us to consider. See the Rector's comments on Page 1.

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1. Congregation should reach consensus on growth model
2. Actively reach into Montgomery Village
3. Consider name change to St. Bartholomew's &&
4. Clergy person should be a member of the Rotary or other service organization in area
5. Improve signage outside on the property
6. Improve signage inside
7. Upgrade the quality of the space (table, chairs, configuration, etc.)
8. Remember Starbucks — give them quality and service
9. Build a contemporary service in the fall, maybe on a different night
10. Religiously keep office hours
11. Utilize a paging system from nursery to church
12. Insure nursery security
13. Have lay person deliver bread, etc. to a visitor within 24 hours
14. Clergy follow-up after 2nd visit
15. Limit service length to 58 minutes and be consistent.
16. Build a new working relationship between an aging but dedicated Ladies Guild
17. Build a youth program
18. Increase communication through website, emails and snail-mail
19. Share power with the new and the young
20. Vestry should focus on vision and policies
21. Rector should be accountable for day to day
22. Balance the long-term parishioners needs with newcomer needs
23. Train greeters they are your most important lay ministry (extroverted, name and face recognition)
24. Leadership should learn to apologize quickly when wrong, and take a new direction
25. Clergy and task force should not implement without information campaign, so parishioners don't get blind-sided
26. Should be a defined balance between global and local mission
27. Recreational, educational, community and youth oriented programs
28. Leadership development program

June 21, 2004

Letter from The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, D.D.  
Bishop of Washington and Dean of the Cathedral

To The Rev. David S. Pollock, Rector  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Dear David,

My sincere thanks to you and your congregation for the extraordinary welcome I received on Sunday. It was a pleasure to be able to worship with you and the many devoted parishioners who make St. Bartholomew's such a warm and inviting parish. I was charmed and humbled by the friendship and hospitality offered to me; thank you.

In Christ's Peace, Power and Love,

+John

Judith:  
Space for the Photos

### Sunday School All Summer

Our "SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL SUMMER" program began June 27, at 10 a.m. We are asking the parents of each Sunday school child/children to sign up for one of the Sunday sessions. This will enable St. Bart's to offer Sunday school during the summer months as well as giving our teachers a much needed break. Please sign up for one of the following dates still open, if you can. The dates are: July - 4 - 11 - 18 - 25 or August - 22 - 29.

To sign up and/or ask questions please call Mary Grabau at ( 410-795-2426 ). Your support will be much appreciated. Thank you on behalf of the Sunday school staff.



### Pastoral 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.

### Church offers education to Kenya's AIDS orphans

The July/August issue of "Washington Window", the Diocese Newspaper, had an excellent article about the Mirembe Home in western Kenya being supported by St. Bartholomew's Church. In two years St. Bartholomew's has raised nearly \$30,000 to build the Mirembe Home and to help pay for the secondary education of the twelve girls of Mirembe.

The article tells of how the Rev. Margaret Pollock had met the Rev. Sosiness Demo and his wife Mary and of their subsequent visit to St. Bartholomew's three years ago.

Eric Duffy's family has been contributing to Mirembe girls in their relatives names instead of buying them Christmas presents. Eric said that they have been contributing to the project for three years and the family is pleased to help. Eric's niece, who live outside Boston, asked friends to bring donations for Mirembe to her 10th birthday party instead of gifts. She and the eight guests raised about \$150 for the Mirembe Home. She said, "It's a lot better than asking for presents . . . If you ask for donations it actually goes to something."

Anne Wasson has written to one of the girls and is waiting for a reply. She said she "hasn't seen the congregation participate in such a large project in her 30 years at St. Bartholomew's."

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America.

People in Mrs. Pollock's church are my parents because they pay for my fees. Mama Mary Demo and Pastor Demo are also my parents here in Kenya. Their girls are also my sisters. I am happy and proud to have these people.

I don't know where my brothers and sisters are but one thing I know is that "God loves them too".

I know one day I will finish school and will have a good job and will also get married to a good husband who will be a Christian. I hate men who are drunkards.

I have a lot to write but, I have to study too because we have exams next week and I have to get ready because I don't like to fail exams. I love to get A or B+. I will see you when you come to our Mirembe Home and to our school. If I had the plane, I would come to visit you one of these days. Maybe when I finish school and get a good job, I will save my money and buy a small plane, by then I will be visiting you always.

Tell all my friends that I love them and love their card and I always say thank you when they send their greetings.

Mama Mary told me that Mama Margaret is sick. I pray for you always and we have been praying for you in our Christian Union in our school. Just be happy Mama and trust in God and you will be fine.

Mirembe [Peace] to you all. I will write you more next time. Greet all my friends.

It is me.

Lillian Murekani

### Christmas Bazaar

We've been busy preparing for our upcoming Christmas bazaar to be held Dec. 3 and 4. We have a good start on a variety of craft items and have scheduled two workdays for July. They are July 7 at 9:30 am and July 20 at 7:00 p.m. Watch for additional dates. All parishioners are invited to join us. No real skills needed; just enthusiasm!

In addition to our selection of crafts, we'll have a bake table, lunch/dinner and the white elephant sale. We're adding some special features this year, including

- a small group of crafters, including a teddy bear artist and a jeweler;
- themed gift baskets sold in a silent auction (see elsewhere in the newsletter for more details)
- a raffle of artwork
- sales of live Christmas wreaths (watch the next newsletter for pre-ordering information)

Because we are creating such a festive atmosphere, we thought our name should reflect this as well as our long bazaar tradition. We invite all parishioners to get involved in St. Bartholomew's 30th Christmas Festival.

Sonja Elgin (301-869-8332)

Morna Golletz (301-482-2345)

**MY LIFE HISTORY**

Lillian Murekani

I am told that Pastor Demo used to visit my mother when she was sick in the hospital and I also know Mrs. Demo because she used to bring us food in our small house when my mother was sick. You know I am now in class ten (form two) and I am happy with my school and with my teachers.

My father was the one who died first and after six years my mother died too. I am the last child in the family of five. I have not seen my two brothers and my sisters for many years since my grandmother who was taking care of us died.

People don't tell me exactly what killed my mother and my father. Some tell me it is AIDS and others tell me that it is TB; but what I know is that they are all dead.

[The stigma and fear associated with AIDS often causes people to say that AIDS deaths are from another cause. Tuberculosis is a common opportunistic disease of those infected with HIV, so TB is frequently named as the cause of an AIDS death.]

Life was not easy and good for us even before my parents died, we lived in dirt [floored] wooden house. We had one room and we used to sleep on one mat and share one old torn blanket at night, in the slums with dirty clothes and no shoes. We had no good food to eat apart from beans mixed with maize [cornmeal mush]. We never had enough food to eat and we were always hungry.

I went to Pastor Demo's church at Mathari Mental Hospital one afternoon and met many children in dirty clothes who were singing and dancing. We were given tea, bread and fruits. I was happy and Melisa (my friend) and myself continued to go to Demo's house. Sometimes we could get his girls who were happy to give us food and when they were away in school Mrs. Demo gave us food and taught us how to read, sing and speak English.

[In November 2000 it was my privilege to stay with the Demos at their home in Mathari, one of the worst slums in Nairobi. I worshipped at Fr. Demo's slum churches, and Mary took me on a tour of the slum school where she taught fourth grade and gathered in street children, exactly as described in Lillian's letter. These two are saints, pure and simple.]

One day she spoke to me and asked me if I would like to live with her friend and be taken to a good school. I told her that I would be happy because I loved school but had no one to pay fees for me and buy me books and uniforms. She took me to a nice family and I lived with them for three years and then took me to another family where I am now.

I was very happy to hear that I am going to live with the other girls in Mirembe Girls Home. I was told that will be our permanent home. I know Mrs. Margaret Pollock and friends from her church built the home. You know I loved them. Their Christmas card is tied on my bed and I read it all the times.

I work very hard in school because I want to pass my exams and be a doctor or a lawyer when I finish my school. I know I don't have my biological parents, but one thing I know is that I have parents here and in

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Mirembe Child Sponsors**

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.



**Correspond with the Girls of Mirembe**

Would you like a "pen pal" in Kenya? Write to one of the girls of Mirembe. They are so appreciative of the support we are providing to them and they are writing to us. We can make it more personal if you would write to them.

We can use more correspondents! Please let Margaret know if one of them will be you.



**Baltimore Orioles**

St. Bartholomew's is buying a block of 20 tickets for an Orioles game on September 12<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$15 apiece. Contact Deborah Turton or the church office if you are interested in coming along.

## Scheduled Activities

### Upcoming Events

July 7 Bazaar work session 9:30 a.m.  
July 20 Bazaar work session 7:00 p.m.

### Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. The Holy Communion  
10:00 a.m. The Holy Communion - first, third and fifth Sundays  
Morning Prayer - second and fourth Sundays

Sunday School Activities are held during the 10:00 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 The Monday evening Bible Study has ended for  
the summer, It will resume 9/13/04.  
Wednesdays The Wednesday morning Bible Study and  
Holy Communion service have ended for the  
summer and will resume 9/15/04.



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 5005  
21611 Laytonsville Rd.  
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| <p>St. Bartholomew's Church<br/>P.O. Box 5005<br/>21611 Laytonsville Rd.<br/>Laytonsville, MD 20882<br/>Office Hours:<br/>12:00 – 3:00 p.m.<br/>weekdays</p> | <p>Phone Numbers:<br/>Office: (301) 948-8201<br/>Church: (301) 948-8202<br/>Fax: (301) 990-7787<br/>Web Address:<br/><a href="http://www.saintbartholomews.org">www.saintbartholomews.org</a><br/>E-mail: <a href="mailto:stbart@comcast.net">stbart@comcast.net</a></p> |
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