

December 2004

The Rector's Remarks

The Rev. David Pollock, Rector

Dear people of St. Bartholomew's,

This is the last time I will write this front page of the newsletter as your rector. As you know I will retire January 9th. Our more than three years together has been a blessing for me. It has been a privilege to get to know each of you. Even when you did not agree with me, you treated me graciously and I think together we have made great progress in organizing St. Bartholomew's for the future and the future is bright. You have good leadership in the vestry and you will get new good clergy leadership in the near future.

We are in the season of Advent, the season of anticipation and expectation, of patient waiting, anticipating, expecting and waiting for the birth of Jesus.

I don't need to tell you that the culture we live in does not like to wait. In fact some of you would rather that we jump straight to Christmas and skip Advent. Let's start singing Christmas Carols in church right now and not wait until December 25th. But my experience has been that in life the things that I have had to wait for are the things and events I have most appreciated. The same goes each year for Christmas. Try waiting, try reflecting on the birth of Jesus, try slowing down the pace this Advent, and you will appreciate the celebration more when it gets here.

The first way to prepare for Christmas is to come to our Christmas Festival on Friday and Saturday, December 3rd and 4th at the Church. You have to pick up the wreath you ordered so plan to stay for lunch or dinner and see all the wonderful things to buy to prepare for Christmas. Preparation for Christmas means being together with other parishioners and the festival as well as church each Sunday will be a good way to start.

I am so looking forward to this Advent season as we each prepare in our own way to welcome the Prince of Peace.

Peace and love in Christ.
David



The things that I have had to wait for are the things and events I have most appreciated.

Holiday Services

Dec. 19 11:00 a.m.
Morning Prayer with Pageant

Dec. 24 5:00 p.m.
Family Eucharist
11:00 p.m.
Festival Eucharist

Dec. 25 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

Dec. 26 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Jan. 2, 2005 8:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
11:00 a.m.
Lessons and Carols

Jan. 9, 2005
Dr. Pollock's last Sunday



Caroling

St. Bartholomew's will be caroling on Sunday Dec. 19th from 6:30 - 8:30. We will meet in the undercroft, then spread good cheer throughout Laytonsville. We'll return to the undercroft for cookies and warm drinks. Please bring a plate of cookies to share.

Deborah Turton
301-482-0675



Stewardship Status

Through November 29, 2004, we have received 56 pledges for a total of \$105,628. Last year we had 68 pledges for a total of \$119,194 by the end of November.

St. Bartholomew's Christmas Festival

December 3 & 4



Friday, Dec. 3, 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 4, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.



Crafts, Wreaths, Ornaments, Pottery, Jewelry,
Bake Sale, Raffle, White Elephant Table, Hot Food
Something for all ages!

Festival Bake Sale

Our festival will be here before you know it. In order for the bake sale to be a success, we need everyone to contribute something. Please deliver your goodies on Thursday, December 2 to the church, anytime between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m.. Any questions, call Nancy Harding (301) 926-0435.

Christmas Festival Baskets

The themes for the two November Christmas Festival Baskets are Christmas and Winter Wonderland. Any and all donations of new items will be greatly appreciated. Feel free to add to the September and October baskets as well. Remember, the baskets will be sold through a silent auction at the Christmas Festival. Thank you for your support. See you at the Festival! –Jamie Kaufmann

White Elephant Table

Come one, come all for the White Elephant Table at the Christmas Festival. You know the saying, "Someone else's junk is another's treasure"; or better still, don't store your treasures where moth and rust destroy, but pass them on. Now is the time—donations are accepted Sunday, November 28th after church, from noon to 2:00 p.m., and Wednesday, December 1st from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Education Building.



Please, all items in good condition
Books, toys, household items, china. No clothing.
Call first if donating large items
Also wanted, God's Servants for 1 or 2 hours on Friday, December 3rd
10 -8 a.m. and Saturday, December 4th 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Call Karen Parker 301-253-4526.

We can still use Festival helpers. If you have any free time, please call Sonja Elgin at 301-869-8332 or Morna Golletz at 301-482-2345.

Please join us during the festival and share in fun, food and fellowship!



Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Lake Forest Mall

Again this year we will be ringing the bells to attract contributions for the Salvation Army, at Lake Forest Mall, on December 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be two-hour shifts. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. Include your phone number on the sign up sheet so that Art Elgin, who is coordinating the ringing, can be in touch with you. We are committed for one location at this time, but may get another if there is enough interest. This is a true way to participate in the spirit of Christmas.



Moving On — The Search for a New Rector

The Vestry thought it would be a good idea to let you know what it envisions will be happening in the next few months. The Episcopal Church has a procedure for selecting a new rector, which we will be following with the help of the Diocese. In the second week of November the Vestry met with Canon Nancy Peete to learn more about this procedure.

The Diocese has advised us that we should not begin the search process until after the Rev. Pollock leaves. On one of the two Sundays following the 9th, Canon Peete will talk to the congregation to inform all of us of the search procedure. After January 9th the Vestry will formally organize a Search Committee to begin the process. While the Search Committee is beginning its work, we do know that we will be able to interview and select an interim rector from a list that the Diocese keeps of ministers available for this purpose. How long we will have the interim rector will depend on how soon we can select a permanent rector. The Diocese is confident that given the profile of St. Bartholomew's, we should not have a problem finding a rector.



We also know that for a period of a few months, we probably will need to have supply ministers. We are fortunate to have had some very good supply ministers over the past few years. We think that we will be able to draw upon this resource.

As we learn more, we will keep you informed.

Art Elgin Junior Warden



**Adult Education
Via Media Program**

Learn more about your faith with Via Media. This is an educational tool meant to keep members of the Episcopal Church informed about their faith and give seekers the opportunity to learn about the church.

We are planning to continue with this program in January. Details will depend on our new interim (or supply) rector.



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.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant is December 19th!!

Our Christmas Pageant takes place Sunday, December 19th at the 11:00 service. All children and their friends are invited to participate. We plan to practice briefly (about 30 minutes) during the coffee hour after the December 5th and 12th services to make sure we are prepared for a great performance (although it could never be bad with our great kids)! If you are unable to participate during the practices, no problem, there is always room for kids to fit in on December 19th. Please let Mrs. Fitts know if your child wants to be a reader or have a speaking part. Also, let us know if you have a role preference.

The children's choir is planning to participate in the Pageant with some special songs. Feel free to join the rehearsals that take place in the Education Building at 10:30 on Sundays. Lauren Fisher is leading this effort and will also be our Music Director for the Children's Pageant.

Santa Claus is also planning a visit during our Christmas Party (cake and goodies) taking place in the Undercroft, after the Pageant. Each child can visit with Santa and have their picture taken as well. The children are also making their manger scene during Sunday School on December 5th and 12th. The manger will be used in the church during the holidays.

Annual New Year's Blessing Party on January 2nd

We will once again count our blessings and celebrate the New Year with a giant (5 feet) subs and chili on January 2nd, after the 11:00 service. Please plan to come and bring friends! We have Italian Subs and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches (for the kids) and homemade chili. But mostly we enjoy wonderful fellowship and remember our many blessings including the love of God, family, friends and many other things.

Annual Coat Drive

We concluded our annual coat drive and appreciate the wonderful support! We delivered over sixty coats to a Rockville homeless shelter. Many good quality coats are now warming less fortunate people. The generosity of our Congregation is truly doing God's work.



Local Outreach Report

On December 5th and 12th we will need toiletries, soaps, dental needs and cosmetics for the Krahnke Women's Shelter. Bill Fitts has agreed to be Santa again this year. We invite parishioners to attend the celebration at the Center with us. We will announce the specific date, please in the weekly notices in the Bulletin.

We will be providing and serving dinner at the Sophia House on the 8th and 29th of December at 6:30. Volunteers are needed on the 29th. Please contact Judy Docca at 301-977-7591 if you will be available on the 29th. We purchase some items, but other items such as desserts, drinks, and rolls, are donated.

Please place the 1st of February on your calendar for *Thanksgiving in February*. A list of 60 restaurants will be available soon for the committee to choose one which is convenient and easy to get to in February. Last year, snow and ice were on the ground and it was foggy in the open areas, therefore we probably don't want to travel too far from the Laytonsville area.

Later in the spring we will prepare activities to support Camp Friendship for children with cancer.

Thank you again for your support!

Judy Docca

December 2004

St. Bartholomew's Needs You!!!!

With Rev. Pollock leaving, St. Bartholomew's is entering a critical but exciting phase of its history. IT NEEDS YOUR HELP.

On the 1st Sunday in February, 2005, the Annual Meeting of the parish will be held. At the meeting there will be elections for the Senior and Junior Warden positions and for three positions on the Vestry. Next year's Vestry, in all likelihood, will be choosing our next rector. Although the process of looking for a new rector will be conducted by the Search Committee, the ultimate decision will be up to the Vestry.

A Nominating Committee of Eric Duffy, Jean Sommerville, Irene Spurge, Judy O'Neil and Frank McMurtray has been chosen to present Vestry and Warden candidates to the parish at the meeting. We need two people to run for each position. We would love to have some volunteers. If you are interested, please contact one of the committee members; or if you are asked by the committee to run, please say yes. It is not a great time commitment.

The Vestry meets once a month, currently on the third Wednesday. The members are expected to make most of the meetings. While there will be some additional committee meeting, they are not numerous.

Thanks for your consideration.

Art Elgin
Junior Warden



Growth Task Force

The Growth Task Force has completed its job. The recommendations and the growth theology and strategy are now on the web site. We've passed on our recommendations and your recommendations to the vestry. I would like to thank Kathy Cousins, John Kaufmann and Rand Goletz for their time and hard work. We recommended that the vestry focus on three tasks right now: finances, welcoming and publicity. If you'd like to help, please contact a vestry member.

Deborah Turton



Ladies Guild

December is a busy month for the Guild members. In addition to helping with the Christmas Festival on Friday and Saturday of this week, we will be making up our Christmas baskets at Barbara's home, 7101 Brink Road in Laytonsville at 9:30 on Monday, December 13, 2004. All are welcome to join in. Later that day, we will begin distributing them to friends, family and members of the Parish who are very special and some who may need an extra amount of cheer. At last count, we plan to distribute 16 baskets.

Please support the Christmas Festival on Dec 3rd and 4th. There is something for everyone. The wreaths will be ready for pickup on Friday and Saturday. Stay for lunch or dinner and take a chance on the raffle and place your bid on the Silent Auction baskets. On your way home, try some of the delicious baked goods and don't forget the craft tables and Christmas items. There are even white elephant items on display in the Educational building. There definitely is something for everyone.

Going to Africa

This year the Christmas season for the Pollock family will include packing to set up housekeeping in Nairobi, Kenya during the new year. This will be the first time in my long career of international development, dating back to 1975, that the family setting has allowed us to say yes to the opportunity of a field assignment. During our years together, David's parish ministry has always been paramount – but now retirement will enable him to be my companion in this adventure.

One April morning in 1998 I was ordained a deacon in Honduras, one of the Episcopal Church's missionary dioceses. The next morning, Bishop Leo Frade and I met with the Honduran minister of finance to discuss the country's external debt burden and the government's plans for development. Later that day, in my first diaconal act, I proclaimed the Gospel of Matthew:

The purpose of all of this work is to help East and Central Africans lay hold of a better life for themselves

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

This Honduras experience was a surprising mix of church and world, of sacrament and economics – and a mix with which God has continued to pattern my life.

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." In some mysterious way, I believe that David's and my corner of the harvest field lies for the next three years in Kenya. I go to manage a BearingPoint, Inc. project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. This is

a U.S. Presidential initiative to increase trade and trade capacity in East and Central Africa (ECA). Called the ECA Trade Hub, the project covers 18 countries in that part of Africa, and takes a practical approach to trade development. For example, we are helping the private sector and five governments to cut the time, expense and risk of shipping goods along the main transport corridor in East Africa, to improve competitiveness in international markets. Another important example is training export-ready firms to present their goods in the U.S. and regional markets, sponsoring them at trade fairs, and following through with firm-level support so they realize significant increases in revenues. We also train government and technical experts from the ECA region to develop appropriate trade policies and to negotiate in support of those policies within the World Trade Organization (WTO) and regional trade areas.

The purpose of all of this work is to help East and Central Africans lay hold of a better life for themselves, by successfully selling goods and services in the larger and wealthier markets outside their own borders. At the same time, during our stay in Kenya David and I will continue to work with St. Bartholomew's Church and Fr. and Mary Demo to carry out our Mirembe ministry to teenage girls who are AIDS orphans. No doubt God will also place other work in our hands. And we look forward to taking time together, to enjoy the experience of East and Central Africa to the fullest.

Please pray for David and me during this exciting time in our lives, and pray as well for our grown children as they carry on while their parents are in a distant part of the globe. Know also that the people of St. Bartholomew's will be in our hearts and prayers, no matter how far away we might be.

Peace and love in Christ,

Margaret+

December 2004

Mirembe News

On Sunday, November 28 a dozen parishioners met to hear my field report from the Mirembe Girls' Home in Migori, Kenya, and to set the course for continuation of the ministry after David and I move to Kenya in January.

The main news is that all of our girls are in school and doing well. This in itself is remarkable, and a great blessing. Letters were recently received from Helen, Lillian and Mildred, and they can be found on the bulletin board in the undercroft. While visiting Mirembe I had a chance to meet Mildred, Lillian, Violet, Violet and Daisy. The girls were extremely shy as Mary Demo and I offered them new sets of clothing from St. Bartholomew's, and they were very excited to try them on and pose for pictures in front of the home.

All of our girls are in school and doing well.

It happened that Daisy and I spent some extra time together. I noticed that her face and neck are deeply scarred from an automobile accident that nearly took her young life. She's a small girl, fifteen years old, I believe. As Daisy got over her shyness I learned that her favorite subject in school is science: she is studying biology, chemistry AND physics! Her dream is to become a medical doctor. Daisy also told me that she loves soccer, which she plays one trimester of the school year. Her position is striker – goal-scorer – which speaks to me of her quickness and courage.

Continuing on to further discussion, the group agreed that the Mirembe ministry will be led at St. Bartholomew's by a triple chair, members to be announced. Work over the next year is planned to include:

- Completing the transfer of our 10 girls to a good, local school as day students, with Mirembe as their home
- Maintaining the financial health of St. Bartholomew's ministry
- Increasing local sources of income for

Mirembe

- Knowing the girls better, as our daughters
- Providing further education or training after high school graduation (for example, one of our parishioners is supporting Judith Silongo in nursing school; David and I will take Caroline Mitume into our Nairobi home and support her in culinary studies – meanwhile she will be our cook and housekeeper)
- Improving living conditions at Mirembe (for example, the home doesn't yet have electricity)
- Improving communications between St. Bartholomew's and Mirembe – including both the Demos and the girls
- Improving the funds transfer process and accounting tasks
- Planning for a St. Bartholomew's mission trip in August 2005 (a not-to-be-missed trip with David and me to the capital city of Nairobi; time at Mirembe with the girls, including some outings and fun; and a safari in the Masai Mara national park)

While in Kenya, David and I will do all we can to facilitate and support the Mirembe ministry, being an important link with both St. Bartholomew's and Mirembe.

While in Kenya, David and I will do all we can to facilitate and support the Mirembe ministry, being an important link with both St. Bartholomew's and Mirembe.

During this new stage, please continue to support this wonderful ministry – our girls, the Demos, St. Bartholomew's leadership, David and me – with your prayers and resources.

Mirembe (Peace) and love in Christ,

Margaret+



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 5005
21611 Laytonsville Rd.
Laytonsville, MD 20882

Scheduled Activities

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 1** White Elephant Table donations received,
on Dec. 1, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Education Building
- Dec. 2** Bake Sale & crafts items drop off, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at the church
- Dec. 3-4** Christmas Festival: Dec 3, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
& Dec 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Dec. 5 & 12** Local Outreach collection of soaps and cosmetics for the Krahnke Women's Shelter
- Dec. 11** Bell Ringing at Lake Forest Mall, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Dec. 13** Guild fruit basket work, 9:30 a.m., Barbara White's home
- Dec. 19** Christmas Pageant — 11:00 service

Sunday Schedule

- 8:00 a.m.** The Holy Communion
- 10:00 a.m.** Adult Choir Rehearsal — Church (Time Change)
- 10:30 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
Nursery Available

2nd & 4th Sundays J2A meets in the PLC (during Sunday School)

Sunday Fellowship Coffee Hour follows both Sunday services

Regular Weekly Schedule

- Wednesdays** 10:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

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