

April 2005

**From your Supply Priest**

The salutation for Christians at Easter isn't "Dear Friends"-- although you all are certainly dear to me--but "Christ is Risen!", and so I'll greet you with those words. And although I have to write this before the Easter services, I'm sure that they will be very worthy of the beauty and solemnity of this greatest of Christian feasts.

I want to say that Easter and all the services of Holy Week wouldn't have been so worshipful & moving if a large number of people hadn't contributed to making them so. I think of the members of the Altar Guild, with Stevie directing them, who prepared the sanctuary for these complicated services, and were all along so solicitous of any needs I might have. My work was made so much easier by their thoughtfulness. I want also to thank those who were acolytes and who read the (often very difficult) readings assigned for the Holy Week services. And finally, I want to express my appreciation for the efforts--so lovingly dedicated to the ministry of music--of the choir, the organist and the choir director. It was a pleasure to collaborate with Marilyn and Mark, and I applaud them & the choir for tackling the very difficult motet performed before the 11 a. m. service on Easter. The ministry of music is crucial to any church, & St. Bartholomew's has, with the musicians in the parish, the opportunity to offer to those who come new dimensions to our worship.

I wouldn't have gotten to first base without Judith, who knew just the right questions to ask me, and understood exactly what I had in mind with regard to the bulletins for Sundays--and was helpful in so many other ways, too. And to Art I give my heartfelt thanks: you have a wonderful senior warden, one who will be a sure guide during these next months of change and growth. Give him your support, and be aware that he's doing many things on your behalf that he's too modest--& too busy--to tell you about!

And, finally, my thanks to you, dear friends. You welcomed me several years ago at a difficult time for you, and you've welcomed me again, as an old friend. Your hospitality made everything I did so much easier, and such a pleasure. I give thanks to God to see how enthusiastic, energetic and hopeful you are these days. You are a most resilient community! And that's a good sign that you'll be open, in the time to come, to God's good providence for you. Our ways part now, but my prayers for you will continue. And prayer is the best offering we can make.

Christ has Risen! He has risen indeed!

Yours,  
Perrin

God's peace be with you,  
Perrin

**Confirmation**

Starting the second Sunday of April we are planning a confirmation class. The class is tentatively scheduled to be held between the services. If you are interested we need to know by April 1. The confirmation ceremony will be held on May 21 at the cathedral. This is open to both children and adults. If you are already confirmed, you can come if you would like to reaffirm your commitment to the church also. Please contact the church office and leave a message 301-948-8201



**Via Media News**

The Via Media study group will meet at the home of Evelinda and Nelson Torres on Tuesday, April 12, at 7:30 PM. The topic for this session is "Thy Kingdom Come: The Promise of Christian Hope". There will be a 20 minute video followed by a short discussion period. All are welcome to join us for dessert and the program. Call Anne Wasson at 301-774-9015 for information.



**Pastoral Care**

If you have the need for pastoral care, please contact the Church office (301) 948-8201



# **St. Bartholomew's Newsletter**

**April 2005**

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## **Committee Members**

When Harry Bennett reminds us of the deadline for the newsletter, he sends a list of questions to make us think. One that caught my eye was: "Are there enough committee members? If not, why not? and what do we need?" Quite simply, there are never enough committee members. Why don't people volunteer more? I'm not sure. Some committees are better at encouraging members than others. Local outreach seems to use members and encourage regular meetings to keep people active. Some committees are of such long standing that they're ingrained in the fabric of our church. The Altar Guild comes to mind. Others, like Fellowship are so new (or recently re-introduced) that they have no permanent committee members. I ask for help on an ad hoc basis. People suggest activities to me; they sign up for coffee hour; they help for one event. Perhaps, it's time for me to formalize the Fellowship Committee to encourage more help. Other committees could really use help. The Property Committee needs help keeping the grounds up. The Publicity Committee is going to be rather busy as we increase our advertising. So there are opportunities for anyone to volunteer, whether on an ad hoc basis or on a more permanent basis. You can volunteer for more established committees or assume a leadership role in a committee that's looking for members.

But the big question is "why volunteer?" To me, volunteering at church is a way of tithing. Some of the Churches I have previously attended really spot lighted the concept of Time, Talent, and Treasure. It's a nice concept. When you pledge, you give your Treasure back to God. When you volunteer, you give your Time and Talent back to God. It's a nice balance. At some points in your life, you may have more treasure than time and talent, but at other points, the opposite is true. But whatever your situation, giving of all three back to God can make your spiritual life more complete. So next time you see a note in the bulletin asking if you want to help, give it a try. You might have heard the phrase "Those who sing, pray twice," but I like "Those who volunteer, pray thrice



### **Fellowship**

Look for an upcoming road trip to Baltimore at the end of April. I don't have the details yet, but prepare to be amazed!!! Watch the bulletin for more information. Questions? Call Deborah Turton at 301-482-0675



### **Growth**

The Vestry has decide to continue to focus on the growth of our parish. Even though we're between rectors, we have an interim rector to help guide us. Obviously, some decisions and changes may need to wait for a permanent rector, but much can be done now. We're looking at possible changes for the youth of our parish - perhaps a non voting seat on the Vestry, maybe some new signs, and more open Vestry meetings. Previously, we've implemented new welcoming procedures for newcomers, more fellowship activities, and additions to the Sunday School Curriculum that are all working well. We have to codify our financial strategy, adjust our publicity to our new interim rector and maybe tweak our worship services and freshen up our buildings. If you'd like to help the vestry and/or provide input for these changes, let Deborah Turton at 301-482-0675 know.

**April 2005**

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**The Rev. John Dewitt Stonesifer  
Interim Rector**

On April 1st, The Rev. John Dewitt Stonesifer will come to St. Bartholomew's as Interim Rector on a part-time basis. He will be conducting the services at 8:00 and 11:00 on April 3rd. There will be special coffee hours after each service to give the parishioners an opportunity to meet and talk with him.

Father Stonesifer comes to St. Bartholomew's with 20 years in ordained ministry emphasizing pastoral care, education, worship, ministry to families and organizational development. He has had experience working with the youth as a chaplain at Trinity-Pawling School in Pawling, N.Y. and at Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda and with the elderly at the Episcopal Ministry to the aging in Sykesville. Most recently, Father Stonesifer was supply priest at St. Mary's in the Woodlawn section of Baltimore. From 1999 through 2003, he was Vicar at Holy Spirit Mission in Germantown, where he revitalized a declining mission from 40 members to 150 members, and has served at St. John's Episcopal Church in Naples, Florida, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Princess Anne, Maryland, St. Francis in Potomac and All Saints in Chevy Chase. Father Stonesifer is a graduate of Clemson University and The Virginia Theological Seminary and received an MBA from the Theological College of the Bahamas.

Father Stonesifer lives in Rockville with his wife, Susan, and their two children, Sarah, 18, and Jack, 13. In his "other life" he is a marketing consultant in Washington.

Please welcome Father Stonesifer to St. Bartholomew's.



**Stewardship 2005**

You may remember me as Mr. Enthusiastic about stewardship from last fall. I'm following Herb Grabau as the 2005 Stewardship Chairman. This is probably not a surprise to anyone but me. As I believe stewardship is year round fun, I intend to write a regular column about various topics surrounding stewardship. So if there is something you'd like to hear my take on, please drop me a line.

In the meantime, I've done my taxes which makes my rich uncle happy. Besides being a chance to get my files in order, I get to see how I did on my giving goals. Every year there are various organizations and causes I like to support to build God's Kingdom. Some years I do good; other years I do less good.

Financial advisors tell me having a goal and systematic plan is the key to big returns. Systematic and deliberate saving is the way to build up a BIG nest egg! It's the same principle with Jesus and his Church. I find deliberate and systematic giving to be the best way to have a big impact for God. That's the beauty of those little envelopes. It's so easy to keep track. Each check may not seem like a lot, but by the end of the year it really adds up and you have made a difference. We have drawn closer to the Lord and participated in his Kingdom. See Schedule A is not so bad –

**Tim Smith  
Stewardship Chairman**

# St. Bartholomew's Newsletter

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## Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild continues to serve the Laytonsville Lions Club dinners. In appreciation, the Lions sent a check for \$800 to the Church for allowing them to use the Undercroft for their dinner meetings. On St Patrick's Day, we served 35 Lions and guests a corned beef and cabbage dinner complete with green ice cream and cookies. It was quite a hit with the Lions. On April 15th, we will be serving a Farmer's Club dinner.

The annual Azalea sale will begin in the latter part of April. (weather permitting). We will sell the azaleas on the corner of Brink Rd and Route 108. Look for our signs and flyers. All of the azaleas are locally grown and are hardy for this area. We will be open Wednesday through Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM. Please stop by.

Our next meeting will be a Potluck luncheon and business meeting to be held on Monday, April 18, 2005 at 12:30 PM in the undercroft. All women are invited to join us.



## Property

I know it's still cold and raining. However plans are being made for a church work day on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup>. We are planning on beginning work at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 12:00 p.m. You will be rewarded for your willingness to work. The Ladies Guild has agreed to prepare breakfast which will begin at 8:30 a.. in the undercroft. With our hunger satisfied we can eagerly begin to accomplish a lot of work which needs to be done. The list of tasks is still being compiled, if you would like to include something the list you can call me at 307-774-7475 or email me at Oatland@comcast.net.

Bill Fitts



### 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour

I'd like to thank everyone who has signed up for the 11 am coffee hour. If you'd like to host a coffee hour, the sign up sheet is on the counter by the kitchen. Remember, you're welcome to use any of the frozen treats in the freezer for coffee hour. If you have any questions, please contact me, Deborah Turton, at 301-482-0675.



Laura Grimes is back on duty overseas. Anyone wishing to send her a card or letter may use the following address:

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Grimes, Laura 4768  
129<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Battalion, 129 LTF  
APO AE 09391



## Visitors

Watch for visitors — An opportunity for evangelism and hospitality

“Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares,”

(Heb 13:2)

April 2005

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**Letter from the Senior Warden**

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

It has been a busy but exciting month since my last letter. As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, we now have a new Interim Rector, The Rev. John Stonesifer. The Interim Search Committee looked at a number of qualified applicants for the position, but thought he was the best match for the parish. We believe you will like him. We hope all of you will come to one of the services on April 3<sup>rd</sup> to meet him.

Many thanks go to the members of the Search Committee, its chair, George Leigh, Bill Fitts, Kathy Cousins and Anne Wasson. They interviewed all the candidates and checked their qualifications. After the Committee decided on Father Stonesifer, George and Lois Leigh and Anne and Al Wasson journeyed to St. Mary's Church in the Woodlawn secti

on of Baltimore and heard him conduct a service as a Supply Priest. A report was presented to the Vestry at a special meeting, and the Vestry voted to call Father Stonesifer as its Interim Rector. After an Agreement between The Rev. Stonesifer and the Vestry was signed, it was approved by Bishop Chane last week.

On a personal note, I particularly like Father Stonesifer's hair style. You will see what I mean when you meet him.

I cannot let this moment pass without expressing my sincere and heartfelt thanks to our supply priests, Laura Edwards, Martha Clark and, in particular, Perrin Radley. They were wonderful, and it is comforting to know that we may call upon them in the future.

At the same special meeting that the Vestry called Father Stonesifer, it elected Sue Davis as a member of the Vestry to fill the unexpired term of Mike Frazier. We will miss Mike and thank him for his wonderful service to the Church. We are delighted that Sue is now a member of the Vestry.

The Vestry wasted no time in putting Sue to work. She has agreed to head the Worship Committee. As I mentioned in my last letter, we have many parishioners working to insure that the services run well, such as the Altar Guild, choir, chalice bearers, ushers, acolytes and readers. It has made my work easier. However, the Vestry believes that it would be helpful to have one person on the Vestry for them to turn to if anything is needed or if there are any suggestions to improve the services. Sue is that person.

We have scheduled a work day for 9:00 a.m., Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, not a 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday like last year. The 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday is the day before Mother's Day. We didn't want to ask everyone to come out then. The Ladies Guild will be fixing a special breakfast for everyone before the start time. You will be hearing more about it over the month. Please plan on coming out and lending us a hand.

Father Stonesifer will be helping us with the Confirmation Class, which we plan to start on Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. I understand that we have two adults and four young people interested in taking it. If any others are interested in attending, please let Judith Schneider or Mary Grabau know.

We are excited that Morna Golletz and Sonja Elgin have agreed to put on the Christmas Festival again this year. I think everyone agrees that they did a fantastic job last year. They will be getting started in the very near future and will need your help.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

# St. Bartholomew's Newsletter

April 2005

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## Letter from the Senior Warden (Continued)

**THE FINAL BIG NEWS**—at its last meeting the Vestry named the Search Committee for finding a new Permanent Rector. The Committee will be chaired by Jeff Taylor. Also on the Committee are Ethel Ollivierre, Frank Dall, John Kaufmann, Al Wasson, Marilyn Corollo, Louisa Riggs, Nelson Torres, Kathy Cousins, Bill Fitts, and, about whom we are very excited, Lauren Bray, representing our youth as recommended by Canon Nan Peete. After hearing the opinions of several of the members of the Committee who served on the last search committee for the parish, it was decided not to hire a consultant. The Committee will be starting to work in the very near future.

Again I remind you that if you have anything that you would like the Vestry or the Wardens consider, do not hesitate to let me know; or if you would like, you can come and address the Vestry before the regular meeting starts. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

*Art Elgin*  
*Sr. Warden*



## Word from Mirembe

The big news from the Mirembe home is that all 10 of the orphaned young ladies are living there, and attending the high school where Mary Demo teaches. The Demos sold some of their land for 140,000 Kenya shillings (~\$2000 U.S.) to pay half the cost of a 4 wheel drive van, so Mary can take them to school even during the rainy season. The young ladies are studying and taking final exams to finish out the school term that ends April 15<sup>th</sup>. We want to thank all of you for helping achieve this milestone, which shows God's love working in the world, in the generosity to a group of girls none of us have met. The money we sent in January paid to complete and furnish the dining hall and kitchen which was required for government approval to have the girls move in. There are still improvements to add, a septic system and electricity. They use kerosene lanterns for lighting, after the sun sets at 6 p.m., which is constant for them, because they are so close to the equator.

*Les Cannon*

**April 2005**

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**Sunday School**

Starting with the first Sunday in April and every first Sunday until the end of the school year in June, the Sunday school will start the service in the undercroft. We will join the rest of the congregation in time to go to the altar and participate in communion. Those children who are confirmed can participate in communion and anyone yet to be confirmed can receive a blessing at the altar. We feel that it will help provide a greater understanding of what we are doing and what being a Christian, and Episcopalian, is about. Below I have included a Sunday schedule for March and April.

*“We are all children in the eyes of God”*

During the month of April the Sunday school will continue to study the New Testament. Below is our plan for April.

**Lessons Jesus Taught Us**

|          |                                    |                  |
|----------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| April 3  | Seven Woes                         | Matthew 23:1-16  |
| April 10 | The Parable of the Wedding Banquet | Matthew 22:1-14  |
| April 17 | The Parable of the Talents         | Matthew 25;14-30 |
| April 24 | The Sheep and the Goats            | Matthew 25:31-46 |

If you have questions about the lessons above ask the nearest Sunday scholar after the lesson.

May 8<sup>th</sup> is Mothers Day and we again will have our annual Mother's Day tea. Mothers of all ages are welcome. We are thankful to God for the blessing of our mothers. Fathers and children are also welcome after all they wouldn't be mothers without us.

**Payer for Education**

Almighty God, the fountain of all wisdom: Enlighten by your Holy Sprit those who teach and those who learn, that, rejoicing in the knowledge of your truth, they may worship and serve you from generation to generation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*



**An Historical Quotation**

"If there were any word of God beside the Scripture, we could never be certain of God's word; and if we be uncertain of God's word, the devil might bring in among us a new word, a new doctrine, a new faith, a new church, a new god, yea himself to be a god. If the Church and the Christian faith did not stay itself upon the Word of God certain, as upon a sure and strong foundation, no man could know whether he had a right faith, and whether he were in the true Church of Christ, or in the synagogue of Satan."

-- Archbishop Thomas Cranmer



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

## **Scheduled Activities**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Our new Interim Rector — The Rev. John Dewitt Stonesifer — will be joining us on April 3, 2004. Join us in welcoming him.**

**April 10            9:15 a.m. — Confirmation Classes begin**

### **Sunday Schedule**

**8:00 a.m.            The Holy Communion**  
**9:15 a.m.            Confirmation Class (Starting April 10)**  
**10:00 a.m.            Chancel Choir Rehearsal**  
**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 a.m. service**  
**Nursery Available**

**J2A meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays in the Education Building**  
**Fellowship Coffee Hour follows both Sunday services**

### **Regular Weekly Schedule**

**Wednesdays    7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

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