

Newsletter from...
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LAYTONSVILLE, MARYLAND
JUNE, 2005

(done by the office while Harry Bennett is away)

*Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...
teach them to your children. - Deut 11:18,19*

Dear Friends,

At our most recent Vestry Meeting on May 25th, the Vestry unanimously endorsed a revision of several key parish statements -- specifically our Mission Statement and how we accomplish it, as well as our Vision Statement. I commend the Vestry for their leadership and work on these documents which will direct our community life in the coming months. Here are the statements:

A. Mission Statement

To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to a diverse community gathering in Laytonsville.

B. We accomplish this by

- practicing hospitality to newcomers*
- providing fellowship and pastoral care*
- encouraging education and growth for all ages*
- providing inspirational Episcopal worship*
- valuing our traditions and looking to the future*

C. Guided by a vision

With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and leadership of our Rector, we will continually grow as individuals and community in the knowledge and love of the Lord.

At the close of the meeting, one vestry member mentioned that the challenge was to keep the material from getting lost in a file drawer. I encourage each and every one of us to reflect and meditate upon these words -- and how through the guidance of the Holy Spirit they might direct us in our life together.

Pax,

The Rev. John DeWitt Stonesifer
Interim Rector

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
MISSION**

To Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to a diverse congregation gathered in Laytonsville.

HOW WE ACCOMPLISH THIS

- Practicing hospitality to newcomers,
- Providing fellowship & pastoral care,
- Encouraging growth & education for all ages,
- Providing inspiring Episcopal worship,
- Seeking to service Christ in all persons
- Valuing our traditions and history.

OUR VISION

To continually grow in the knowledge & love of the Lord. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and leadership of our Rector, we will continue to value our unique community of faith as we worship, serve & glorify God.

LEADERSHIP TO ACHIEVE THIS

Ministers - The Congregation
Bishop – The Rt Rev John Bryson Chane
Int Rector- The Rev John D Stonesifer
Sr. Warden – Art Elgin
Jr. Warden/Treas – Bill Fitts
Register – Judy O'Neil
Vestry Members:

Sue Davis	Herb Grabau
Frank McMurtray	Judy Docca
Cynthia Phillips	Deborah Turton
Frank Dall	Tim Smith
Jeff Taylor	

Director of Music – Dr. Mark Cook
Organist – Marilyn Carollo
Sunday School Coordinator – Anne Fitts
Webmaster – Harry Bennett

OFFICE HOURS: M-F, Noon-3
Telephone: 301-948-8201
Fax: 301-990-7787
Email: stbart@comcast.net

www.saintbartholomews.org

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – ART ELGIN

I am excited about what is happening at St. Bartholomew's. I hope you are also. If you haven't had the opportunity to see and be a part of it, please come on out.

Most of what I will be mentioning is given in more detail elsewhere in the newsletter, but I did want to mention a few of the highlights. As most of you know by now, we had a very successful Confirmation Class culminating with the Confirmation at the Cathedral. The Mother's Day tea put on by the Sunday School was enjoyed by all. This summer we plan on having a Vacation Bible School and an Adult Summer Study. Please look into participating.

I think you all know that the Christmas Festival that we had last December was the most successful ever. Well I understand that the Ladies Guild Azalea Sale is on course to be the most successful ever. Speaking of the Ladies Guild, have you seen the wonderful new sign provided by the Ladies Guild in front of the Parish Life Center?

The International Outreach Committee continues to help the Demos and the girls at the Mirimbe Orphanage, and the Local Outreach Committee has been doing some wonderful things in the local community.

The community is something that has been on my mind for many years. I have long believed that St. Bartholomew's could be the center of the community in Laytonsville and our part of Montgomery County. I have now discovered that the sense of community, both within the Church and in the surrounding area is something in which Fr. Stonesifer is very interested. Deborah Turton is planning on having more parish activities. There will be a Father's Day picnic. Please join in and become a part of the community of St. Bartholomew's. I look forward to seeing you over the summer.

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT – BILL FITTS

I want to thank all who participated in our work day in May. We were able to accomplish a lot of weeding, mulching and general clean up. In all we had 19 parish members in attendance. The more hands the lighter the load. We started the day with a good breakfast which was provided by the Ladies Guild members Sonia Elgin, Nancy Harding and T.J. Miller. All in all it was a nice day of fellowship and at the same time providing a much needed service to the church. The work crew included (please forgive me if I omitted any names:

Les Cannon	Deborah Turton	Gwendolyn Cannon
Bernadette Cannon	Henry Cannon	Judith Schneider
Al Wasson	Tim Smith	Maggie Schneider aka #4
Art Elgin	Nelson Torres	Robin Horton
Fr. Stonesifer	Herb Grabau	Mary Grabau

We are planning another work day in the late summer/early fall. Watch for the date in the bulletins and news letter.

WORSHIP NOTES

Choir Sunday! This is a first in recent history for St. Bartholomew's as we celebrated on June 5th the ministry and dedication of our choir members and leaders! It was also a special day dedicating the new Roland digital piano which will be used for both adult and junior choir ministries. The purchase was made possible through the generosity of several parishioners and various parish groups allocating monies towards the piano, which promises to be a blessing to all of us.

Summer Schedule – We will begin our summer schedule of 8am and 10am services on Sunday, June 19th – our Father's Day Service and Picnic. Mark your calendars!

Liturgy - Look for two new aspects to worship during our summer months to enrich our worship life. The first is the introduction of new bulletin covers. The duties of Judith Schneider in our office continue to expand, and these new bulletins will be of assistance to her because the scripture readings are already printed on the back – and the cover attractively highlights a theme from one of the appointed scriptures. We will also schedule Rite II Holy Communion at the 10am service on first and fifth Sundays. While this was first introduced by Dr. Pollock, we will also have on those Sundays a printed worship booklet to make it easier for both long-time members as well as newcomers to follow the service.

ADULT EDUCATION

“Via Media” – the Episcopal adult study class & discussion series finished in May with an Hawaiian luau! Many thanks to Ann Wasson who convened the group & to all those who took part.

Confirmation Celebration – What a joyous occasion it was for our parish as ten of our parishioners were presented to Bishop Chane – for confirmation, reception or reaffirmation of baptismal vows -- at the Diocesan-wide Cathedral Service on Saturday, May 21st. On Sunday the 22nd, a beautiful reception was held here at St. Bart’s between services for all ten members to the Bishop. Special thanks to Mary Grabau and Bill Fitts for their leadership in the class!

“Creating Community” is the title of a six-week series on Sundays from June 26th – July 31st. Held between the 8 and 10am services, it will be led by Fr. Stonesifer and Mrs. Ann Wasson with topics to include: *Why Join a Church? What’s Right with Our Church! Six Ways to Care* and *Thankful Connections*. Each session will be complete in itself, so come by whenever you are able!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School – Our regular program will be wrapping up on June 5th as we give our dedicated teachers a well deserved rest for the summer. Recently we celebrated Mother’s Day with our annual Mother’s Day Tea. On June 12 we will be having our annual Sunday school appreciation. Each member of the Sunday school will be recognized for their gifts and contributions to our Christian education program.

Vacation Bible School - This summer we will be trying something new at St. Bart's. We have purchased the Circle G Ranch vacation bible school package to be used each Sunday over the summer. The children will come to church for the 10:00 am service and begin in the church. After a brief ceremony they will recess to tents on the church grounds. There’ll be straw cowboy hats, t-shirts, snacks, fellowship, straw bails for *sittin’* and *just plain fun fun fun, Ye Ha!* It promises to be a fun filled time for the children while learning many valuable lessons. We are encouraging bringing friends. Sometimes having a best friend along adds to the experience. *Yawl come now - hear!*

FELLOWSHIP

Maryland Science Center – Many thanks to Deborah Turton for hosting the Saturday field trip to the Maryland Science Center. It was a delightful day for all those who took part.

Game and Ice Cream Night – Come cool off and relax with our Game and Ice Cream night on Friday, June 24 from 7-9pm Bring your favorite game to play, and a friend, too! Let Deborah Turton know if you’re coming, so she can plan for the ice cream: (email: cannonturton@comcast.net or call 301-482-0675). See you there!

Nationals Baseball Game – The Diocese of Washington is reserving a block of seats for the Nationals’ home game on September 9th. Sign ups for this are due now – call the office if interested!

Father’s Day Picnic - On Sunday June 19th we will have our annual Father’s Day Picnic, which follows the 10am service. We all know what fathers like. Do they like tea? No! Do they like fancy sandwiches with no crust? No! They like hamburgers, hot dogs, and potato salad! They also like beating the youth in the annual father’s day basketball game. We haven’t seen him play yet, however the fathers are feeling pretty confident with the addition of the Reverend John (Shaq) Stonesifer. I’ve also seen some of the fathers working on their game out in the parking lot after the service.

Christmas Festival - We've already begun work for the 31st Annual Christmas Festival to be held this December. The first craft workday is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14th at 9:30am and at 7pm at the church. This important event brings together the whole parish and we want you to participate to make this year's Festival as successful as possible! If you plan to attend, please notify Sonja Elgin or Morna Golletz.

THE LADIES GUILD – BARBARA WHITE

The Ladies Guild is now in the midst of a very successful Azalea sale. The weather has been cooperative, the flowers are beautiful and we invite all to our location for sales at the corner of Brink Road and Route 108 on Wednesday - Saturday of each week from 10 AM to 5 PM until at least mid June or when the Azaleas finish blooming. Dottie Tessier gets flowers each day from our local supplier, Mike White, who has his nursery on Wildcat Road. You are welcome to visit there on weekends. Loading and unloading is back breaking work and in addition to Mike and Dottie, our members and Art Elgin and Charley White assist us. Bill and Jan Tait supplied all of the flyers that were mailed, probably over a thousand. Thanks to all of the above and also to the Guild members who sell, sell, and sell.

The Guild is participating in other projects and it is their responsibility to see that the flower bed around the Church sign is always in good condition. We recently have taken over the Parish Life Center sign and that will soon be updated with current information.

Our monthly dinners for the Laytonsville Lions Club continue with our June 30th dinner and another dinner on July 28th. There is no dinner in August. Our next Guild meeting will be announced in the Church bulletin. All women are invited to join.

PASTORAL CARE

Remember in your prayers and write a note of encouragement to the parishioners serving in the Armed Forces overseas:

1st Lt. Grimes, Laura – 4768
129th Corps Support Battalion, 129 LTF
APO AE 09391

Sgt. Mutziger, Stephen W.
B/1 – 115th IN / TF 1-118th
APO AE 09378

OUTREACH – JUDY DOCCA

Gaithersburg Elementary School – *(Editor's note: The following is a letter of thanks from Gaithersburg Elementary School. We were also able to refer these family to Community Ministries—to which St. Bartholomew's contributes -- to provide further assistance):*

The staff, families and students wish to THANK YOU and the members of St. Bartholomew's Church for your continued support with our needy families. These family situations vary, for example:

A family of 3 (1 parent and 2 children) was evicted from their home and moved in with a friend who let them sleep in their basement which was unfinished and no heat. The family was in need of food items, warm blankets etc. You immediately came to our rescue with needed items and grocery store gift cards. Another single-parent family with 6 children was homeless. All 7 were sleeping in one bedroom. Again, we were in need of food items. And again, you came to our assistance. A family of 4 whose father lost his job and could not pay his rent - you provided the family with certificates for groceries. Again, THANK YOU - THANK YOU for your continued support.

Senior Prom Gowns - We supported the purchase of prom gowns for three needy young ladies at Gaithersburg High School. This was a behind-the-scenes, but much appreciated local outreach endeavor.

Sophia House – On May 2nd Tim Smith, Jeff Taylor and Sonny Hager prepared and served dinner for about 30 women at Sophia House – a shelter in Rockville for homeless women. The next dates for St. Bartholomew's to serve are July 4th and August 1st. Would you like to assist in this personal and rewarding outreach? Contact Judy Docca at 301-077-7591, or email her at doccajud@comcast.net to volunteer.

STEWARDSHIP – TIM SMITH

This past year I've had the pleasure of having a high school student work with me as an intern on my projects. As part of this, we've discussed his plans for the future. What does he REALLY want to do with his life? I didn't have any great advice. Still these questions are valid for us at all stages of life. What do I want to do with the life God has given me? More importantly, what does God want me to do with the life He's given me? Difficult questions to answer at 17 and now.

At any age, we can be sure the Lord has a part for us to play; a mission to carry out; a ministry to participate in. Our heavenly Father has equipped and prepared us with abilities and spiritual gifts for just that purpose. For starters, the Apostle Paul lists some spiritual gifts in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. Your spiritual talent could be something you're already good at and enjoy. Interestingly, it could be something you're not so skilled at as God is glorified most in our weakness. Whatever your special talent is rest assured you have at least one. The Lord is not stingy!

Another point I like in first Corinthians chapter 12, is that there are no small, unimportant, unnecessary parts, roles, tasks in God's plan. Everyone's contribution is equally valuable and needed in God's kingdom Saint Bartholomew's division.

As the graduation season winds down, let us joyfully serve our Lord with what He has provided in the manner He has assigned, knowing the Lord gives wisdom and courage to all who ask. For the record, my intern will be studying physics at the University of Michigan, my alma mater. Coincidence?

SEARCH COMMITTEE – AL WASSON

The search for the permanent rector is underway. The committee met with Canon Peete from the Diocese of Washington at St. Bartholomew's in April. She outlined the search process for the committee. The first step is to prepare a written Parish Profile to be approved by the Bishop. This document will provide prospective candidates information concerning our parish and our requirements for a new rector.

Two subcommittees were formed to prepare the document: the Parish Group and the Rector Group. The Parish Group is preparing the status of the physical plant, a description of the Laytonville community, and the desires of the congregation. The Rector Group has completed preparing the first draft of the characteristics that we desire in our future rector.

This Rector Group's document will inform prospective candidates of our requirements for the future rector. It will also be used to evaluate applicants for the job as well as serve as the basis for the new rector's contract.

After Bishop Chane has approved of our Parish Profile, the document will be sent to the various church recruiting locations. Then the actual searching and interviewing for our future rector will begin.

DIocese - 2005 BISHOP'S APPEAL:

Gifts in 2004 made possible the first full-time Latino Missioner working in congregations; the multi-week program of advertising our congregations in movie theatres throughout the diocese; underwriting the cost of all youth events; assisting expenses for congregations in congregational and leadership development, planned giving and capital campaign fund-raising. Please give today! Mail your gift to: 2005 Bishop's Appeal, Episcopal Church House; Mount St. Alban; Washington, DC 20016

Scheduled Activities – June 2005

Upcoming Events

June 12 **Sunday School Graduation**
June 19 **10am Summer Service begins**
 Father's Day Picnic/Basketball Game
June 26 **Adult Education Series begins "Creating Community"**
 Vacation Bible School begins

Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. **The Holy Communion**
11/10 a.m. **The Holy Communion - first, third and fifth Sundays**
 Morning Prayer - second and fourth Sundays

Sunday School Activities are held during the 2nd Sunday service

Nursery Available

Fellowship Coffee Hour follows both Sunday services

<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 Fax: (301) 990-7787 Web Address: www.saintbartholomews.org E-mail: stbart@comcast.net </p>
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