

July 2005

From your Interim Rector

Dear Friends,

A cartoon from the June calendar hanging on the wall in the Parish Life Center had a parishioner asking the priest, "So, what exactly do you clergy do all week?" As this was asked, a balloon overhead imagines the priest watching Oprah on TV!

My work here at St. Bartholomew's is as an interim rector on a half-time basis. Either one of these qualities may be new for you, thus I thought it would be helpful to review with you the responsibilities and expectations articulated by the vestry in call to serve here. These include:

- To recognize that this is a time of renewal for the parish and to work with the Vestry and congregation in maintaining a healthy congregational life and re-energizing the Parish for its missionary work.
- To help discover the congregation's special identity and what it dreams of doing and being.
- To reflect with the congregation on its relationship with the Diocese and larger Church.
- To continue to develop and implement growth in the size of the congregation.

Within the parameters of a half-time ministry, I preach and conduct Sunday services, oversee the administration and pastoral care of the parish, and conduct office hours and visitations on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. – 12 noon.

Included in these expectations as well is participation in a course specifically designed for Interim Ministers – one that will ultimately make our time together more fruitful. Conducted by the Interim Training Network, I will be attending the first of two sessions from July 19-21 in St. Louis, Missouri. You will hear more about the course and my learnings after the 21st!

Let me close by again thanking you for the privilege of being with you in this time of interim ministry at St. Bartholomew's.

Pax,
The Rev. John DeWitt Stonesifer
Interim Rector

Adult Education

"Creating Community" is the title of a six-week series on Sundays from June 26th – July 31st. Held between the 8 and 10 a.m. services, it is being led by Fr. Stonesifer and Mrs. Anne Wasson with topics including: *Why Join a Church? What's Right with Our Church! Six Ways to Care and Thankful Connections.* Come by whenever you are able!



**Search Committee Report
June 28, 2005**

The Parish Priest Profile Survey form has been completed and will be mailed soon to all communicants in good standing. The survey needs to be returned by July 31. A summary of the results will be presented at a Parish Meeting in September. In addition, please send recent photos of church activities with your completed survey.

The next meeting of the Search Committee will be on July 12.



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Fellowship

We had a wonderful evening of games and ice cream on June 24. There were 18 people playing games and sharing fellowship out on the lawn behind the education building. We'll probably do it again next year so brush up on your gaming skills.

Pruning Morning

There will be a morning of pruning at St. Bart's on Monday, July 11, 8:30-12:30. Come for all or part of the time. Don't know how to prune? Deborah Turton will teach any novices the basics and art of pruning. Feel free to bring any friends or neighbors who might be interested in learning how to prune. The more the merrier. Also bring a pair of pruners and a hand saw if you have them. There will be some extra available. It's best if you wear long sleeves and long pants and bring gardening gloves to protect yourself.

Deborah Turton
Chairperson



Keys, Please (A Reminder)

We are in need of keys to all 3 church buildings. Our current copies have been made from copies, and are not working in the locks any more. Past vestry members (and others) who no longer need church keys should please find them and turn them in to the office, or to a current vestry member. Our new vestry members will appreciate receiving those old keys. Thanks for your help.

Judith Schneider



Stewardship

You may be wondering who is actually involved in Stewardship at St. Bartholomew's. Certainly myself, (Tim Smith), and Herb Grabau, as our previous leader, and then there's all of you. Maybe not as Committee members, but certainly as stewards of the gifts God has given us.

What makes Stewardship hard to pin down is that it jumps and spreads across organizational lines. Serving dinners to the ladies at Sophia House is outreach, but also involves the giving of my time, talents of organizing and cooking. Singing in the choir certainly involves some talent and a large time commitment. Teaching and leading Sunday School, young and old, is a definite ministry which also involves giving of time and abilities. Serving on Vestry or the Rector Search committee takes energy, time, and lots of interpersonal and problem solving skills. Supporting the Mirembe girls home requires some follow up and coordination with Father Demo and funding. The Christmas Bazaar and Azalea Sale both are the result a huge amount of time, coordination, and effort. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

Each one of us, as we participate in the life of St. Bartholomew's, is making choices, decisions on how we use the resources available to us. As Christian stewards, our choices reflect God's priorities and build His Kingdom. Whatever the area of our involvement, we practice stewardship. So stewardship is not the ministry in and of itself, but the process by which we do ministry.

Have a fun July, fellow Steward!

Tim Smith
Stewardship Chairman

July 2005

Senior Warden's Letter

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

In the last newsletter I wrote that I was excited about what was happening at St. Bartholomew's. Well folks—I'm still excited. The summer is off to a great start. The first session of the Vacation Bible School was well attended, as was the first summer adult education class. There was a great turnout at the ice cream and games night and the azalea sale was a big success.

Now, I am going to ask for your help and some ideas. With all that is going on, it is a great time to increase our own participation and to grow. If you have not been participating please join us. I bet your kids have some friends that would enjoy the Bible School. Ask them to join your children at the school. At our next event ask some neighbors or friends to join us. Some may be interested in the adult education program. I issue a challenge. If every family could get one other person or child to join us at one of our events or to participate in one of our programs, think how far we could go.

I also have another challenge. Give us some ideas. How can we keep our young adults involved? Some are now leaving for college. Some are home from college for the summer, and some have just graduated from college and have returned to the area. I would love to keep them interested and involved or in some cases, get them involved again. If any parishioner has any thoughts on how we can keep young adults interested in St. Bartholomew's please let me know.

On another subject, it's not too early to start thinking about the Christmas Festival. Last year it was highly successful and a lot of fun. Morna and Sonja are getting started on making it even more successful and fun. They could sure use your help. Please give them a call.

Have a great summer!

Art Elgin
Senior Warden



Ladies Guild News

After our most successful azalea sale ever, the Guild is continuing with their Lions dinners in July and then again in September. Many thanks to all of the parishioners who supported the azalea sale.

When you come and go on the Sundown Road side of the Church property, glance at the new sign. With the help on the wording by the Reverend Stonesifer, the Guild had the sign updated, repaired and new plantings by Mike White were added along with solar lighting. Mike also helps us with the upkeep of the sign and flowers in front of it. I hope all will approve of the improvements.

There is also a new window in the kitchen of the Church that we had installed. We have also purchased some new items for the kitchen. We would like to remind everyone that any items borrowed from the kitchen should be returned. We had to replace a few dozen pieces of silverware recently in order to have enough for the Lions dinners.

Though we are small in numbers, as President, I am so very proud of the work and special efforts the Guild members perform. Thank you Ladies! If you would like to join us, please contact Barbara White at 301-963-7688.

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Father's Day Fellowship

The Father's Day Picnic was a great success. The weather was comfortable and there was quite a crowd there for the delicious hamburgers and hotdogs as well as the salads, side dishes and cake. There were enough active people to play not only basketball but also a lively game of boule (or boche ball). If you don't know what boule is, come to the picnic next year and we will show you.

Vacation Bible School

Our Vacation Bible School program is in full swing each Sunday. The kids spend the entire worship hour participating in this program which includes outdoor activities, music, snacks, projects and great fun. We even have T-shirts that the kids can all wear without any worries of getting dirty. Similar to last summer, we will be asking for leadership for one Sunday by our Sunday School families. It is not too late to join us.

Youth Education Vision

Our vision at St. Bartholomew's is to have our youth be central to our overall mission and our worship. The children are encouraged (not forced) to participate in our activities and made to feel this is their church. They are valued, loved and treasured by us and by God. They are reminded how unique and special they are to God, each given special talents to use in His behalf. They are reminded to be compassionate and inclusive of those less fortunate and to take care of each other in God's name.

Faith, Fellowship and Fun!!



Our Military Overseas

Support our military. Send them a card or note

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

July 2005

Local Outreach

The Local Outreach committee has agreed to send \$ 550 to Camp Friendship to finance the stay of one child through the Carol Jean Cancer Foundation. Parish members are invited to join campers for lunch or dinner during the sessions this summer. One session is July 10-15, the next is August 7-12. Lunch is served from 12:30 - 1:00 and dinner from 6-7. Contact Judy Docca to coordinate the date if you would like to go with members of the Local Outreach committee. The camp is located at Camp Waredaca, 4019 Damascus Road, Laytonsville. (This is the camp belonging to Mr. Rufus Butts, a member of our parish.)

July 4th the Local Outreach committee will prepare and serve dinner (and leave breakfast items) at Sophia House in Rockville, a shelter for homeless women.

The Local Outreach committee will meet on an evening in July to plan the schedule for the year

Judy Docca

Mirembe International Outreach Project

The status of St. Bartholomew's Mirembe project at this writing is a report of the good news/bad news variety whose story line features equal parts success and challenge. Without the love and financial support of St. Bartholomew's, Mirembe would not be the reality it is today and the fate of the girls living there would be too disturbing to contemplate. But through God's good grace, the unwavering commitment and hard work of Father Demo and his wife Mary, and the collective love and generosity of our parish, 16 girls now live in the new Mirembe facility, attend school regularly and have realistic dreams and aspirations for the future.

But, much like Christianity itself, Mirembe is a journey, not a destination. Despite the considerable accomplishments of Father Demo, much remains to be done just to keep the orphanage afloat and the cultural, social and political conditions in Kenya constitute a turbulent sea. While the new facility is an exciting and important achievement, Mirembe remains without plumbing, electricity or phone service. In addition, the building has yet to receive a critical (given the climate) paint job, and the campus requires a perimeter fence – absolutely essential in Kenya.

Appropriately, St. Bartholomew's current level of support is targeted exclusively to supporting the girls – their tuition, books, uniforms and living expenses. But in order to ensure Mirembe's continuing viability, additional support is essential. To further complicate our efforts, the Kenyan government recently changed the regulations governing schooling and payment of tuition. Heretofore, tuition payment was due in advance of each three-month school term. The new regulations, however, require annual tuition payment in advance. This has placed a tremendous burden on St. Bartholomew's support of Mirembe, as pledged support is donated monthly with payment transferred to Kenya quarterly. The prospects of raising an entire year's tuition is daunting and Father Demo is in discussions with Kenyan authorities in an attempt to modify the new payment requirements, or to be granted a waiver that would reinstate the previous policy.

St. Bartholomew's has been supporting this project for over two years. If you would like to participate in this wonderful outreach program, call the church office.

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St Bartholomew's Christmas Festival

We're already at work on this year's Christmas festival to be held Dec. 2 and 3. We expect to include many of the same activities as last year:

- Crafts
- Baked goods
- St. Bartholomew's Café with lunch/dinner
- White elephant sale in the education building
- Themed gift baskets sold in a silent auction
- Sale of live Christmas wreaths
- Raffle
- Outside crafters (teddy bears, woodworking, jewelry and pottery)

Watch upcoming newsletters for information on pre-ordering your wreaths, helping to fill the silent auction baskets and making baked goods.

We have also scheduled several workdays for any one who wants to help with crafts. All parishioners are invited to join us. No specific skills needed; just enthusiasm! The next workday is July 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the undercroft. We plan to sew, so if you have a sewing machine bring it along. If not, we'll have one for you to use and we have tasks for non-sewers. Future workdays are August 9, Sept. 13, Oct., 4 and Nov. 8, so mark your calendars to join us.

Everyone in the parish has special skills, so even if you can't join us at the workdays, consider making something for the festival. We particularly need sewers, decorative painters and wood crafters.

Last year's festival was a wonderful success. We were pleased with the involvement of so many of the members of the parish. We are looking forward to another great festival and invite all parishioners to participate in St Bartholomew's 31st Christmas Festival. Give us a call to see how you can to get involved.

Sonja Elgin (301-869-8332)

Morna Golletz (301-482-2345)



Pastoral Visits and Care

Fr. Stonesifer is available for pastoral visits and care. If you know of someone who needs or wants pastoral care, please contact the church office at (301) 948-8201



8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hours

If you'd like to host a coffee hour, the sign up sheets are 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.

July 2005

New Sunday Bulletin Covers

By now you have all seen the new covers for our Sunday Bulletins. If you have not been able to get to church recently, they are colorful and reflect the theme from one of the current week scripture. In addition to them being new and different, they save a significant amount of time in their preparation. 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.

Rite II Services

We have scheduled Rite II Holy Communion at the 10 a.m. service on first and fifth Sundays of the month during the summer. The majority of the Episcopal churches in the Washington area use the Rite II service exclusively. As you travel this summer you will find this service at the different churches you visit.

Baseball

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!

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

St. Bartholomew's Mission

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

How We Accomplish This

- Practicing hospitality to newcomers
- Providing fellowship & pastoral care
- Encouraging education & growth for all ages
- Providing inspiring Episcopal worship
- Serving the world in Christ's name
- Valuing our traditions and looking to the future

Our 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.



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

Scheduled Activities

Upcoming Events

- Thru July 31** **“Creating Community: - an adult education series
9:00am in the Education Building**
- July 4** **Local Outreach dinner at Sophia House**
- July 11** **Pruning Morning, 8:30-12:30.
Administrator Workshop – office closed**
- July 12** **Festival Workday, 10am – 3:00pm
Search Committee meeting, 7:30pm**
- July 18** **Local Outreach Committee meeting, 7:30pm**

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 2nd Sunday service
Nursery Available
Fellowship Coffee Hour follows both Sunday services**

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