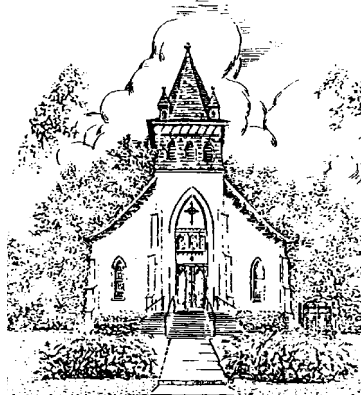


St. Bartholomew's Beacon

for members and friends of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church; Laytonsville, Maryland
November, 2005

Dear Friends,

In the last several weeks two members of the parish sent me notes of gratitude and thanks – I believe it was related to an unofficial feast day in Protestant circles known as “Pastor’s Sunday.” They raised my spirits even more than they already are, and inspired my further dedication to the work and ministry of St. Bartholomew’s.



Last week St. Bartholomew’s invited eight new families to a Newcomers’ Dinner, and just the other day a thank you note came to St. Bartholomew’s after the dinner which read:

Dear Members of St. Bartholomew’s,

Charles and I enjoyed attending the “Newcomer’s Dinner” last evening and having an opportunity to not only meet some of the parishioners but also to be able to discuss our needs from a church. The food was delicious and the company very pleasant. Thank you for including us.

*Sincerely,
Eloise Elliott*

P.S. – Special thanks to Deborah Turton for her hard work.

I share these experiences to remind you first of the many blessings we enjoy individually and collectively as the parish of St. Bartholomew’s:

- rich history
- dedicated parishioners
- welcoming community
- inspiring worship

With it also comes a reminder of the need to express our thanks – first to our Lord (one way to do this is in your stewardship pledge), and then to those around us for whom and to whom we are grateful. You might:

- call someone to express your thanks
- write a note of gratitude
- say a word of appreciation

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Pax,

The Rev. John D. Stonesifer
Interim Rector

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.

Leadership to Achieve This

Ministers -The Congregation

Bishop – The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane

Int. Rector - The Rev. John DeWitt Stonesifer

Sr. Warden – Art Elgin

Jr. Warden/Treas – Bill Fitts

Register – Judy O’Neil

Vestry Members:

Sue Davis Herb Grabau

Jeff Taylor Judy Docca

Jim Lynch Deborah Turton

Frank Dall Tim Smith

Frank McMurtray

Organist – Marilyn Carollo

Sunday School Coordinator

Ann Fitts

Webmaster – Harry Bennett.

Senior Warden's Letter

Dear fellow parishioners:

On Saturday, October 22nd, I attended two events that I found informative, interesting and enjoyable. The first was the 2005 Regional Assembly for our Region of the Diocese, which Deborah Howard and Fr. Stonesifer also attended, and the second, our newcomer's dinner.

The Regional Assembly was held in the morning at Grace Church in Silver Spring. Besides seeing some old friends, it was great to interact with ministers and representatives from other Episcopal churches. To me the highlight was the address by Bishop Chane. I can honestly say that the more I listen to him, the more I like him. He is no nonsense, tell-it-like-it-is, yet uplifting. He now has been with the Diocese three years and believes this is the time to assess what progress has been made in the Diocese under his leadership. Without going into details progress has been made, but, as you might expect, a lot more needs to be done. In particular, there has been an emphasis on getting some organization in the office of the Diocese so that the people there the people there can work to help the parishes.

The Bishop's major concern, and where he wants to see change, is that we are still a "congregational church." By this he means that for the most part each church is its own little world and rarely looks at the bigger picture. He is afraid that if this continues, we will not grow and many churches will fail. He believes that in order for the Diocese to grow, we need to work together more. When you think about it, this is what is happening in the world. We are entering the era of the global economy. A country can no longer go it alone; for if it does, it will not make it.

The most interesting thing to me was the realization that St. Bartholomew's in reality is a microcosm of the Diocese and even the National Church. We have the same problems and the same visions. For example, the Diocese is the beneficiary of a large fund, called the Soper Fund, the corpus of which is supposed to be for special projects. However, the Diocese does not receive enough revenue from the parishes; so in order for the Diocese to balance its budget, income from the Soper Fund is used to fund the operating budget. It was generally agreed by the Assembly that this is not good way to run a business. Likewise, at St. Bartholomew's we have been balancing our budget by using income from our special gifts fund. We cannot continue to this. This is why it is so important that everyone at St. Bartholomew's pledge. If you have not pledged already, I am asking you please to do so. In November we will be planning the budget for next year, and it is extremely important that we have an idea of what funds we will have available.

Just like at St. Bartholomew's growth was also on the minds of the attendees at the Assembly. A lot of the talk was focused on what the "mega-churches" were doing. It was in this discussion that one of the pastors came out with a great quote. "The mega-churches make you feel good. The Episcopal Church makes you feel intelligent." What I would like to see that St. Bartholomew's makes you feel good, as well as intelligent. Please help me work on this.

I hope to be able to share some of the other doings at the Assembly in the future.

In the evening Fr. John and I had dinner in the Education Building with some of the new members of the parish, hosted by Deborah Turton. It was a delicious meal and great to be able to talk with and learn about some of our new parishioners. You should be aware that outreach is on the minds of our new members. We have wonderful outreach programs, both locally and internationally. The Parish has done a great job in supporting them. It is important that we continue to do so.

COMING UP—The Christmas Festival. Please, if you can help in any way, let Morna and Sonja know. In particular, they can use items to sell in the Christmas shop. I hope you will give special consideration to the raffle. This year I am very proud that we have a beautiful watercolor donated by Caroline Elgin. Not only is she my sister-in-law, but she is a well recognized artist in Louisville, Kentucky.

Finally, I am hoping that this is the last letter in which I have to talk about money. I want to write about more pleasant things in the future. Please help me!

Thanks,

Art Elgin
Senior Warden

Worship Schedule and Notes

Sunday November 6	Sunday after All Saints 8 & 11 am Holy Eucharist with reading of memorial names
Tuesday & Wednesday November 15 & 16	Old-fashioned revival at the Cathedral. "Word to the City", brought by The Rev. James Forbes, Jr. and the Union of Black Episcopalians gospel choir 7:00pm
Sunday, November 20	Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King Sunday 8 & 11am Holy Eucharist
Wednesday, November 23	Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:30pm
Sunday, November 27	Season of Advent: First Sunday of Advent 8 & 11am Holy Eucharist

The Season of Advent: The four Sundays before Christmas have been devised as a season of preparation for the coming of Christ. The Latin word *adventus* means "coming." The First Sunday in Advent is the beginning of the Christian year...The background of Advent is the kingdom of God, the rule of God over his creation, which is said to be "at hand." One prepares for judgment in the presence of the great king, and when Advent is over, one confronts the child in the manger. – *Liturgy for Living*, p. 236

Worship Assistants Training Sessions

Lectors/Chalice Bearers (This is for both new and returning worship assistants)	Saturday, November 19 th , 9:30am: Church
Acolytes:	Sunday, November 13 th , 10am (led by Lauren Bray & Fr. Stonesifer)

Special Prayers *For Those in Need*



Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your servants, and give your power of healing and care to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sick/Need:

Rob Glasby
Audrey Petrie
Sal Carollo
Michael McGee
Bob Duffy
Robert Floyd
Kate Washburn
Rob Schaaf
Helen Cook
Phyllis Varano
Steven Stiles, Jr.
Erin Shaw
Ken Augustin
Martha Clark
Robert Knesil
Daisy Black
Leonard Palmer
Jackie Lynch
Margaret Louie
Elizabeth Dame

Patrick Ard
Tisa Braud
Jim McMurtray
Paula Hoffman
Lee Gamson
Mike Smith
Brian Skidds
Lucille & Bob Van Vliet
John Parker
Eloise Elliott
Tim Smith
Jackie Davis

International Outreach:
Mirembe School

Died:
Cornelia Reynolds

Military:

Laura Grimes
Stephen Mutziger
Chris Meachum
Nicholas Lynch

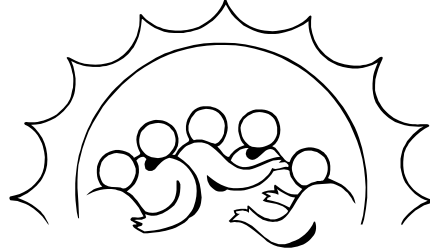
Local Outreach:

Hurricane Survivors

Note: This is our most current prayer list. Please call the office with updates or changes.

Pastoral Visits & Care

Pastoral Visits & Care: Fr. John Stonesifer is available for pastoral visits and care, please contact the church office. For emergencies, call Fr. Stonesifer at home 301-251-9965.



Fellowship

-- opportunities and activities in our parish life

Pot Lucks & Caroling

We had a lot of fun at the pumpkin potluck this month. Looking ahead, on December 18, the Sunday before Christmas, we're going caroling again. Last year was a big success and we're looking to have just as much fun this year. We'll end the evening with cookies and hot drinks in the undercroft.

Even farther ahead, January would be a good time to have some small parish dinners in parishioners' homes. We'd like to mix up the dinners so newcomers and long standing members, early and late services, and young and not so young have a chance to mingle. Hosts can set the date and number of people they can host. Everyone would bring something to help the host family. If you'd like to host a dinner or attend a dinner in January, please let me know.

Deborah Turton (phone: 301-482-0675)
cannonturton@comcast.net

Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild continues its projects and meetings. For a small group, we accomplish a great deal and to our devoted members, a big thank you. All of the bills for the septic are not in but the entire project will be funded by our small group. There are other projects which will require funding and I encourage all of you to help support them. Our next Lions dinner will be in January, 2006. In December we will fix fruit baskets for the sick and shut-ins and special friends.

Adult Education

The Sunday morning Adult Education Class completed the study of *The Practice of the Presence of God* on October 16th. The group, which was led by Father Stonesifer, agreed that the wisdom of Brother Lawrence provided spiritual insights and thoughtful discussions.

Advent Series: "Journey to Christmas" – Take part in this three-week series to assist us in preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. We will begin on Sunday, Nov 27th, from 9:15 – 10:15 in the Education Building.

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Vickie Fisher, who has faithfully served in our nursery, is stepping down so she can join us in worship. We are grateful for her ministry and are in need of a nursery volunteer – call the office for more info.

Newsletter

Many thanks to everyone who contributed in the "Name the Newsletter" contest! There were almost 40 entries with outstanding choices, but when the votes were cast "St. Bartholomew's Beacon" won. The entry had been entered by both Kathy Cousins and Carmen Valenzuela, so they each got a \$15 gift certificate to Julliano's Restaurant. May the newsletter, and more especially our life together, be a beacon of the Lord's light as we proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Local Outreach Report

The Local Outreach Committee would like to thank parishioners who have brought household items to support the families from the Gulf Coast at Gaithersburg Elementary School. Two of the families have been able to move to apartments in Montgomery Village. They still are in need of any clothing for winter, sheets, towels, furniture and other household items.

The Local Outreach Committee will be collecting non-perishable foods, paper products, cleaning items as we have done for the last two years. These items will also go to the families at Gaithersburg and one other family we have helped in the past. Dr. L. Neil King of King Chiropractic in Montgomery Village will donate turkeys for the Thanksgiving boxes. Collections for the Thanksgiving boxes will take place after each service on November 6th, 13th and the 20th. On the 20th, the boxes will be packed for distribution on the 21st. A group photograph of the families at Gaithersburg is on display in the undercroft.

The Local Outreach Committee is serving dinner and providing breakfast for the next day on December 5th at 6:30. We have enough volunteers for this dinner but we will announce the date for the next opportunity in December newsletter.

Search Committee Report

On Sunday October 30th, The Search Committee reported the results of the Parish Survey to the congregation following both services. The committee is now preparing 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. The committee thanks everyone for their input and interest.

Stewardship

The 2005 Pledge Campaign has officially come to a close. Stewardship Sunday, Oct 23, was commemorated with a combined worship service followed by very tasty brunch. This year 24 people were involved with the campaign either as note writers, stewardship minutes, and/or helping with the brunch. Fifteen of them were not Vestry members. I thank them all for their effort and participation. They are: Kathy Cousins, Les Cannon, Jeff Bergsten, Karen Parker, Rand Golletz, Al & Anne Wasson, Irene Spurge, Lonnie Pera, George Leigh, Nelson Torres, Judy O'Niel, Harry Bennett, Sonja & Art Elgin, Anne & Bill Fitts, Deborah Turton, Frank Dall, Frank McMurtray, Judy Docca, Jeff Taylor, Jim Lynch, and Herb Grabau. I also had excellent support from Judith Schneider, Harry Bennett and Father Stonesiefer. The pledge totals announced at the brunch were \$77,456 with 34 pledges.

Last year we had a total \$120,156 with 68 pledges, with half of the pledges coming in after the end of the campaign. If you have not pledged yet, it is not too late. Please send your pledge to the office or put it in the plate on Sunday. They will be received with great rejoicing. There are extra pledge cards in the entrance to the nave. If you have already pledged, I thank you for your contribution and involvement. God bless --

Tim Smith

Sunday School

In October we continued our study of the Old Testament with the story of Moses, the Ten Commandments, Joshua, Ruth, and Old Hallow's Eve. In November we will continue our studies with the following lesson topics:

November 6	Ann & Bill	Joshua and the Battle of Jericho
November 13	Karen & Joanne	Three Faithful Men
November 20	Mary & Jessica	Thanksgiving Lesson and Meal
November 27	Judith & Heather	Rebuilding the Walls-The Book of Nehemiah
December 4	Ann & Bill	Daniel and the Lion's Den

On December 4th we will begin selecting our roles for the Christmas Pageant which is planned for December 18th along with a holiday party and a visit from Santa.

We strive to make St. Bartholomew's Church a place filled with warmth and welcome for our children. Please encourage them to come and bring friends. Please feel free to accompany any shy children to Sunday School until they are more comfortable. Our young people are making friends and having great fellowship. All are welcome!!!

Christmas Festival

We are about one month from the Christmas Festival and want to thank our fellow parishioners who have helped by ordering wreaths, selling raffle tickets, making crafts and baking treats. In November we have two workdays scheduled: November 8 and 29, both in the morning in the undercroft. On the 8th, we'll have a crafts project planned. On the 29th Deborah Turton will be leading us in creating fresh centerpieces. For those who have crafts to drop off, we will be decorating the undercroft during the week of the 28th, so check with one of us as to when to drop your crafts off. If you have baked goods to bring, Nancy Harding will be in the undercroft on Thursday, so you can bring them then.

We've been asked how someone can help if they are not crafty. Here are some suggestions:

- Offer to underwrite the printing of the raffle tickets or the postage for one of our mailings.
- Put up signs; distribute flyers to local groceries and libraries
- Volunteer to help setup the undercroft
- Volunteer to help cleanup the undercroft after the Festival. We need to return the room to Sunday School shape afterwards.
- Offer to help pack up the unsold "White Elephant" items and move them to the garage, so we can arrange for donation pickup
- Volunteer to work a couple of hours, whether it's selling at the crafts table, bake table or "White Elephant" or handling pickups from the wreath orders.

We've also gotten a few questions about the baked goods. Here are some tips:

- Bake now and freeze. If you don't have space, contact Nancy Harding. We have many freezers available for your baked goods.
- We need a variety of baked goods, including sweet breads, regular breads, cookies, brownies, rolls, pies and cakes. Any size or quantity is needed.
- Identify the item that you made. Self-stick label works great. This is particularly important if you made the item with nuts or is sugar-free.
- The baked goods can be packaged ready to sell or in zip-loc bags. We'll repackage if needed.
- Donate any small baskets or tins that can be used for packaging.
- Other edibles, such as mustards, vinegars, jams and jellies, are welcome.

White Elephant

Fall is now upon us with frost on the pumpkins and the Festival close on our heels. So, if you haven't already set aside those "saved items" there is no-time-like-the-present to do so! It is better to give than receive. We hope to receive your donations on Sunday, November 27th from 12:00-2:00pm and/or Tuesday, November 29th from 11:30am-1:30pm. Any questions, call Karen Parker at 301-253-4526.

Festival Gift Baskets

Jamie Kaufmann is coordinating Gift Baskets for the Christmas Festival. Each basket has a theme, and parishioners will be invited to donate new items to fill these baskets. The baskets will be sold through a silent auction at the Festival. The final two baskets will be completed in November. Themes include:

- Winter Wonderland (hot chocolate mix, mittens, hats, scarves, pressed fire logs, blankets, etc.)
- Family Fun (board games, popcorn, videos, DVDs, CDs, Tapes, card games, snacks, etc.)
- Entertaining (nonperishable American/International food items, wines, beverages, candles, etc.)
- Literature & Travel (reading material for all ages, travel books, maps, coffee, tea, snacks, etc.)
- Christmas (religious items, ornaments, paper goods, cards, candles, candy, gift wrap, etc.)
- Pamper Yourself/Leisure Time (soaps, lotions, spa items, golf & tennis balls, etc.)

If you have any questions, contact:

Sonja Elgin (301-869-8332)

Morna Golletz (301-482-2345)

Special Events

- November 20 Chorister Festival Evensong: 4pm, Christ Church, Kensington
8th annual festival for boy & girl singers from Regions III & IV
- November 23 Thanksgiving Eve Service: 7:30pm
- November 27 First Sunday in Advent

Sunday Schedule

- 8:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
- 11:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion - first, third and fifth Sundays
Morning Prayer - second and fourth Sundays
Sunday School is held during the late service