

St. Bartholomew's Beacon

*for members and friends of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church; Laytonsville, Maryland
April 2006*

Dear Friends,

This newsletter falls in the midst of Lent with Easter occurring in the middle of this April issue. I want to share with you a passage written by Karl Barth, an ordained minister in the Swiss Reformed Church and one of the leading Protestant theologians of the twentieth century. Here Barth beautifully summarizes the grace and joy of our Easter faith:



of

*Let us hear therefore
what the Bible says and what we as
Christians are called to hear together: By grace you
have been saved!
This can only be said by God to each one of us. It takes
Jesus Christ
to make this saying true.*

*Look once again to Jesus Christ in his death upon the
cross. Look
and try to understand that what he did and suffered, he
did and suffered
for you, for me, for us all. He carried our sin, our
captivity and our suffering,
and did not carry it in vain. He carried it away. He
acted as the captain of us all.
He broke through the ranks of our enemies. He has
already won the battle, our battle.
All we have to do is to follow him. Through him, in him
we are saved....When he,
the Son of God, set us free, we are truly free.*

May each of us take time this Lent and Holy Week to look once again to Jesus Christ as he journeyed to Jerusalem and to his death upon the cross.

May each of us know and celebrate the saving grace, the freedom and new life we have through Christ at Easter.

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:

Judy Docca Jim Lynch
Deborah Turton Frank Dall
Tim Smith Jeff Taylor
John Kaufmann Judy O'Neil
Lonnie Pera

Organist – Marilyn Carollo
Sunday School Coordinator
Ann Fitts
Webmaster – Harry Bennett

Senior Warden's Letter -- *Art Elgin*

In my last letter, I talked about this year being a Year of Opportunity for St. Bartholomew's. By the time you have received, the newsletter the meeting with Fr. Dunn will be over and I hope you will have been satisfied with the results. I know there are a lot of parishioners who are growing impatient with the process. You probably are asking why are we having this meeting? Haven't we been through this before? Why is this taking so long? Is this going to be a year of opportunity? I can only ask that you have patience. Other churches have taken years to call a new rector.

The most important aspect of the whole search process is to get the right fit. I am sure you will have heard this from Fr. Dunn. The right fit works two ways. We want and need to find the right person with whom we will be happy for many years, and we need to find a person who will be happy to be with us for many years. Moreover, we need to be sure we know who we are, so the new rector will know ahead of time who we are. That having been said—I think that you will be pleasantly surprised at how quickly the process will move over the next couple of months. The Search Committer has laid the groundwork, and we should be able to come up with a timetable very soon.

Speaking of patience—in the past I often have been impatient with what I perceived to be the snail's pace at which I thought the Vestry was moving in addressing certain issues. I know many of you probably feel the same way. I believe we have started to address some of these issues, and I hope you will see the results. There are many things on our plate, some of which are mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter. Some of them are a result of success in such areas as the Christmas Festival and Local Outreach. Please bear with us. We are getting there.

One small success story is the increased interest in the Choir. As a result, we need more room in the choir pews. Over the next few months we will be experimenting with some different configurations for the pews. At times it may seem somewhat odd, and there may be some thoughts that it will never work. However, we will never know whether it will if we don't try.

Finally, I want to say again that it is a real pleasure to have our new vestry members, Lonnie Pera, Judy O'Neil and John Kaufmann helping us. They add a lot to the Vestry.

March Fellowship -- *Deborah Turton.*

Thank you to everyone who has helped with Fellowship in the last few months. First, Dana Burton and Rand and Morna Golletz. They hosted two wonderful church dinners in February. We're planning

on having another set of church dinners in the fall. I'd also like to thank everyone who helped out with the Pancake Supper, especially Robin Horton, who organized, shopped and worked in the kitchen Tuesday night. I'd also like to thank Judy Docca, The Lynch-Sommerville family, The Cannon family, Jim Horton, Sue Davis, Brent and Stevie Grimes, Rachel and Sarah Penkert, Judy and Steve O'Neil, Judith and Maggie Schneider and Jeff Bergsten. Most of all I'd like to thank everyone who gave so generously to the International Outreach program at St. Bartholomew's.

I don't have anything planned for April. With Holy Week and Easter, we should be busy enough. If anyone has any suggestions or events they'd like to see, please let me know. We're working on a Keys baseball game trip and a summer game and ice cream night.

Pastoral Care Booklets

Have you noticed the new booklets on the table as you enter from the parking lot? They are provided for you and someone you might know as a spiritual resource for pastoral care and education.

Christmas Festival Report

Our next workday is April 11 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the undercroft. Watch the bulletin for details.

Confirmation Class

The next Confirmation Service at the Washington Cathedral is scheduled for Saturday, May 13th. A class for those youth and adults interested in Confirmation into the Episcopal Church will be held the four weeks after Easter. Please speak with Fr. Stonesifer to let him know of your interest in this class and service. Dates:

Sunday, April 23	9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
Sunday, April 30	9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
Saturday, May 6	9:15 – 12:00 noon
Sunday, May 7	9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School News

We spent the month of March focusing on the lessons of Jesus and continue to study the life of Christ leading up to Easter. On Palm Sunday we will provide instruction on the Eucharist.

On Easter Sunday April 16th, after the 11:00 service, we will have our annual Easter Egg Hunt. All children and friends are invited to locate the 480 eggs we will have hidden on the church grounds. There are many lucky eggs too! The J2A will hide the eggs on Saturday at 5:30 and have some pizza and good fellowship.

We continue to be grateful for the blessing of our children and their dedicated parents who come to church and participate in our Sunday School activities.

Adult Education

The Adult Education class is studying the book "What's So Amazing about Grace" by Philip Yancey. The five session Lenten study focuses on the understanding of God's grace and its impact on our lives.

The program includes not only reading selected chapters in the book but discussing thought-provoking questions concerning the content. Each week a video is shown which deals with the session's study.

Yancey wrote the following in Chapter One of his book:

"The many uses of the word in English convince me that grace is indeed amazing—truly our last best word. It contains the essence of the gospel as a drop of water can contain the image of the sun . . . little wonder the hymn "Amazing Grace" edged its way onto the Top Ten charts two hundred years after composition."

The class, which meets Sunday in the undercroft from 9:15 to 10:15, will continue after Easter. We thank The Reverend Stonesifer for his leadership.

St. Bartholomew's Vestry Resource CD George Leigh

Over the past several years I have gathered digital information about St. Bartholomew's Parish. This information has now been organized and written to a Compact Disc (CD) for Church usage. The information includes: Reports, Flyers, Church Directories, Demographics, Graphics, Maps, Photographs (Christmas Pageants, Easter, etc.), Vestry Minutes, Vestry Membership, WWW Links, Annual Meeting Reports & Minutes, Budgets, Growth Information, Newsletters, By-Laws, the 1962 History, and other documents including a MS Word file explaining the contents, file types and usage.

The project started with the idea of archiving Vestry Minutes for easy access and easy digital search. It soon became apparent that this CD would be even more important as a way to ensure the preservation of Church Records. Duplicate copies of this CD can be stored in separate locations eliminating the possibility of single paper copies being destroyed or lost.

The CD now contains six years of Vestry Minutes (2000-2005) as one file that can be searched easily using MS Word. The plan is that each year the current year's Minutes (already in digital format) will be added to the master file, and at least one year of Minutes prior to 2000 will be scanned (using character recognition software) and added. In addition, we would like to add other important Church information. If you have ideas or information that should be preserved, please contact me or the Church Office.

Ladies Guild News

April is a busy, busy month for our Ladies Guild. Our Azalea sale begins as soon as the azaleas start to bloom. Our supplier will keep us informed. At this time we have readied 400 flyers to customers in the District, Virginia and of course in Maryland. Each family in the Church will receive a flyer also. Selling is easy but lifting the azaleas becomes hard work after a few hours. The Guild would welcome any help on Friday and Saturdays during April and May. Our hours will be from 10 AM to 5:00 PM. There will be a sign up sheet in the back of the Church and we welcome all who are able to help for a short time or longer.

We are not serving a Lions dinner in April. However, there will be a Guild meeting on our regular day , Monday April 17, at 12:30 in the Undercroft. All women are welcome.

Search Committee Report

The search committee has completed a draft of the parish profile report and is awaiting the results of the March 26th parish meeting. The Rev. Frank Dunn, a trained search consultant with our diocese, will lead the session. This coming together and discussing our parish life will assure that the report truly reflects the goals of the congregation. The completed profile will then be submitted to the diocese and will be used in the search process to ensure that the new rector and St. Bartholomew's have a "good fit."

Local Outreach – Judy Docca

The Local Outreach Committee will be putting the Easter bags and baskets together on April 2, 2006 after the 11 o'clock service at the home of Judy Docca. Please let me know if you will be helping-301-977-7591. We will be collecting next-to-new prom dresses and funds for prom expenses the 2nd and 9th of April. Let the Committee know if you have something that needs to be picked up for the prom collection.

We have several open dates for Sophia House/or the Community Based Shelter next door to serve dinner and to leave breakfast foods. If you are interested, please let me know. It is a commitment of one and a half hours for serving the food. We begin at 6:30 and are finished no later than 7, usually earlier. The Committee members purchase most items needed but we have provided home-made desserts or casseroles for the residents. We provide main dishes, rolls, breakfast items, salad (some residents eat no meat or meat by-products), flatware, napkins, cups, soda and water. We only need three persons to serve - the space is limited. The dates are as follows: April 17th, May 7th, 8th or 9th. We will only do one of these dates at this time. Let me know if there is a date you would be available.

Stewardship – Tim Smith

One of my favorite stewardship principles comes from First Chronicles Chapter 21 where King David orders a census of the fighting men of Israel. The prideful and self-aggrandizing aspect of this census made it a sin. Israel was punished with a plague. To stop the plague, David goes to make a sacrifice to the Lord at Araunah the Jebusite's threshing floor. Araunah offers to give the King the threshing floor and throw in the oxen and wood for the burnt offering. King David replies "No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the LORD what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing."

Following the same principle our offerings to the Lord need to cost us something. That's why Jesus commends the poor widow and her two pennies over the rich young man. (Mark 12:41-44). The amount, or the proportion, of our sacrifice, whatever it may be, is a measure of how much we value to the Lord. If we present our leftovers and scraps to the Lord, we dishonor Him.

When I consider my own life, I know how guilty I am of this. I sometimes think God is lucky to get anything from me. Certainly my many offerings and great sacrifices could have been better spent and used. In stronger moments, I know this to be a lie. Rather my offerings represent my fingernail hold on Jesus, the only thing keeping me from being completely swept away. Worth everything.

With Holy Week and Easter approaching, I am again reminded of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for our sins. Redeeming us cost Jesus his very life, which He willingly laid down. We also know that with the Lord no sacrifice is in vain

Spring Rummage Sale -- Bill Fitts

Got too much stuff?

Here is your chance to lighten your burden and help our outreach programs. We are planning to have a rummage sale this spring to benefit both our local and international outreach programs. If you have saleable items in your basement, attic, garage, etc., and would like to help. We are accepting household items as well as furniture and larger items. No appliances please. Call the church office 301-948-8201 and leave a message. We will make arrangements for you to drop off or we can pick-up your larger items. Look in next month's newsletter for additional details date, time, etc. Thanks in advance for your support.

Property -- Bill Fitts (Junior Warden)

We welcome Evalinda Torres as the newest member of our property committee. Evalinda has graciously agreed to join Jim Lynch and Myself on the property

committee. We look forward to working with her this coming year as we formalize our property improvement procedures. We also want to thank Herb Grabau for his work on the committee in 2005.

We are currently working with the Co-chairs of the Christmas Festival Committee (Sonja and Morna) to apply the festival proceeds to improvements to the undercroft.

The plans to replace the church furnaces are coming together and hopefully will be completed by the end of April. We are working with Hottel HVAC contractors and Washington Gas Co. in what has been a lengthy process.

Plans are under way to work with the Choir to improve the Choir seating arrangements. The choir currently has eight members and the seating arrangements are less than adequate. We hope to complete this project before Palm Sunday.

The Vestry formally adopted a property improvements priority list at the March vestry meeting. The purpose of the list is to establish a plan for property improvement. In the past, we have taken more of a piecemeal approach. This plan is something that the entire parish needs to support. It is the beginning of an over all vision for the future of the church property.

A church work day has been scheduled for Saturday April 22 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.. We recognize how precious everyone's Saturday's are and we have shortened the time. We have a lot to do so we will be working fast and furious for two hours. I hope to have a lot of hands to lessen the load. Hope to see you there.

Treasurer's Update -- Bill Fitts (Parish Treasurer)

As parish treasurer, I plan to give a brief summary of the monthly financial results each month in the Newsletter. We had a vestry work day, which replaced the regular vestry meeting in January, and a treasurer's report was not submitted. As a result, the vestry approved reports for both January and February.

Through February 28, 2006 we have received total contributions of \$20,947.74. Total expenditures were \$21,319.89 for a net operating loss of \$372.15. Contributions from the Special Gifts/Riggs Funds were \$3,053.09 giving us a total net income of \$2,680.94. Our General Fund balance at the beginning of the year was \$4,566.17 and was \$7,247.11 on February 28, 2006.

A copy of the approved treasurer's financial report will be posted in the undercroft each month following the Vestry approval. If you have any questions about the report please contact me.

International Outreach/Mirembe

The resounding success of St. Bartholomew's traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was a boon to the International Outreach – Mirembe program as all after-expense proceeds were targeted to the project. Bill Fitts reports that this year's supper was the most successful and profitable one to date. A new Mirembe Information Display was constructed especially for the event and provided an overview of the orphanage including pictures of Father Demo and his wife Mary as well as many of the girls supported by St. Bartholomew's. Letters from some of the girls also are featured. The Display will continue to be housed in the undercroft for those interested in learning more about the project.

The International Outreach Committee made the second trimester tuition payments on March 15 for the nine girls St. Bartholomew's is currently supporting. The Committee also had its monthly telephone call with Father Demo on March 11.

Following are excerpts from Father Demo's Annual Report to St. Bartholomew's. They provide some excellent insights into the challenges Father Demo, Mary and the girls are confronting in their daily lives:

"A lot has taken place at Mirembe home and there is a lot of progress that makes our hearts leap for joy. We truly give God the Glory for what both of us (you and us) have done to make this home a place where there is good hope.

"Our success has all the times depended on your continued support, even in times of uncertainty. We do indeed trust God who has sustained us through those difficult times... Thanks to you friends for making this journey of faith with us. The going has sometimes been hard and we keep our belts fastened and move forward with courage as soldiers for Mirembe. Of course God give us grace and patience too, hoping for the best.

"There are many things that we have done and many things left undone:

- 1. We have an outstanding debt of \$1,145 to be paid for the van we purchased.*
- 2. We have done part of the matron's house and the remaining work would cost \$916 (painting and fixing window and doors).*
- 3. The fence around the compound is almost done and the work that is remaining would cost us \$425 to complete. The cost of the steel gate door would cost us \$220.*
- 4. Members of the Mirembe Committee are digging a borehole for water. We have dug 28 feet and we expect to have water when we*

reach about 35 feet. The work would have cost about \$2,500, but we are doing it ourselves.

- 5. We have not completed the work on the sewage due to shortage of funds. We hope one day the work will be done. The girls are happy using latrines.*
- 6. We have not had rains for almost six months and the place is very dry. All the beauty of Mirembe home is gone. The flowers, grass and younger trees have died. We have started to do again our flower beds ready for planting new flowers and trees.*

"We hope it will rain soon. Vegetables and fruits have been indeed expensive because we have not had enough greens in the country. (Note: In the March 11 phone call with Father Demo, he was excited to report that rain had at last arrived and there was hope for Mirembe's vegetable garden). Our cow that was donated to Mirembe gave birth to a female fat calf. Thank you for the family that donated the money for the calf.

"Two of our girls completed the 12th grade and have the local college for further studies. Their fees will be a little higher than what they were paying in high school. I will give you the exact figures when I get the balance of the unpaid fees from college. The advisory committee request you continue sponsoring these two girls until they complete their three years training in Computer Science and Technology

"With all this taking place, we have had a big blow of losing our dearest girl (Eunice). We do thank you good friends for helping us meet the cost (of her medical and funeral expenses). Thank you so much. The deep wound is healing slowly, though we miss our dear girl in the home.

"As I write the report, I have over 68 applications of girls wanting to come to Mirembe, but I must tell them no. We have many children who have been left without parents due to AIDS. AIDS has slashed most of our people leaving kids parentless. Continue to pray for Kenya, pray for Mirembe home too.

"I want to end this report by thanking the committee members at St. Bartholomew's Church for their effort, dedication, hard work and prayers. Thank you for your financial aid that makes Mirembe a home of hope and future. Our greetings to the Rector, Church Wardens, People's Wardens, the Vestry, the Outreach Committee and the whole congregation. May God richly bless you and all that you do. Our love to you all."

Father Demo, Mirembe House

Worship Schedule and Notes

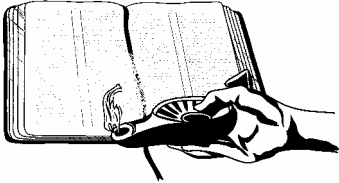
Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion
9:15 a.m. Adult Education — Church Undercroft
11:00 a.m. Service of Holy Communion - first, third and fifth Sundays
Morning Prayer - second and fourth Sundays
Sunday School Activities are held during the late service

Upcoming Events

April 9 Palm Sunday Services at 8:00 am & 11:00 am
April 13 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 pm
April 14 Good Friday Services at 12 noon & 7:30 pm
April 16 Easter Day Services at 8:00 am & 11:00 am, followed by the Easter Egg Hunt
The Flowering of the Cross begins before each service.
April 23 Altar Guild Appreciation Day / Confirmation classes begin

Special Prayers *For Those in Need*



Special Prayers

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
Robert Floyd
Kate Washburn
Rob Schaaf
Erin Shaw
Ken Augustin
Martha Clark
Robert Knesil
Daisy Black
Jackie Lynch
Margaret Louie
Patrick Ard
Tisa Braud
Jim McMurtray

Lee Gamson
Mike Smith
Brian Skidds
Lucille & Bob Van Vliet
John Parker
Eloise Elliott
Jackie Davis
Eva Valenzuela
David Davis
Jocy Villa
Rachel Penkert
David Reynolds
Nina
Nancy Harding
Roy Meachum
Dana Burton
Jingle McEver

Chris Kamien
Terry Geld
Carol Tracy

Military:

Stephen Mutziger
Nicholas Lynch

Local Outreach:

Hurricane Survivors

International Outreach:

Mirembe School

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

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.

April Birthdays

Hannah Penkert	April 3	Michael Barberi	April 9
Jeff Bergsten	April 7	Leila Moran	April 11
Sonja Elgin	April 7	Ray Amor	April 22

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

Special Events

April 2 Daylight Saving Time (*set your clocks ahead!*)
April 9 Palm Sunday Services, 8:00am & 11:00am
April 11 Festival Work Day, 10:00am
April 13 Maundy Thursday Service, 7:30pm
April 14 Good Friday Services, 12noon & 7:30pm (*office closed*)
April 16 Easter Sunday Services, 8:00am & 11:00am, followed by Easter Egg Hunt
The Flowering of the Cross begins prior to the church services.
April 22 Church Work Day, 9:00am – 11:00am
April 23 Altar Guild Appreciation Sunday / Confirmation classes begin.



Easter Flower Donations

Easter donations, in memory/honor/thanksgiving of a loved one, go toward providing the lovely flowers used to decorate our church on Easter. If you would like to participate, please complete the form below or pick up an envelope at the back of the Church. The deadline for listing in the bulletins for Easter Day is Palm Sunday, April 9, 2006. Thank you.

Enclosed is my donation of _____ Given by _____
The bulletin should read _____ in memory of _____ in honor of _____ in thanksgiving for
Name of Loved One _____



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