

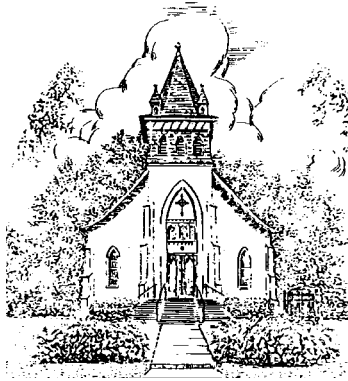
St. Bartholomew's Beacon

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

Dear Friends,

Welcome back to St. Bartholomew's as we begin the fall calendar program! I trust that in the midst of your many responsibilities you experienced some personal Sabbath time – to rest, to be refreshed, and to be renewed.

While summer is a time of rest and slowing down, it is also a time of special summer activities and preparation for the future. This summer was just that for St. Bartholomew's. We hosted a very successful Sunday summer Vacation Bible School, led by our own Lauren Fisher and Maggie Schneider, as well as a well-received summer adult study with the book *Cure for the Common Life*.



In addition to these activities, you will see that significant remodeling was completed on the parish undercroft. New ceiling tiles, paint, and floor tiles combine to make this space particularly welcoming for the many and varied groups and ministries that gather there. Special thanks goes to the Christmas Festival Committee and Ladies Guild that both provided funds for this project, as well as the many individual hands that helped move, clean out, and move back the many items stored downstairs.

As we look to Homecoming, often we think of a homecoming as a *return* to a beloved place. It certainly is this, and anyone and everyone who has participated in the life of St. Bartholomew's is warmly invited back for this event.

I also want us to consider this Homecoming as a time when those *looking* for a spiritual home might be welcomed to St. Bartholomew's. Prayerfully reflect on family, friends and neighbors who might welcome an invitation to attend our Homecoming and appreciate our caring community and the ministries we provide. In fact, prayerfully reflect in an ongoing way about friends and family you might invite to take part in the life of St. Bartholomew's.

I look forward to seeing you, and those you invite, at our Homecoming on Sunday, September 10th.

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 Kaurmann	Judy O'Neil
Lonnie Pera	
Organist	Marilyn Carollo
Sunday School Coordinator	Ann Fitts
Webmaster	Harry Bennett

Worship Schedule and Notes

Regular schedule begins September 10th

Sundays: 8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
11:00am 1st and 3rd Sundays, Holy Eucharist
2nd and 4th Sundays, Morning Prayer

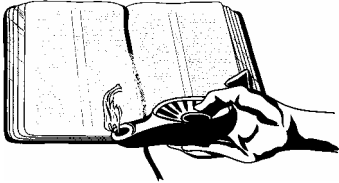
Christian Education Programs
Adult education 9-9:45am
Sunday School during the 11:00am service

Choir rehearsals Thursdays at 7:00 PM

Upcoming Events:

September 10 Homecoming. Services at 8:00am & 11am
Hors d'oeuvres & information between the services
Sunday School Hay Ride
September 18 Ladies Guild Luncheon Meeting, 12:30pm, undercroft
September 19 Search Committee Meeting
September 27 Vestry Meeting

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:

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
Tisa Braud

Jim McMurtray
Lee Gamson
Lucille & Bob Van Vliet
John Parker
Charles & Eloise Elliott
Eva Valenzuela
Jocely Villa
Rachel Penkert
Nina
Jingle McEver
Chris Kamien
Ian Dall
John Kaufmann, Sr.
Jane Blum

June Cummings
Anne Davidson
Olivia Delore
Mary Molster

Died: Peter Field

Military:

Nicholas Lynch

Local Outreach:

Hurricane Survivors

International Outreach:

Mirembe Orphanage

Pastoral Visits & Care

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

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

Senior Warden's Letter – Art Elgin

Now, I know that, technically, it is not the beginning of the new church year, but for most of us it seems that we are starting a new year. I hope that everyone has had a great summer. I also hope that everyone is feeling invigorated and not worn out by their vacations so we can start the “new year” with a bang.

At 9:00 on September 10th --between the services—we will be having our homecoming. It would be great if all of the congregation would plan on joining us. If you haven't been in church for awhile, we particularly would like to see you. Refreshments will be served, and many of the organizations in the church will be there to let you know their plans.

While many of us were on vacation, St. Bartholomew's continued to be active. The camp for the young parishioners and the adult education classes were well attended. The “Ice Cream Sunday” was a big success. Perhaps the biggest news, if you haven't seen it, is that the undercroft and the kitchen have been completely repainted and a whole new floor put down. You will see it at homecoming. Funding for the project was from the proceeds from the Christmas Festival (Thank you Morna, Sonja and all the many workers who made it a success!) and from the proceeds of the Ladies Guild azalea sale (Many thanks ladies!). The new furnace installation is now finished, and the old oil tank has been removed (Thank you Bill Fitts.)

The Search Committee continued its work throughout the summer. We appear to be on track to be in a position to hire a new rector early next year. Unnoticed, St. Bartholomew's, along with the other parishes in the diocese, has been audited. While this happens every year, there apparently have been some problems in some other parishes; so the audit was particularly stringent this year. Lonnie Pera and the treasurers of the various church funds worked hard to see that we were in compliance (Again, my thanks).

On a personal note, Sonja and I will be leaving for Germany right after the homecoming for a

couple of weeks, but we plan on seeing you at the homecoming and when we return.

Search Committee Report – Al Wasson

The search committee and our consultant have been active during the summer. The parish profile has been approved by Bishop Chane and copies are in the process of being printed for distribution to prospective candidates. The search request form was submitted to the Central Deployment Office and we should be receiving inquiries from applicants soon. The committee has started to prepare a list of questions that will be used to interview candidates that we are seriously considering for our next rector.

Stewardship – Tim Smith

I hope you had a relaxing summer and enjoyable welcome back on Home Coming Sunday. Besides signaling the beginning of the program year, Home Coming Sunday is a chance to see all the ministries and activities that happen at Saint Bartholomew's. As part of the time and talent part of stewardship, Home Coming Sunday is a perfect chance for us to see where we can use our God given time and abilities to serve Him. It also an opportunity to acknowledge what we have done and the progress we are making.

There are worship ministries such as choir, altar guild, and lectors. There are education ministries like Sunday School and adult education. There are aid or outreach ministries like Mirembe Girl's Home and local aid. I know the Ladies Guild is looking for Christmas Festivities.

The good part is that if you miss Home Coming Sunday, you can still be involved. Just call the ministry heads or talk to your friendly Vestry member, and they will point you in the right direction. The key is to be doers of the word, not just hearers.

Our annual Pledge Campaign will last the month of October with Stewardship minutes and a wrap-up brunch on October 29th. If you have to lose an hour of sleep, it's nice to get brunch.

International Outreach – *Les Cannon*

The Mirembe Girls Home experienced both the blessing and the curse of the unpredictable and often extreme African weather over the past three months. Long-awaited and much needed rains yielded an abundant harvest for the orphanage, which sits on seven acres of land outside the town of Migori, Kenya. Mirembe founder Father Sosiness Demo reports that this year's corn, vegetable and flower crops were plentiful and helped feed the girls of the orphanage as well as provide a source of critically needed income to help finance daily operations.

Unfortunately, some of the rains came in the form of violent storms, one of which Father Demo describes as "tornado-like" and which swept through the orphanage compound, terrifying the girls and tearing off a large swath of the living quarters' roof. Father Demo contacted the Mirembe committee seeking immediate financial assistance of \$1000 to repair the roof before more rains came and destroyed the interior walls of the facility. To meet this critical and time-sensitive need, the committee was forced to use funds earmarked for school tuition. Father Demo's plan was to request permission from the local government to hold a "Harambe" or traditional African community fundraiser, from which to generate sufficient funds to replace the tuition monies. The local authorities have thus far denied the request, however Father Demo reports that he will make another request for a Harambe later in the year and is cautiously optimistic of its chances for approval.

In the interim, St. Bartholomew's Mirembe Project is projected to be approximately \$1000 short of the required \$3000 tuition for the December school term. Possible options to make up for this shortfall are in the early planning stages and include direct appeal to the parish, or a parish-sponsored emergency fundraiser.

In early August, Father Demo alerted the committee to another financial need critical to the daily operation of the orphanage. Insurance on the Mirembe van used to transport the girls to and from school had lapsed. In the past Father Demo had assumed the \$300 expense

on his own. Now that he is retired, however, he is no longer in a financial position to absorb such a cost. A parishioner who was made aware of the situation and who requests anonymity donated the money to insure the van.

As is obvious from the tone, tenor and content of the monthly Mirembe reports, helping fund the operation and maintenance of an orphanage in a third world country half a world away is an undertaking that is complex, challenging and sometimes even a bit distressing. Such is the nature of Christ's work. Through God's grace, the unwavering commitment and hard work of Father Demo and his wife Mary, and the collective love and generosity of our parish, our girls are living and being nurtured at Mirembe and now have realistic dreams and aspirations for the future. Parishioners who would like to make an immediate and significant difference in the lives of these young women, either by commitment to regular contributions or through special donations, please contact Les Cannon, or Stevie or Brent Grimes.

Local Outreach: -- *Judy Docca*

I received two letters from recipients of funds for prom gowns from Mrs. Teresa Wright, our contact and the Parent Outreach Specialist for the up county area. The two students will be attending Montgomery College in the fall. Their letters follow:

"I want to thank you (the Parish) for your generosity. I came from Nicaragua three years ago and something special for me for my graduation is to be able to participate in the festivities. Thank you. I will buy a very beautiful dress. I will think about you. Thanks for everything."

Letty

"Thank you for your contribution. Thanks to your contribution my dress is going to be perfect. Your contribution has made my graduation experience unforgettable. I would not know how to repay what you have done for me. The only thing I can say is thank you.

Mayra Borja

St. Bart's Christmas Festival –

Morna Golletz & Sonja Elgin

We hope everyone has had a chance to look at the undercroft, with its new ceiling, fresh coat of paint and new floor. Thanks to everyone in the parish who participated at last year's Festival to earn the funds to make these improvements. And, thanks to the Ladies Guild for making up the difference for the costs so the work could be completed in one year. It is very rewarding to see what we were able to accomplish.

We have a good start on this year's Festival, to be held Dec. 1 and 2. We expect many of the same activities as in past years, including crafts, baked goods, café serving lunch and dinner, white elephant sale, gift baskets, live Christmas wreaths and raffle of a quilt. We will have outside crafters again this year, with returnees Terry Tunstall and her teddy bears, Mike Vore and his woodwork and Meredith McEver with pottery. New this year will be jewelry from Rosey Poole. Also new will be sale of Bishop's Blend coffee and Holy Chocolate (hot chocolate mix) - more on that next month.

We have several workdays scheduled in the next few months to continue sewing, baking and crafting. The dates are Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov. 14 and Nov. 28 from 10 am to 1 pm, so mark your calendars. All parishioners are invited to join us. Remember - no specific skills needed; just enthusiasm!

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.

Bake Sale: Last year we put in a plea for extra baking and it paid off with increased sales of baked goods. So, please double those efforts again. Make an extra loaf of bread, cake or batch of cookies and freeze it. We both have a start in our freezers and the workday in August yielded lots of apple pies and quarts of pickles. Also, if you have extra decorative tins, we could use them. Just drop them off at the church office. If you have any questions about the bake sale, give Nancy Harding a call.

Wreath Sale: You'll find this year's wreath order form included in the newsletter. The balsam wreaths are 25 inches in diameter and come fully decorated. They can be picked up during the Festival and will be packaged in a decorative plastic bag, so they will be easier to handle and you won't have stray needles in your car. We really need your help selling the wreaths. They are reasonably priced at \$20, and we get a good return on them. Consider making copies of the order form and distributing them in your neighborhood or at the office. If you need extra order forms, you can pick one up in the back of the church or print one off our Web site. The wreaths also make a great gift. Note the deadline for ordering is Oct. 22.

Gift Baskets – Jamie Kaufman

Each gift basket will have a theme, and parishioners will be invited to donate new items to fill these baskets. The baskets will then be sold through a silent auction at the Festival. Collections will commence in September for the first two of six baskets. Two more will follow in October with the final two completed in November. Projected themes with examples 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 and International food items, wines, beverages, napkins, candles, etc.)

Literature & Travel (new reading material for all ages, travel books, maps, coffee, tea, snacks including trail mixes, 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.)

White Elephant Sale – Karen Parker

Are you enjoying the summer and the heat yet? Well chill out and look to fall and some cooler weather! During the remaining "dawg days"-- while cleaning out basements, garages and

miscellaneous—don't throw away, but give away those gently used and don't-know-quite-what-to-do-with possessions. Save them for St. Bart's ever popular White Elephant Sale returning in December. More information to come. Any questions, call Karen Parker (301) 253-4526.

Last year's festival was a wonderful success for our church community. 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 32nd Christmas Festival. Give us a call to see how you can get involved.

The Ladies Guild

After a very busy spring selling azaleas,, with a profit of \$3,600 , the Guild continued their monthly Lions dinners and then began work to clean the kitchen, the closet and the undercroft in preparation for the new tile floor and the fresh paint for the undercroft, kitchen and closet. What a JOB !!!! Sonja Elgin and Nancy Harding were the taskmasters and with some willing workers from the Guild, please take a look at the finished product. Bill Fitts helped with painting of the closet and Charley W. was our right hand man . Thanks to all.

The Guild contributed monetarily to this project and what the Festival profit didn't cover, we paid for the rest (nearly \$4000) in order to have a completed project for the Fall. On September 18 we will have our first meeting of the year at 12:30. Dues are due and bring a bag lunch. Plans will be made for the year and especially for the Lions dinner on September 28, 2006. All women are welcome to all Guild functions as we work together to make St Bartholomew's a good and attractive place to worship. Barbara W (301 963-7688)

Sunday School – Ann Fitts

Thanks to Lauren Fisher and Maggie Schneider for their leadership of our summer Vacation Bible School program!! They did a great job and provided a fun fellowship time for our Sunday School kids over the summer. Over the summer we had a moonlight swim for the J2A and a Sunday School pool party with lots of laughing and splashing. On August 27th we

celebrated the close of our great summer with an ice cream social.

We will have registration for 2006/2007 Sunday School during Homecoming on September 10th. Our regular Sunday School classes begin on September 16th. We plan to do many new fellowship activities this year but also keep the old favorites including the hayride on September 10th, weather permitting. You can also register any other Sunday as well. Bring friends and see you there!

Property Report – Bill Fitts

It has been a busy summer of property improvements. The undercroft, the stair wells, the kitchen storage closet and the kitchen have been freshly painted. The floor in the undercroft and kitchen has also been replaced. It has really brightened the undercroft up. The final details of the furnace installation have been completed

St. Bartholomew's has 3 buildings and over 3 acres of land which have to be maintained. There is always something which needs doing. We have a policy to compete all of the larger jobs. There are always contractors to meet, bids to review and jobs to manage. The church property is in the best condition it has been in the twenty plus years I have attended St. Bartholomew's and yet there is more that needs to be done. One step at a time. If you have property concerns bring them to the attention of the property committee Evelinda Torres, Jim Lynch or me.

Did You Know . . . Janet Tait

That the beautiful brass eagle lectern from which the Bible readings take place each Sunday was purchased for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in the early 1900s to hold the large church Bible. The leather cover of the Bible is stamped with the name of the church and on the inside cover of the Bible is written, in beautiful cursive handwriting, "Presented by Mary E. Gott, Easter, 1872." The outstretched wings of the eagle are designed to hold the large Bible in place on the back of the eagle and symbolize the Christian belief that the Bible messages should be spread throughout the world.

September Birthdays

Scott Parker	September 1
Mary Grabau	September 5
Paul Taylor	September 7
Evelinda Torres	September 8
Sue Lowry	September 12
Kelley O'Neil	September 21
Julian Spaans	September 23
Les Cannon	September 24
Matthew Reynolds	September 25
Nelson Torres	September 25
Brett Parker	September 26
Jacqueline Davis	September 27
Henry Cannon	September 30

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



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 5005
21611 Laytonsville Rd.
Laytonsville, MD 20882

Office Phone: 301-948-8201
e-mail: stbart@comcast.net
www.saintbartholomews.org

Regular schedule begins September 10th

Sundays: 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I
11:00 AM 1st and 3rd Sundays, Holy Eucharist
2nd and 4th Sundays, Morning Prayer

Christian Education Programs
Adult education 9-9:45 AM
Sunday School during the 11:00 AM service

Choir rehearsals Thursdays at 7:00 PM

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Hors d'oeuvres & information between the services
Sunday School Hay Ride |
| September 18 | Ladies Guild Luncheon Meeting, 12:30 PM |
| September 19 | Search Committee Meeting, 7:30 PM |
| September 27 | Vestry Meeting, 7:30 PM |

Office closing: September 4, Labor Day

