

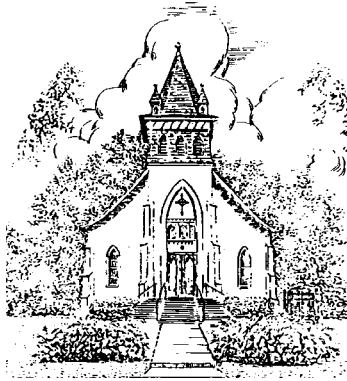
St. Bartholomew's Beacon

*for members and friends of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church; Laytonsville, Maryland
April 2007*

*We are not human beings having a spiritual experience.
We are spiritual beings having a human experience.
- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

Dear Friends,

The quote noted above from the French priest and paleontologist succinctly states that at the heart of who we are, at the center of our identity is a spiritual core and foundation.



As we enter the last days of Lent and Holy Week, and embrace and celebrate the gift of Easter – you and I are reminded again that we are spiritual beings: we were created and loved by God, we rebelled against God, and were reconciled back to God.

I want to invite and encourage you to take part in the worship events available in Holy Week and Easter – making time to nourish your spiritual foundation.

- Palm Sunday: April 1st, services at 8 and 11 am, where we are reminded of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem

- Maundy Thursday: April 5th, 7:30 pm, where we are reminded of Jesus' time with his disciples in the Upper Room and the Garden of Gethsemane

- Good Friday: April 6th, services at 12 noon and 7:30 pm, to reflect on Jesus' death on our behalf

- Services of Resurrection, Easter Day: April 8, 8am and 11am, to celebrate his joyful resurrection!

During the Easter Season, again supporting Christian growth and nurture, we will be offering a five-week study program on the faith of the Episcopal Church, using the book, *Questions on the Way*. Held on Sundays from April 15 – May 13, this course is open to anyone who wishes to learn more about faith and the Episcopal Church, and is particularly well-suited for those who wish to be Confirmed, Re-affirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church at the May 19th Cathedral Service.

My heartfelt prayers are with you that this season may be a time to give priority to your spiritual nature, and that in keeping a Holy Lent you will welcome a Joyous Easter Day.

Pax,
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/Treas	Bill Fitts
Jr. Warden	Deborah Turton
Assistant Treas	Tim Smith
Registrar	Kathy Little
Vestry Members:	
Tim Smith	Jeff Taylor
Evelinda Torres	John Kaufmann
Judy O'Neil	Lonnie Pera
Jeff Bergsten	Charley Hendricks
Jean Sommerville	
Organist	Marilyn Carollo
Sunday School Coordinator	Ann Fitts
Webmaster	Harry Bennett

Senior Warden Letter – Bill Fitts

This is a very exciting time at St. Bartholomew's Church as the search committee is in full swing with its interviews. I am very optimistic that we are nearing the calling of our next rector. Unlike searches in the past we have several qualified candidates who are interested in St. Bartholomew's. The search committee under Jeff Taylor's leadership has been diligently working and nearing the completion of its task. I believe that very soon the search committee will send the qualified candidates to the vestry for a selection of our new rector.

I am very proud that Gwendolyn and Bernadette Cannon will represent St. Bartholomew's at the Diocesan youth work week. They are headed to Alabama to help hurricane victims. They are going to spend their spring break helping others!

Also Maggie Schneider was selected to the all state junior choir. Congratulations Maggie!

I have been working with Tim Smith to transition the treasurer's job over to him. We should have no problem meeting our goal of completing the transition by the beginning of June.

Deborah Turton has really taken on the responsibilities for the property. The renovation of the bathrooms is taking shape. The old bathrooms have served us well as the date on the fixtures was June 1955. I was 5 years old, we won't talk about how old I am now, and you do the math.

I have been attending both the 8:00 and 11:00 services and look forward to talking to all of you. I want to hear from you as to how you think things are going. I'll see you in church or call 301-774-4575 or email me at outland@comcast.net.

Stewardship – Tim Smith

It's finally April. It's time for Easter, the annual celebration of our Lord and Savior's glorious resurrection. Jesus' power, glory, and majesty are all present in His victory over death. His victory did not come without sacrifice, without pain, without suffering. We see this on Good Friday, when Jesus bore the penalty for our sins. This is the extreme or supreme example of sacrificial giving.

Sacrificial giving is the concept that our giving should involve some element of sacrifice, pain, or suffering. To look at it another way, the true value of my gift is amount of sacrifice required to make it. The Sunday school mite boxes are an excellent example. If I have given up double mocha lattes for Lent, I have sacrificed and suffered something. I can then put the money not spent on double mocha lattes in the mite box as an offering to the LORD.

Sacrificial giving shows up as a Stewardship topic in terms of how we formulate our priorities. What am I not doing, what am I not having (double mocha lattes), so that God can be glorified? These are important questions in our time crunched, materialistic culture. If we do not notice or feel our sacrifices, I would argue we have not actually made a sacrifice and we actually give it little value. The greater my sacrifice, the more I value something, in this case my relationship with God. A closer relationship with Him is the whole point of the cross. This ignores those who make tremendous sacrifices for self-righteousness, which is not the point and a whole other article.

The concept of sacrificial giving gives us a way to evaluate whether we paying God lip service, or truly taking up our cross and following Jesus. Happy Easter!

The Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild is continuing to serve the Laytonsville Lions Club a monthly dinner. We had a special dinner in March but there is no dinner in April due to the Club's Charter Night. The Guild is busily making plans for their Annual Azalea Sale which will begin in late April and continue to the first of June. This year we will be open only on Saturdays. We invite all parishioners to help, to buy or to just come and visit. It is a great service to the community and we have also gotten some new members for St Bartholomew's. The Guild will also participate in the Laytonsville Community Parade on May 19 beginning at 11:30 AM. All are welcome. Call Barbara for further information. (301-963-7688)

Property Report – Deborah Turton

The bathrooms are half way done. The fixtures are installed and working. We'll be painting them over the next few weeks as well as putting up grab bars, paper towel holders and mirrors. The goal is to finish the bathroom work before we install the carpet. We'd like to finish everything before Bishop Chane visits on Mother's Day.

And speaking of the preparing for the Bishop's visit, we will be having our first workday on Saturday, April 21. We want everything to look wonderful for the bishop and for our new priest, whoever that may be. The morning will start at 8:30 with bagels and cream cheese in the undercroft. We'll be painting the porches on the education building and spreading mulch around the plantings along with some other small tasks. If you have painting supplies, hoes or garden racks, bring them to the work day. I'd also like to try and put newspaper/cardboard under the mulch we spread. This can really help hold down weeds. So bring along any newspapers/large boxes you have laying around. I need to borrow a power washer the week before the work day. We need to power wash the porches and prime them. If you have one and would like to help,

please let me know. I also need someone with a chain saw to do a little work on the shrubs. It's nothing complicated, just taking out some large trunks. Again, please let me know if you can help do this on the work day. Also, if you see any small tasks that need to be done, please let me or Judith know so we can add them to our list. Deborah Turton -- 301-482-0675

Sunday School News

During this past month, we studied the lessons on being fishermen of men and disciples for Jesus. We also studied the Transfiguration and the meaning of Lent. The Sunday School made Mite Boxes which will be returned on Easter Sunday to help those less fortunate.

We look forward to Palm Sunday with a focus lesson on the meaning of Communion and a Sater Meal. We will have our annual Easter Egg hunt after the 11:00 service on Easter Sunday with plenty of eggs for all to find. The J2A will have a pizza party and hide the eggs on Saturday April 7th. All are invited to participate at the hunt and please bring friends.

Christmas Festival

Sonja Elgin and Morna Golletz

We got a good start with our first workday in March and are happy to have had two of the church's newer members, Carolyn Taylor and Nancy Willett, join us. Our next workday is April 10 at 10 am in the undercroft. We will be sewing, so if you have a machine, bring it. If not, don't let that deter you. We need people to cut and press fabric. Nancy Willett is also setting up an evening workshop, so watch the bulletin for the date.

And thanks to Robin Horton, who volunteered to take over the coffee and hot chocolate sales, and Dana Burton, who volunteered to handle the holiday wreaths.

Search Committee Report

The Search Committee has interviewed several candidates and has two more interviews scheduled. After the interviews are completed, three to five candidates will be sent to the Vestry for their consideration.

Worship Schedule and Notes

Sundays	8:00am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
	9:15-10:15am	Confirmation/Reaffirmation Classes Begin April 15
	11:00am	1 st , 3 rd and 5 th Sundays, Holy Eucharist 2 nd and 4 th Sundays, Morning Prayer Sunday School during the 11:00am service
Thursdays	7:00pm	Choir rehearsal

Upcoming Events

April 1	Palm Sunday
April 5	Maundy Thursday, 7:30pm Holy Eucharist with Stripping of the Altar
April 6	Good Friday Liturgy services at 12:noon & 7:30pm
April 8	Easter Sunday, Holy Eucharist services at 8 & 11am Flowering of the Cross begins early in the morning Annual Easter Egg Hunt after the 11am service
April 10	Festival Work Day
April 15	Confirmation / Reaffirmation classes begin, through May 13
April 15	Altar Guild Appreciation Day
April 16	Ladies Guild Meeting, 10am, undercroft

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
Margaret Louie
Tisa Braud
Jim McMurtray
Lee Gamson
John Parker

Eva Valenzuela
Jocy Villa
Rachel Penkert
Jingle McEver
Ian Dall
John Kaufmann, Sr.
June Cummings
Anne Davidson
Olivia Delore
Shirley Norberg
Wendy Van Dyke
Rob Glasby
Edna Vlachos
Dorothy Grimes
James Lee McMurtray
Martha Lou Brister
Marilyn Carollo

Michelle Steele
Christopher Yen
Bill Morse
Larry Tarasek
Carolyn Taylor
Tammy MacLaren
David Pollock

Those Serving Overseas

Nicholas Lynch
Jeffrey Stromberg

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.

April Birthdays

Peter Nowell	April 2	Clifford Elgin	April 8
Hannah Penkert	April 3	Leila Moran	April 11
Jeff Bergsten	April 7	Ray Amor	April 22
Sonja Elgin	April 7	Douglas Cassera	April 23



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

Worship Services from Holy Week to Easter

April 1, Palm Sunday	8:00am & 11:00am, Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist
April 5, Maundy Thursday	7:30pm, Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar
April 6, Good Friday	12 noon & 7:30pm Good Friday Liturgy
April 8, Easter Sunday	8:00am & 11:00am, Holy Eucharist Flowering of the Cross Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Reminders:

April 10	Festival Work Day, 10:00am
April 15	Confirmation/Reaffirmation Classes Begin 9:15-10:15am
April 15	Altar Guild Appreciation Day
April 16	Ladies Guild Meeting, 10:00am

