

St. Bartholomew's Beacon

for members and friends of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church; Laytonsville, Maryland
January 2008

Dear Friends:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2008! Let's begin this new calendar year with renewed energy for developing the ministry of St. Bart's. Advent 2007 included a Sunday evening Christmas Pageant and two Christmas Eve services, all of which were wonderful! Thank you to the many people who made these celebrations so beautiful: Bill & Ann Fitts, Mary Grabau and all the teachers and children who put their hearts into this year's pageant; the Altar Guild who arranged the poinsettias, polished the brass and silver and set the altar; and Marilyn and Vicky - our organists, the Adult Choir and our parish string assemble for their time rehearsing the Christmas music that made the Christmas Eve services glorious. As I continue into my first year with you, planning events and worship becomes easier and more joyful as I now know and understand what works for you, for me and for our guests and visitors. Our new Parish Office Administrator, Katie Glensor, has been working with us now for a few months, and has been a great support to us all. What a team we have!

As we enter a new calendar year - 2008, we begin a new liturgical season - **Epiphany** -- on Jan. 6 (12 days after Christmas) and it ends on Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008. (Lent begins on Ash Wed. Feb. 6.) The theme of the Epiphany Season is Jesus' life journey from Bethlehem to Jerusalem and the *manifestation* of the presence of God in Jesus of Nazareth. The word *epiphany* is Greek for *manifestation*. In liturgical churches, the Bible readings and sermons during Epiphany present the events that revealed Jesus as the Christ to those around him, beginning with the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem at his birth, to John the Baptist at Jesus' adult baptism in the River Jordan, to his Transfiguration on the Mount with Peter, James and John during his earthly ministry. The fullest manifestation of Jesus as the Christ was revealed at his resurrection on the third day since his crucifixion. We celebrate Easter this year earlier than most years - Sun. March 23

The question for all of us to consider during this Epiphany season is, "How has Jesus as the Christ been revealed to you? Are you wondering when or if you fully appreciate Jesus as the Christ? Do you need spiritual guidance to enhance this revelation for you? Would you like to embrace a new spiritual discipline this new year that may bring you closer to embracing Jesus as the Christ?" Please reflect on these questions and write to me, revflett@yahoo.com or call me to visit and pray with you, or let me suggest something that you might use in prayer or study. We live in interesting and challenging times as people of faith. What do you need to deepen your Christian faith and yet be affirming of the truth and value of other religions, of your neighbors and coworkers? Please talk to me, visit with me and let me know how you are doing in *your* Epiphany journey.

Faithfully yours in Christ, Carol

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
Rector	The Rev. Dr. Carol M. Flett
Sr. Warden	Bill Fitts
Jr. Warden	Deborah Turton
Treasurer	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 Xiaolong Gao

Sunday School

Coordinator Ann Fitts

Administrative Assistant, Katie Glensor

Webmaster Harry Bennett

Church Office Hours: Wed-Thurs 10-3

Priest available by appointment.

Bulletin Notes

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF Sun. Jan. 6, 2008

Annual Meeting – Sun. Feb. 3, 11:45 am in the Church, after a 15-min. break from the 10:30 am service – Regular worship schedule 8 am Holy Communion Rite I; 10:30 am Morning Prayer Rite I. Any adult member (at least age 16) of St. Bartholomew's who is "a communicant in good standing" is eligible to vote in the affairs of the annual meeting. E.g. Vestry elections and other motions that come before the parish. According to Canon I.17.3 of the Episcopal General Convention, 2006: "All communicants of this Church (at least age 16) who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are considered to be communicants in good standing."

Copies of the Annual Report will be distributed on Sun. Jan. 27. Finished copies of Guild, Vestry and committee reports must be sent electronically (in Word) to stbart@comcast.net by Sun. Jan. 20 in order to be included in the booklet.

Parish Forums – Sun. Jan. 20 & 27, after the 8 & 10:30 am services In preparation for the Annual Meeting, there will be two Sundays of Parish Forums (after the 8 & 10:30 am services) that will give members an opportunity to hear, read and respond to various Annual Reports:
Sun. Jan. 20 - Fellowship, Education and the Handicap Access Committee reports.
Sun. Jan. 27 – 2007 Treasurer's Report and review of 2008 Budget, previously approved by Vestry.

Sun. Forums resume Feb. 10, 9:15 am – Biblical Interpretation 101. Come and learn about the history and culture of Israel at the time of Jesus and how that informs our understanding of biblical passages. Adults are encouraged to attend, but older children are also welcome.

Acolyte Meeting & Training on Sun. Jan. 13, 12 noon 12:30 pm. All acolytes and those desiring to be acolytes are asked to attend to review procedures and learn new ones.

Adult and teen Confirmation classes begin Jan. 13, 5:30 pm. The program will be combined with members of St. Luke's, Brighton and St. Anne's, Damascus and be held on two Sunday evenings a month, from 5:30-8 pm, including a light supper. Teens should be willing to converse with other teens and adults about faith, the Church and its ministry in the world. Lively discussion and all questions will be considered. The Confirmation service itself will be in early May at the Washington national Cathedral. Contact Carol.

If you would like to dedicate the Altar Flowers in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for a special event, please contact the office on Wed. between 10-3 pm of the week prior to that Sunday. The tax-deductible donation is \$80 for both vases or \$40 for one. More than one person may dedicate the flowers on a Sunday. Choose one or more Sundays a year to dedicate the flowers to someone or an event, and it will be included in the Prayers of the People and printed in the bulletin. Dates that are available are: Sun. Jan. 20; Jan. 27; Feb. 3; Feb. 10 (1st Lent); March 16 (Palm Sun)

Office is updating member data: If you have moved, changed your phone number, or are not receiving the parish's monthly Newsletter, please email starts@comcast.net or call the office 301-848-8201. An updated directory will be distributed at the Annual Meeting. Please send us your updated info.

Winter Watch on the Rectory/Educ. Bldg. Because the heating system in the Education building is old and not reliable, there is now a warning light in the front window of the bldg. If you see a red light flashing from the window, it means the heat is broken again and the temperature is dropping. We'd like to avoid more burst pipes and repair work, so please call Deborah Turton 301-482-0675 or Bill Fitts 301-774-4575. If you can't get a hold of one of us, please call the church office 301-948-8201 and leave a message.

Senior Warden – *Bill Fitts*

Happy New Year! -- I hope that everyone has had a Joyous Christmas and New Year celebration. I know that I have enjoyed being with my family and friends to celebrate the birth of our Lord, and the coming of the New Year.

As I look back on 2007 it has been a very eventful year for St. Bartholomew's. We have called Reverend Flett, hired Katie as our administrative assistant, and contracted with Xiaolong as our new music director. We have had a complete turnover of our staff over the past six months. That represents significant change for a small parish that previously had the same rector for more than 30 years. In the past our parish has been slow to change. However, we have adapted very well to the changes of 2007. We have successfully maintained our feel for tradition and yet have been able to look forward to the future.

One other change which went well was our Christmas pageant. For many years we have had the Sunday school Christmas pageant as a part of our regular Sunday service. This Christmas we decided to have the pageant as a standalone service on a Sunday evening. It was a wonderful event. The young people did a great job. We were able to enhance the script with additional scenes and props because we had more time to set up. Also, because we weren't conducting a service at the same time it became more of an event. The pageant was very well attended, not only by our congregation (from both the early and late service), but also some members of the community. It appears a new tradition has begun.

It takes courage to change and sometimes you're rewarded and sometimes you're not. However you don't know unless you try. It's not the tradition that is sacred, be it the prayer book or pageant time. Worship is for and about our Lord and I don't believe he gives or takes points for style, as long as we are sincere and faithful in our effort.

We have much to look forward to in 2008. Reverend Flett will become more acclimated to us and us to her. Katie will settle into the administrative assistant position. I am very excited about Xiaolong coming as our music director and the possibilities he brings to our music program. We have had a successful pledge campaign and I feel that we are on the cusp of turning the financial corner. If we continue to do what we do well and are able to add programs that meet the needs of the community, we will grow in number. Growth is imperative to insure the continued health of our parish. We have budgeted for increased efforts in areas which will help us grow, such as music and evangelism and publicity. With God's help we will be able to take advantage of the opportunities and challenges of 2008. Thanks to all of you that have worked so hard in 2007 and for your continued support in 2008.

Stewardship – *Jeff Bergsten*

Stewardship Puzzle

Here's a (hopefully) fun diversion for those quiet times in-between seasonal activities. Match up the hymn with the stewardship concept. Hint: the relevant part may not be in the first line (or the first verse). The answers appear later on in the newsletter. Of course there is more than one correct way to answer, so don't worry about your score. In fact, I'd be interested to hear your thoughts!

1. We three kings of Orient are (hymn #128)
2. While shepherds watched their flocks by night (#94)
3. O little town of Bethlehem (#79)
4. Angels, from the realms of glory (#93)
5. What child is this (#115)

=====

- a. Care for the creation
- b. God has equipped us for stewardship
- c. All can participate in offering
- d. Even the powerful give of themselves
- e. Using our gifts wisely

See the answers to the Stewardship Quiz later in this newsletter.

Local Outreach – *Tim Smith*

The Local Outreach Committee was able to deliver 18 gift bags of toiletry items to the ladies at the Krahnke Women's Shelter. We were also able to provide homemade fleece scarves and little candy bags for the children. Kathy Cousins, Franca Kimmel, Ethel Ollivierre, and Nancy Willett met on December 16th to assemble the bags.

We accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Claus to the Krahnke Center. They had toys for the children and earrings for the moms. Everyone was very happy to see them! The earrings were donated by a parishioner as well.

The food donations in the church foyer will be regularly taken to the Morningstar Food Pantry. So if the basket looks empty, it's not because we've stopped collecting, rather there's plenty of room for new donations.

Stay tuned for information about Thanksgiving in February, a very popular event. Local restaurants donate a portion of their proceeds to the Community Ministries of Montgomery County. We get together as a group for dinner at one of the restaurants to support CMMC.

International Outreach – *Brent Grimes*

We hope that the recent elections and unrest in Kenya does not negatively affect our Mirimbe School and orphanage.

Answers to Stewardship Quiz

1. **d.** The kings came a great distance, when they could just as easily have sent emissaries (or done nothing at all). This shows an ethic that is very instructive. Although we can't readily identify with a king, we have been in a position where we know we should take action, although we can also get away with doing nothing.
2. **a.** One interpretation of the shepherds' tending their flocks is that of the need to care for the world and all in it. In church we pray that we'll be "faithful stewards of thy bounty." And as we're all aware, taking care of God's Earth is just as important now as ever.
3. **b.** See verse 3: "So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven." We should use the gifts God gave us to improve things here on Earth. Extra credit: verse 4 also could work.
4. **e.** Verse 2: "Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night ..." They're responsible for their flocks. If they don't watch them, the sheep will scatter and be subject to predators. So it's important we use our gifts wisely.
5. **c.** Verse 3: "So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him..." People from all walks of life are invited to bestow gifts on Jesus. Likewise, all of us can contribute to mission in one way or another.

Festival Report

Sonja Elgin and Morna Golletz

This year's Christmas Festival held Nov. 30 and Dec. It was a success – we raised needed funds and from all reports everyone enjoyed the camaraderie.

We wanted to thank all the parishioners who supported our efforts this year, whether that was buying a wreath, coffee, or hot chocolate, selling raffle tickets, donating to the white elephant sale, making baked goods or crafts, filling our silent auction baskets or working or shopping at the Festival. It took the efforts of everyone to make the Festival so successful.

We did want to thank specifically those people who worked during the Festival. The chairpersons were

White Elephant: Karen Parker and Mary Grabau
Bake Table: Nancy Harding
Café: Meredith Smith
Silent Auction Baskets: Jamie Kaufman
Coffee & Hot Chocolate Sales: Robin Horton
Wreath Sales: Dana Burton
Raffle: Nancy Willett
Signs: Kathy Cousins and Tim Smith
Publicity: Joanne Frazier

Parishioners who worked during the Festival include Barbara White, Judy O'Neil, Jean Sommerville, Deborah Turton, Ethel Ollivierre, June Thomas, Bill

Fitts, Al Bergsten, TJ Miller, Evelinda Torres, Betty Amor, Anne & Al Wasson, Audrey Hauser, Jeff Bergsten, Sue Lowry, Sue Davis, Judy Docca, Kathy Little, Richelle Vincent, Herb Grabau, Rand Golletz and Art Elgin

And congratulations to Doris Wright who won the raffle quilt.

We know you are also interested in how much money we raised. The Festival grossed more \$9,000, with expenses running about \$3,000. We'll have a full report at the Annual Meeting. After expenses, \$2,000 will go into the church's General Fund and the remainder of the proceeds will go towards a project to be announced in the coming months.

We do plan to take January off, but will be back at work as "Santa's elves" in February. We again plan to hold Festival workdays the 2nd Tuesday morning of each month, so mark your calendars to join us. We also plan to have an evening group and some projects to involve the church youth. You don't need any special skills. Plan to join us for the fun and to learn something new.

In February we will review the Festival activities, what worked, what could have worked better and make plans for the 2008 Festival. Anyone who wishes to come to the meeting is welcome. We'll announce a date and time as it gets closer. And, we welcome any and all suggestions for the next year.

Thanks again for all your efforts. The Festival is a wonderful church community event, and it is a joy for us to share this with you.

Bishops Blend Coffee and Holy Chocolate

We have a good supply of Holy Chocolate still available in various flavors. The cans are \$11 each, the individual packets are \$1.75 and the large bag (46 cups) is \$35. Chilly days ahead are great for hot chocolate, so if you are interested, contact Robin Horton, 301-854-6181.

We also have a few bags of the Bishops Blend coffee left. The cost is \$11 per bag. Contact Robin if you are interested.

Annual Meeting – Sun. Feb. 3, 2008

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Parish Forums – Sun. Jan. 20 & 27, after 8 & 10:30 am services

Come to the Annual Meeting and share in the decisions and vision for the ministry of St. Bartholomew's Church! The rector will share her hopes and expectations for 2008. Any adult member (at least age 16) of St. Bartholomew's who is "a communicant in good standing" is eligible to vote in the affairs of the annual meeting. E.g. Vestry elections and other

motions that come before the parish. According to Canon I.17.3 of the Episcopal General Convention, 2006: "All communicants of this Church (at least age 16) who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are considered to be communicants in good standing."

On Sun. Feb. 3, Holy Communion Rite I will be celebrated at 8 am and Morning Prayer Rite I will be offered at 10:30 am. The meeting will begin promptly at 11:45 am in the Church, following a 15-minute break after the 10:30 am service. In preparation for the Annual Meeting, there will be two Sundays of Parish Forums (after the 8 & 10:30 am services) that will give members an opportunity to hear, read and respond to various Annual Reports:

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Handicap Access Committee

In December, we met with two people who volunteered to help us work out a plan to make our church universally accessible. Nan Hildebrand of St. Nicholas' came up with a variety of different places to put a lift, ways to use ramps, and ways to alter our bathrooms. Jim Andrews of Andrews Consulting gave us a nuts and bolts approach to how our process can work smoothly as well as exploring ideas of where to put lifts.

Our next step is to use this information and develop several plans that the vestry can winnow down to one workable plan. We can then proceed with a request for proposals from various architects. We have the name of at least one architect that might be able to do the work for us. However, if you know of any architects who have dealt with historic churches and handicap access please let one of us on the committee know. We'd like to have at least three responses to our RFP in order to insure the best quality job at the best price.

Thanks, Deborah Turton, Brent Grimes, Art Elgin, Mark Wilner and Charlie Hendricks.

Sunday School News

We have had a busy and joyous Christmas season thanks to the efforts of our Sunday School children and volunteers. We had wonderful Christmas projects sold at the festival, we made the manger scene for the Christmas Eve Service, and supported the Betty Anne Kranke Center with children's gifts and a Santa visit.

However, the highlight of the season was the wonderful job our youth did while performing the Christmas Pageant. There were new roles and props and also new friends who attended the service from the community. So many commented about the wonderful job the kids did in their performance, about the beautiful costumes created by Mary Grabau, the music from Lauren Fisher and the new props of the inn, Gabriel's cloud, and the old manger provided by Bill Fitts. It was followed by a chili supper coordinated by Deborah Turton, with help from many others. Santa also came to listen to Christmas wishes and granted a wish for a redskin victory later that evening!

One of St. Bart's greatest gifts is the youth of our parish. They are anxious to volunteer their time, energy and gifts to make Christmas and other days special throughout the year. Our children and youth feel valued as special members of our church and thanks to all who make them feel that St. Bart's is their special home.

Youth Group

December started with the most popular event of the year, the lock-in at the cathedral. We had 11 youth, including 2 friends, and 3 adult chaperones attend. I have been told the lock-in has very similar events to the middle-school retreat, but spread over a weekend instead of compressed into one night, which explains why all the attendees come home so tired. We are experimenting with meeting after the later service instead of between the services to see if that makes it easier for more of our youth to attend. We are meeting on Jan 6th and Jan 20th.

Sunday School Fund Raiser

The Sunday School will be selling donuts during the coffee hours after both the 8 am and 10:30 am services throughout the month of January. Funds raised will be donated to the church's outreach programs. Please buy doughnuts in support of our Sunday School Fund Raiser!

Music News

Hi, everyone. My name is Xiaolong (Shall-Lone) Gao, and I am the new Organist. I have professional music training and degrees from University of Maryland, Oberlin College, and Beijing Central Conservatory. I have taught on the summer faculties of the Rocky Ridge Music center in Estes Park, Colorado. Prior to St. Bart's, I have taught at Keyboard Arts, the only Yamaha Music School in the State of Maryland for 6 years.

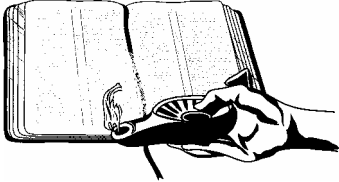
Our adult choir rehearsal starts on Thursday, January 3rd, 7:00 p.m. Formal training is not required to sing in the choir. Come sing with the Choir! We are also recruiting a youth choir, if your children want to learn music through singing, please contact the church office. Wish you all a very Happy New Year.



January Birthdays

Tom Vincent	January 2	Kay Stevens	January 16
Stevie Grimes	January 5	Joshua Davis	January 19
Herbert Grabau	January 10	Aysha Benjamin	January 21
Robert Harding	January 10	Jim Horton	January 27
Lauren Bray	January 12	Byron Williams	January 27
Mary Bogley	January 14		
James Lynch	January 14		

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.

Please remember these people in your prayers:

Those who are ill:

David Flynn (per J.McMurtray 4/18/07)
Sal Carollo (per M.Carollo 5/6/07)
Rob Schaaf (per D.Howard 5/6/07)
Ian Dall (per F.Dall 5/6/07)
Margaret Louie (per Jean Somerville)
Lee Gamson (per Ann Vlachos 8/5/07)
Wah Lee (per Tim Smith 8/5/07)
Arthur Lowry (per Sue Lowry 9/9/07, Alzheimers)
Page Molster (per J. McMurtray 9/28/07)
Meghan Kingsley (per D. Howard 10/18/07)
David Davis (per B.Davis 11/4/07)

John Parker (per K.Parker 11/4/07)
Michael McGhee (per Sue David 11/4/07)
Erin Shaw (per M.Carollo 11/4/07)
Jingle McEver (per M.Golletz 11/4/07)
Eva Valenzuela (per Carmen 11/4/07)
Hanna Penkert (per J. Penkert 11/19/07)
Merhle Davis (per Bill Davis 11/19/07)
Logan and Micah Simmons (per Jeff Taylor 12/9/07)
Sonja Elgin (01/02/08)

Those Serving Overseas Rick

Metrey (son of friends of K.Cousins)
Capt. Garrett Grochowski
 (Jane Taylor's cousin)

Outreach

Recipients of our outreach ministries

NOTICE:

If you want to add a name on our prayer list, please contact the church office 301-948-8201.

Thank you!

Pastoral Visits & Care

For pastoral visits and care, please contact her at revflett@yahoo.com. In case of a pastoral emergency, you may call Carol at home at 301-530-5221.

JANUARY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	 <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR! 10:00 AM Al-Anon</p>	<p>2 <i>Newsletter Sent Out</i> 7:00 PM Bible Study</p>	3	4	5
<p>6 Sunday School Chili & 5 Ft Sub New Year's Celebration 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 AM Weekly Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	7	<p>8 10:00 AM Al-Anon</p>	<p>9 7:00 PM Bible Study</p>	10	11	12
<p>13 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 AM Weekly Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 12:00 PM Acolyte Training 5:30 PM Adult and Teen Confirmation Class</p>	14	<p>15 10:00 AM Al-Anon</p>	<p>16 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	17	18	19
<p>20 Deadline for Annual Reports Parish Forum After Services 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 AM Weekly Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II</p>	21	<p>22 10:00 AM Al-Anon</p>	<p>23 7:00 PM Bible Study</p>	24	25	26
<p>27 Parish Forum After Services 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I 9:15 AM Weekly Sunday Forum 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I</p>	28	<p>29 10:00 AM Al-Anon</p>	<p>30 7:00 PM Bible Study</p>	31	1	2



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

January Events & Worship Schedule

Fall/Winter Worship Service Schedule

Sundays

8:00 am service: Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:15 – 10:15 am Sunday Forum for adults and teens
10:30 am service: Holy Eucharist, Rite II on first & third Sundays
Holy Eucharist, Rite I on second & fourth Sundays
Morning Prayer, Rite I on fifth Sunday

January 6 – Sunday School Chili & 5ft. Sub New Year's Celebration following 10:30 service

January 2, 9, 23, 30 - Adult Bible Study – 7:00 pm

January 13 – Acolyte Meeting and Training - 12:00 noon – 12:30 pm

January 13 – Adult and Teen Confirmation Classes - 5:30 pm

January 16 – Vestry Meeting – 7:30 pm

January 20 – Deadline for Annual Reports to be submitted

January 20 – Parish Forum – after the 8 & 10:30 services

January 27 – Parish Forum - after the 8 & 10:30 services