

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER, MARCH, 2016

St. Bartholomew's is an inclusive and affirming faith community, welcoming all.

FRIENDSHIP AND COMPASSION: HEALING A DIVIDED WORLD

Written by the Rev. Poulson Reed, Rector of All Saint's Episcopal Church, Phoenix, AZ

Submitted by The Rev. Dr. Johannas Jordan

Last weekend, I had an unsettling experience of sin. I happened to be on Facebook as the news about Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia's death was spreading.

Within an hour of the announcement of his passing, I saw posts by individuals and even a blog gleefully celebrating his death. And on the other side of the political spectrum, I saw individuals and blogs taking positions on whether the Senate should approve a successor nominated by President Obama. All of this within an hour of the news of Justice Scalia's death. It was a deeply depressing, though not entirely surprising experience.

I know that we live in starkly polarized times, and I know that communication on the internet tends to bring out the worst and most sinful aspects of our human nature. But somehow, as a Christian, I hoped for better, especially from fellow Christians. My friend Scott Gunn had a very similar reaction, which he expressed in his thoughtful post "When Compassion Gets Real" on his blog sevenwholedays.org.

I would have hoped that even those Christians who disagree strongly with Justice Scalia's views would pray for the repose of his soul as a fellow child of God, pray for his family and friends in their grief, and give thanks for his dedicated service. And I likewise would have hoped that talk of political strategy about his replacement would wait for at least a few hours.

Fortunately, last weekend I also had an uplifting experience of grace. I read Justice Ginsberg's moving tribute to Justice Scalia, who was her ideological opposite, and yet her dear friend. Their friendship, despite major philosophical differences over serious matters, gave me hope.

Our nation and our world could use more friendship, and more compassion. Genuine friendship between those who disagree is part of the "glue" in a healthy society. When we are friends with those who differ from us, we come to a more nuanced view of important issues and appreciation of other cultures and backgrounds. Often in such friendships, we realize that we have much more in common with others than we suspected.

And since we can't be friends with everyone, compassion is our ability to empathize with others by imagining ourselves in their shoes. In genuine compassion (which takes hard work), we try to dismantle our assumptions, listen, reflect, learn, and open our hearts to the suffering and life experience of another person. One of the functions of the Church is to encourage friendship and compassion, as God's instruments of healing and reconciliation. At worship and other Church events, we are with people who share our faith (for the most part), but who may have very different life experiences and views on other issues. What a blessing it is to make friends at Church with those who are different!

Part of that is the mission of the Church, to provide such opportunities for friendship.

The Church facilitates compassion in worship, learning, and service, by encouraging us to pray for and be aware of injustice and suffering, in our city or across the globe, and to reach out in mercy to help. One simple test of compassion is how we react when something tragic happens to someone we don't know or even someone we dislike.

Our nation and our world could use more genuine, diverse friendships, and more sincere compassion towards others, neither of which is easy. Let us make an effort to cultivate these healing virtues in our Church community, in the lives of our children, and in our divided world.

IN MEMORY OF VERN KEITH MASON



Vern Mason, 83, of Bemidji, MN died Saturday, February 20, 2016 peacefully at home with family around him.

Memorial Services will be 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 5, 2016 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Bemidji with Pastor Ron Gladen officiating. Arrangements were entrusted to the Olson-Schwartz Funeral Home, Bemidji.

He was born April 16, 1932 to Kermit and Lyla Mason in Carpio, ND. Vern moved later to Grand Forks, ND with his family where he attended public school. In 1952 Vern enlisted in the U.S. Army where he worked as an orthopedic technician at the Fitzsimmons Hospital in Colorado. Vern received his GED diploma from Central High School in Grand Forks, ND after he was honorably discharged from the Army. Vern returned to Grand Forks, ND and married Rheta Tsoumpas on August 15, 1954. He then attended the University of North Dakota. While attending UND he continued to work contracting TV antenna work from Goodman Electric and during the summers painting grain elevators and their signs including the sign on the N.D. state Mill. To do this specialized high work Vern developed a motorized swing stage. Vern graduated from UND in Industrial Technology with a B.S. in Education. He began his teaching career at Oslo, MN until 1967 when he returned to Grand Forks, ND to teach at the new Red River High School. Vern taught at Red River High School until he retired except for two years he took off to promote a ticket machine he had developed. Vern developed many things such as jiffy joints, Shore More Line and an advanced sander grinder. He also had a construction business where he remodeled and built homes. Vern also loved to fish and the outdoors. Vern and his wife, Rheta, retired to Grace Lake, MN where Rheta still resides.

He is survived by his wife, Rheta; son, Gregory (Diane) Mason of Coos Bay, OR; daughter, Laura Demerais of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; daughter-in-law, Lora K. Mason of Spring Green, WI; 6 grandchildren; brothers, Kermit Mason of Avon Lake, OH and Richard (Sandy) Mason of East Moline, IL; a sister, Carol Muller of Stow, OH and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Gary, and a son, Tony.

Memorials are preferred to St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church or charity of donors choice.

*May Light Perpetual shine on Vern.
Loving prayers for Rheta and their entire family.*



MARCH IS: FOOD SHELF MONTH

March and December are key revenue generating months for the Bemidji Community Food Shelf. Historically, those months generate over 60 % of annual donation revenue. Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign is important because it matches a portion of funds generated by food shelves during the month of March. Last year over \$10,000 of matched revenue was raised by the BCFS due to the March FoodShare initiative.

If the BCFS is on your gifting list for 2016, please consider donating in March. Checks may be made out to BCFS, and write "St. Bart's" on the memo line, if you want the church to receive recognition for your gift.

BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Bishop's Committee for 2016 will be

Tues, March 8.

*This will be the meeting where we elect a chair and organize for the new year, so **all interested should attend.***

Altar Flowers

Please consider giving altar flowers on Sundays—with greenery to be used during Lent. To sign up for a Sunday, please write your name on the list posted by the office door and provide a written dedication using the supplied forms. If you do not sign up ahead of time, flowers might be needed anyway. If you leave a note in the office, a dedication can still be printed the following week.

THANK YOU!

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 31, 2016

The meeting opened with prayer by Carol Porterfield-Milowski at 11:32 am.

Twenty-nine members of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church were present for the meeting.

Motion by Sally Montebello/Art Gulette: That minutes from 2015 annual meeting be approved. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report – given by Carrie Jessen. • Our congregation had generally a good financial report for 2015. The renovations to the undercroft and upstairs bathroom have been fully paid for (\$24,377) and balances in all accounts are fairly healthy. Budget for 2016 is comparable to 2015 budget except that a new copier in the office is needed and is budgeted for. Carrie's term as treasurer will end after this coming year. **Motion:** Jeanne Gulette/Larry Stember: To accept 2016 budget as presented. **Motion carried.**

Addendum to Treasurer's Report: A pledge drive will be carried out in the next month or so as we did not have a pledge drive last fall.

Various reports were given next. Most of the information can be found in reports submitted by the committees and collected together in the packet for the Annual Meeting.

Episcopal Church Women Report – given by Helen Winge. • Helen expressed the need for more members to take part in ECW as it remains a very active group.

Outreach Committee Report – highlights given by Betsy Hering.

Worship Committee Report – given by Carol PM. • The Worship Committee and the Shared Ministry Team are now melded into a single committee/group. Jeanne G. has worked tirelessly on behalf of this group, with scheduling and altar guild tasks. We applaud her efforts and thank her.

Food Shelf Report – given by Art G. • St. Bart's keeps up with churches having much larger congregations than ours in carrying out tasks at the Food Shelf.

Bemidji Community Table – given by Jeanne G. • The BCT was formerly called the Soup Kitchen.

Junior Warden's Report – given by Bob Montebello. • The grounds and building are taken care of by many volunteers from the congregation whom Bob thanks. • The undercroft is a much cleaner place than it had been for many years and the remodeling has been well-received for the most part.

Sunday School Report – highlights given by Carol Carpenter.

Historian Report – given by Carol C. • Carol has collected pictures and documents and other artifacts from St. Bart's past and put them into a scrapbook. Also, a new 2016 Church Directory has been put together.

Theology for Breakfast Report – highlights given by Carol PM.

Pastoral Care Report – given by Carol PM. • This is an area of critical need in St. Bart's as Kathy Schmit has had to curtail her fine work in this area of our church life in the past year. Carol posed the question: Is there a pastor with counseling training in the area that could be in our church office (or available to talk on the phone) one afternoon a week?

Diocesan 2015 Convention and Northwest Mission Area Reports – given by Carol C. • Election of delegates to the convention and the mission is for three-year terms, according to the Church Canons. Julia Plum is resigning from her role as a delegate for St. Bart's.

Bishop's Committee Report – given by Carol PM. • "Staffing the altar" is a major task that the BC has been carrying out in the past year. Once a service leader has been found for a given Sunday, then members of the Altar Committee work with that individual on the liturgical planning for the day. We will have a continuing need for supply clergy in our immediate future. • ECMN doesn't seem very willing to help us out with our staffing needs and other needs (this feeling pursuant to our December meeting with Karen Olson from the ECMN office). Carol will continue to stay in touch with Karen – will send a written response to her – looking for help for us in our straits. If not helping us out with a "Regional Priest," could they help us find/remunerate supply clergy?

The **Nomination** of Carol Carpenter as a delegate to Diocesan Convention and member of the Northwest Mission Area was made by Jack Buhn/Sally Montebello. **Nomination carried.** The **Nomination** of Claire Buhn as the **Alternate to the Convention** was made by Bob M./Eric L. **Nomination carried.**

Nomination of Julie Loxtercamp to the Bishop's Committee by Tom J./Carol C. – **carried.**

Nomination of Jack Buhn to the BC by Bob M./Penny Olson – **carried.**

Tom J. and Bob M. agreed to "reup" to the BC; Eric L. has one more year to serve. A unanimous ballot was **Moved** by Betsy H./Carol C. – **Carried.** Carrie Jessen mentioned again that she will serve just one more year as the treasurer.

Miscellaneous: Carol PM - Thanks for Julie Loxtercamp for stepping in and helping out with special music. • Betsy H. – Betsy read a dedication to the St. Bart's membership from a book that she and Kent have put together about their fund-raising bicycle tour of the southern states from last summer.

More new business: "Hearing none we stand adjourned." – Carol PM at 1 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Eric E. Lund, Clerk.

MAR 2016	MAR 6 (MP)	MAR 13 (HE)	MAR 20 (HE)	MAR 27 (HE)
PRESIDER	Carol PM	Rev. Ron	Rev. Ron & Jeanne	~tba~
DEACON			Rev. Don	Rev. Don
EM/AM	Eric	Carol PM	Jeanne	Jeanne
PREACHER	Carol PM	Rev. Ron	Passion Readers	~tba~
ACOLYTE	Eric	Rodney	Jeanne	Jeanne
LECTOR	Claire	Bea	Penny	~tba~
INTERCESSOR	Claire	Bea	Rodney	~tba~
MUSICIAN	Gretchen	Gretchen	Carol J.	Carol J.
GREETERS	Larry & Susan	Tom & Carrie	Bob & Sally	Art & Suzanne
ALTAR GUILD	Susan	Jeanne	Jeanne	Carol C.
COFFEE HR	Donna, Suzanne	Betsy	Tracy & Sally	Carol C

PLEASE NOTE:

No Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services are scheduled this year.

**ST BARTS
MARCH
2016**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
		1 Office 9-10am	2 Office 9-11am	3 Theology for Breakfast - 9am Office 9-11am	4	5 VERN MASON FUNERAL 10:30am
6 MORNING PRAYER [Carol PM] 10 am Sunday School: 10am	7	8 BISHOP'S COMMITTEE 5pm Office 9-10am	9 Office 9-10am	10 Theology for Breakfast - 9am Office 9-10am	11	12 'SPRING FORWARD' Daylight Savings Tonight
13 HOLY EUCHARIST [Rev. Ron] 10 am Sunday School: 10am	14	15 TREKNORTH REHEARSAL 10am-3pm Office 9-10am	16 Office 9-10am	17 Theology for Breakfast - 9am TREKNORTH CONCERT 6pm Office 9-10am	18	19 ECW 10am
20 PALM SUNDAY HOLY EUCHARIST [Rev. Ron & Jeanne] 10 am Sunday School: 10am	21	22 Office 9-10am	23 Office 9-10am	24 Theology for Breakfast - 9am Office 9-10am	25	26
27 EASTER SUNDAY [~tba~] 10 am	28 Newsletter Deadline 10am	29 Office 9-10am	30 FOOD SHELF WORKERS 12:15 PM Office 9-10am	31 Office 9-10am		



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
 1800 Irvine Avenue NW
 Bemidji MN 56601

✘ *Celebrating 104 Years of Ministry & Mission* ✘

UPCOMING DATES

March 8:

BISHOP'S COMM.

March 12/13:

SPRING FORWARD

March 20:

PALM SUNDAY

March 27:

EASTER SUNDAY

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector, The Bishop of Minnesota
 The Right Rev. Brian N. Prior

Bishop's Committee

Senior Warden Carol Milowski
Junior Warden Bob Montebello
Clerk Eric Lund
Treasurers Kathy Schmit, Carrie Jessen
Members Jack Buhn
 Tom Jessen
 Julie Loxtercamp

Shared Ministry Team

Ministers
Deacon/Evangelist

Intercessor/Past.-Care
Pastoral Care
Preaching
Priest

People of St. Bartholomew's
 The Rev. Charlie Champlin
 The Rev. Don Conner
 Rodney Austin
 Kathy Schmit
 Carol Porterfield Milowski
 The Rev. Stephen R. Schmit

Music Coordinator Carol Johnson
Musician Gretchen Hazard
Artist in Residence Gretchen Hazard

OUR VISION

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church is an inclusive and welcoming Community empowered by the Holy Spirit, committed to spiritual growth, offering healing and hope to a suffering world through shared ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

OUR MISSION

We walk humbly with God, confirming the Call to spread the Good News through outreach, justice, diversity and loving compassion.

Clipart is from: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/images/> and <http://cruzblanca.org/hermanoleon/>



www.stbartsbemidji.org

