

# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 2012

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



## SHOULD ST. BART'S ESTABLISH AN ENDOWMENT FUND?



Should St. Bart's establish an Endowment Fund? The answer is yes and the reasons are many and varied. The first reason can be found in our Book of Common Prayer on page 445. It encourages us to plan ahead as faithful stewards of God's gifts. It states it is "...the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provisions for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses."

Second, our diocese has asked all churches to build their reserves in order to provide for foreseen and unforeseen capital expenditures, such as a roof that needs replacing or repair, providing handicap accessible areas, etc. The diocese can no longer loan funds for these purposes. An endowment fund can help build a reserve fund that can not only help defray capital expenditures but also expand Christian outreach and ministry.

Third, it is just good planning for a church to have a well-organized and thorough plan for receiving assets whether they are land, money, stocks, or real estate. It will encourage the faithful and provide prudent reason to help endow the church.

Fourth, endowment income can enable a church to reach far beyond what it would be able to do through yearly pledges of their members. My previous church home, The Cathedral in Faribault, has about the same size congregation as St. Bart's, and their endowments have been able to care for two large buildings, build a connection between them, and expand their community outreach by providing a Community Cafe that serves a hot meal once a week for the poor and homeless.

Other church's endowments have begun retirement homes, sponsored children in other countries, resettled refugees, started youth centers, given scholarships to students who wish to receive seminary training, and supported mission schools that offer education for girls in countries that rarely do this.

I know we are a very small church, but endowments can build over the years and become a substantial reserve that can provide funds for doing great things for God's work. I believe establishing an endowment fund is the right thing to do. It will offer our church membership the option of helping their assets grow to expand God's work through their church. There are many ways to do this and we should be in position to offer a plan to our members for any gifts they wish to make to St. Bart's, and an endowment fund committee would be in a position to do just that.

Yours faithfully, Deacon Charlie

*~written by Charlie Champlin, cdeacon on your Total Ministry Team~*

## SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

No Bishop's Committee meeting was held in November since I was on vacation in Florida—a good place for R & R in the sunshine! My thoughts were never far from St. Bart's, however, and even as I write, I'm aware of that our faithful friend, Mr. Pat Spicer, is installing another beautiful stained glass window in our church office. Pat has not only stored and "restored", but also installed all the windows from our former church at 10<sup>th</sup> and Beltrami to their home in this church. We are most grateful to Pat and his partner, Silas Hooker, for their superior craftsmanship and for the donors who have made all our windows a unique signature for St. Bartholomew's.

December is a good time to reflect on our year at St. Bart's. It was our 100<sup>th</sup> year as an organized Episcopal body of Christ in Bemidji. As we looked at our history, we gained a great appreciation for all those faithful people who contributed to our heritage. We are hoping to create a CD/DVD which will preserve some of the pictures, letters and information gathered over the years, and will let you know when this is available. Of course the culmination of the Centennial, in addition to the glorious worship service, Bishop's visit and picnic celebration, was the raising of our bell tower which took a great deal of energy and effort as well as many financial donations. Our historic bell will symbolize not only that St. Bart's has stood the test of time, but also that we are a church who wish to bring others to Christ by welcoming them to worship with the ringing of our bell.

As we head into the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will be preparing our hearts and souls to be open to the presence of Christ among us. May we greet all who enter our doors as the innkeeper welcomed Joseph, Mary and the Baby Jesus. Welcome the stranger, give generously and, above all, let the light of Christ shine in you!! **"Come. Let us adore Him."**

**Carol Carpenter, Sr. Warden**

## TOTAL MINISTRY

It is hard to believe that our snowbird members of the Total Ministry Team are already gone for the winter. It seems like the summer goes faster every year. We are back to using Skype and phone conferencing for our meeting. We met on November 17th at St. Barts so that we could utilize these electronic communications. After updating each other on what is happening in our roles in the various locations, we had a lengthy discussion on the continued efforts of discernment. We agreed that the process needed to continue thoughtfully and prayerfully. The following Sunday we planned to start by asking everyone in the congregation to consider their own gifts. We shall continue looking at our gifts for several weeks before looking at the gifts of others. Our process of discernment will continue throughout Advent until Christmas.

*~Kathy Schmit~*

## Christmas Eve Schedule

Officiant Rev. Steve  
Deacon Rev. Don  
EM/AM (Kathy S, *if needed*)  
Preacher Rev. Steve  
Acolyte Rodney  
Lector Patricia  
Intercessor Gretchen H.  
Cantor ~tba~  
Musician ~tba~  
Greeters Bob & Sally  
Altar Guild Diane/tba

## TAI CHI

Tai Chi is on winter hiatus,  
until sometime in March.

## ADULT ED

The Axial Age session in December is on Thursday the 20th, but we will start at 6:30 pm instead of 7.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

*Customary for Holy Eucharist Approved*

At its November meeting the Worship Committee approved the Customary for Holy Eucharist to be used at St. Bartholomew's faith community. The development of the customary took several months and had input from several people, including the members of the worship committee. The customary outlines the St Bart's way of doing Eucharist, while adhering to the canons and rubrics. Copies have been distributed electronically to all individuals who assist in worship. Additional copies can be obtained by contact Rev. Jo at [Johannas@me.com](mailto:Johannas@me.com) or from Julia.

In other business the worship committee continued planning for the Advent and Christmas Eve services. Because the plans were not finalized and the committee will not meet again until Dec. 14, the final plans will be done by a subcommittee of Rev. Steve, Tandy, and Jeanne (if she is well enough).

To broaden the hymn choices the committee has recommended the purchasing of "Gather" hymnals. Funds are limited for purchasing "Gather" and the committee recommends buying as many as possible. Because there will not be enough to fill the holders in each pew, the committee recommends that the "Gather" hymnals be stacked on a table at the back and parishioners can take one as they enter the sanctuary.

The committee strongly supported the idea of having Mariah Stember Ortiz's work in Africa be our 2013 Mission project.

Rev. Karol McCracken has invited all members of St. Bartholomew's faith community to attend Advent services at New Salem Lutheran Church. Look for more information in future announcements. It is hoped that this will facilitate the two churches worshipping in the future.

Any questions or concerns about the worship at St. Bart's can be directed to any of the committee members, who will bring them to the worship committee.

*~By Rev. Johannas Jordan, chair*

### **Food Shelf Workers**

St. Bart's needs help on: **December 31 !**

*(See Carol Carpenter if you can help.)*

### **- ECW -**

ECW will not meet in December.

## **FROM THE BEAN COUNTER**

*December's note is from: <http://www.d365.org>*

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." Mark 12:41-44

It's almost Christmas time. I remember reading an article several Christmases ago by an economist who theorized that if each and every one of us took all the money and energy we spend each year on Christmas stuff and focused all of it instead on appropriating food around the world, we could end world hunger almost overnight. Easily.

Think about that. The world having the power and the ability to celebrate Jesus' birth, if even for just one year, by ending hunger on this planet. Right now. That's pretty powerful. But would we?

For some, this might start to sound like a real sacrifice. Give up Christmas?! Surely not. But Jesus' parable gets serious and challenges many of our easy assumptions of what sacrifice looks like when we live in abundance compared to those who have nothing.

I wonder if the parable in Mark's Gospel might challenge each of us to imagine how Jesus would want his birth celebrated this year. Just something to think about. Marc van Bulck

*Diane Hull, Stewardship and Evangelism*

DEC 2012	DEC 2 (HE)	DEC 9 (HE)	DEC 16 (HE)	DEC 23 (HE)	DEC 30 (MP)
OFFICIANT	Rev. Steve	Rev. Steve	Rev. Steve	Rev. Steve	Jeanne G.
DEACON	Rev. Don		Rev. Don	Dev. Don	
EM/AM		Jeanne G.			Rob
PREACHER	Advent Readings	Advent Readings	Advent Readings	Advent Readings	Jeanne G.
ACOLYTE	Rob	Eric	Rodney	Jeanne	Eric
LECTOR	Susan	Chuck	Danielle	Bea	Kent
INTERCESSOR	Jeanne	Larry	Rob	Eric	Bea
CANTOR	Diane	Julie	Diane	Diane	Julie
MUSICIAN	~tba~	~tba~	~tba~	Gretchen H.	Gretchen H.
GREETERS	Art & Jeanne	Larry & Susan	Peter & Gretchen H	Vern & Shirley	Tom & Carrie
ALTAR GUILD	Susan	Carol	Jeanne	~tba~	Jeanne
COFFEE HR	Tracy & Sally	Bea & Penny	Kathy & Jeanne	Patricia & Suzanne	Julia & Diane
SUNDAY SCHL.	Julia	~tba~	~tba~	~none~	~none~



# ST BARTS DECEMBER 2012

**Note:** Office is closed  
the last week of December.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> [Rev. Steve] 10 am <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	3	4 Theology for Breakfast 8am Pastoral Care 9:30 am	5 <b>NOON EUCHARIST &amp; SOUP LUNCH</b> <b>TAI CHI</b> 2-3 Beginner 3-4:30 Intermediate 10-4 office	6 10-4 office	7 10-4 office	8
9 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> [Rev. Steve] 10 am <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	10	11 Theology for Breakfast 8am Pastoral Care 9:30 am <b>BISHOP'S COMMITTEE</b> 6:00PM	12 <b>NOON EUCHARIST &amp; SOUP LUNCH</b> 10-4 office	13 10-4 office	14 <b>WORSHIP COMMITTEE</b> NOON 10-4 office	15 <b>TOTAL MINISTRY</b> 10 AM
16 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> [Rev. Steve] 10 am <b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b>	17	18 Theology for Breakfast 8am Pastoral Care 9:30 am	19 <b>NOON EUCHARIST &amp; SOUP LUNCH</b> 10-4 office	20 <b>ADULT EDUCATION</b> "Religions of the Axial Age" 6:30 PM 10-4 office	21 10-4 office	22
23 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> [Rev. Steve] 10 am	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 4:30pm	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b> No Service	26 <b>NOON EUCHARIST</b> - Office Closed -	27 - Office Closed -	28 - Office Closed -	29
30 <b>MORNING PRAYER</b> [Jeanne G] 10AM	31 <b>FOOD SHELF WORKERS</b> NOON	<b>Jan 1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b>	<b>Jan 2</b> <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 8:00am	<b>Annual Meeting</b> Sunday, Jan 20		

# CHRISTMAS

The last couple of Sundays, I talked about giving away our extra Christmas Wreaths. Here is a copy of an email I received from Bob K last year which talks about this and the symbolism found in a wreath.

“Just got home from delivering 6 wreaths to the front door. I laid them out in a row so that the bows would stay fluffed up. I also left four wreaths that one of our workers made when she was just learning the skill. There is no charge for these wreaths. I would like it if you gave them away in your community. Perhaps you could find the poorest mobile home park in your area, looking for the four poorest homes in that park. Then knock on the door and ask them if they would like a free wreath. I think it would be best if you don't say anything about who you are, etc. just give them away without expectation of any sort of payback.

I guess I envisage your youth group taking care of something like this. They could also do a “teaching witness” with the wreath.

- The circle is for eternal life without beginning or end. It is also a token of Christ's divinity.
- The evergreen balsam boughs are a token and a promise in the darkest, coldest time of year that spring will come and with it the celebration of Christ's resurrection.
- The pine cones are seeds and they remind us that unless the seed falls to the earth and dies there can be no harvest of life.
- The red bow is the bloody incarnation of Jesus and is a parallel to the circle of eternal life that is a token of his divinity.
- Thus we have the two natures...the wreath was much more than a sentimental ornament in the lives of our elders.

Let us pass on the Christmas faith we have received in a good way. If I have been too forward with these suggestions, please forgive me...bk”

...If you can help in reaching out to others in this way, let me know. (218) 776-2822 email – fidlft @yahoo.com .

*Diane Hull, Evangelism*

## SOUP LUNCH

During Advent, soup lunch is being offered after Wednesday Eucharist.

## Christmas Eve Schedule

Officiant	Rev. Steve
Deacon	Rev. Don
EM/AM	(Kathy S, if needed)
Preacher	Rev. Steve
Acolyte	Rodney
Lector	Patricia
Intercessor	Gretchen H.
Cantor	~tba~
Musician	~tba~
Greeters	Bob & Sally
Altar Guild	Diane/tba



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

✠ *Celebrating 100 Years of Ministry & Mission* ✠

***CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE; 4:30PM***

*WITH SPECIAL MUSIC PRECEDING*

*(no service on Christmas Day)*

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**SUNDAY, JAN 20, 2013**

**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Rector, The Bishop of Minnesota**

The Right Rev. Brian N. Prior

**Bishop's Committee**

**Senior Warden** Carol Carpenter

**Junior Warden** Bob Montebello

**Clerk** Shirley Solberg

**Treasurer** Diane Hull

**Members** Gretchen Hazard

Tom Jessen

Kathy Schmit

Ray Waukazo

**Music Coordinator** Tandy Bowman

**Musicians** Gretchen Hazard, Stacy Truedson

**Artist in Residence** Gretchen Hazard

**Total Ministry Team**

**Ministers**

**Deacon/Evangelist**

**Intercessor/Past.-Care**

**Pastoral Care**

**Preaching**

**Sacramentalist**

**Stewardship/Evang.**

**Mentor**

People of St. Bartholomew's

The Rev. Charlie Champlin

The Rev. Don Conner

Rodney Austin

Kathy Schmit

Carol Porterfield Milowski

The Rev. Dr. Johannes Jordan, AOJN

The Rev. Stephen R. Schmit

Diane Hull

The Rev. Gretchen Pickeral

**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](http://www.stbartsbemidji.org)**