

# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER, AUGUST, 2015

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

### AWARENESS (ORDINARY, SPIRITUAL AND DIVINE)

For many of us, one way of thinking about reality is to consider our awareness of the spiritual and the divine in addition to our ordinary level of human awareness (see figure to the right from Thomas Keating\*).

*Ordinary Awareness* is the mind “as it usually thinks, and our sense of self tied to that way of thinking” \*\* We all experience ourselves as individuals made up of unique qualities, capacities, gifts and needs that give us distinct identities as persons. This sense of our ordinary self begins to develop early and continues with some changes over time. It gives us stability in the “now” or present, usually enough to withstand thinking about past memories or future dreams, outside sensations, and other thoughts that impinge on the present. Such disturbances are normal, but can often come “out of nowhere,” sometimes prompted by external stimuli, sometimes by the unconscious (more about this later). Ego-based thinking is another name for awareness tied to the ordinary, “small” or “false” self. The small self is necessary and useful, but does tend to limit us to ordinary awareness. People can live good, productive and satisfying lives at this level of awareness.

*Spiritual Awareness* is deeper than ordinary awareness. Most of us are neither deeply nor consistently in touch with this level of awareness, yet spiritual awareness or feeling is also a way of perceiving and can lead to another level of self (sometimes called the “true” self). The big difference between the two selves is that with spiritual awareness and a developing true self, we have a greater sense of the importance of belonging, a better sense of the whole, and awareness that goes beyond the ego-based self of ordinary awareness.

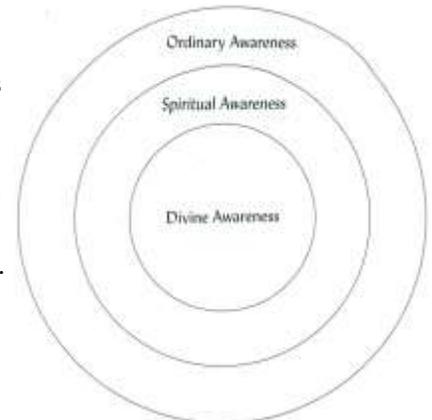
For the true self to thrive, the false self must become less prominent over time. Christians and others have long known that “kenosis” or “dying to” the (small) self can make this happen. Reducing the ego-based self is not easy for any of us, but prayer (especially listening for God’s will) and compassionate acts (giving of self) are ways to do it. Once we begin going in that direction, we perceive a deeper reality around us, perhaps even enjoying some of the ordinary world’s music, art, exceptional athletic performances, other people and nature itself in new ways. With growing spiritual awareness, feelings of anxiety and a sense of isolation become less dominant than with ordinary awareness alone. The key is in realizing that our being and life itself come from and interact with a Source beyond, and truly embracing and living the realization.

*Divine Awareness* is the knowledge of divine indwelling (emphasized by most spiritual traditions, including Christianity). Humans are not God at the core, yet Christian thinking has always recognized movement toward the mysterious intertwining of the human and the divine as exemplified by Jesus. Thomas Merton, wrote:

*“At the center of our being is . . . a point of pure truth, a point or spark which belongs entirely to God, which is never at our disposal . . . which is inaccessible to the fantasies of our own mind or the brutalities of our own will. This little point of nothingness and absolute poverty is the pure glory of God written within us . . .” \*\*\**

This truth within (also called “the virgin point” by Merton) shares the “likeness” of God, and perhaps even the substance. For me, part of “practicing the presence of God” is in looking for and trying to embrace this spark in others and in all “creatures” (including ourselves). Hindus and others acknowledge the divine in themselves and others with a bow and the word “Namaste” (loosely, “the soul or divine in me recognizes and respects the soul or divine in you”).

In my view, spiritual and divine awareness for Christians are closely linked with traditional worship in community, the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, and compassion for all others in its many forms. Simply put, the Other and the others are primary keys to growing the true self. I believe that a good understanding of the world within and around us can also help provide a better perspective on Scriptures, enrich Christian life and help bring us closer to God (or God closer to us!).



\* Thomas Keating (a Cistercian monk), Levels of Awareness.

\*\* Cynthia Bourgeault (an Episcopal priest and teacher of spirituality from Canada), 2004, *Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening*.

\*\*\* Thomas Merton, (a Trappist monk and mystic, now deceased), 1968. *Confessions of a Guilty Bystander*...

# TREASURER'S REPORT

St. Bart's financial picture continues to look well. I've put the details in bullet points below.

- Checking account balance \$26,518
- Money market savings balance \$19,047
- Pooled Investment Fund 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter statement not available yet, principal invested is \$20,000 (includes \$5000 additional investment )

January – June, 2015

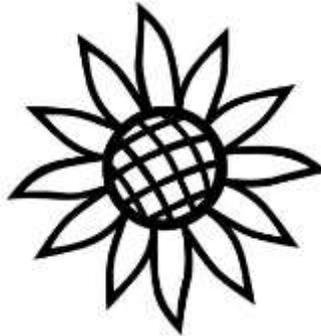
- General Fund contributions \$32,425
- Expenses \$28,158
- Net Income \$4,626



Comparing this year to 2014: Contributions are \$2,932 less and expenses are \$7,709 less than this time last year. One reason expenses are less is the change in our office administrator's benefits and salary.

As for our 2015 approved budget, by the end of the first half of this year, contributions were less than budget by \$4,725 and expenses were also less than budget by \$7,261! Some things are over budget and other items are under budget, so it looks like it will all "wash out" in the end.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carrie Jessen, Treasurer*



## H2Odysey

Betsy and Kent Hering haven't been seen in our neck of the woods since March of this year. They have been on a bicycle cross-country H2Odysey, pedaling for safe drinking water. They began on the west coast and have just arrived in Bar Harbor, Maine!

Nearly 800 million people are without clean water --more than twice the population of the United States. Kent and Betsy's ride supports WaterAid, a nonprofit that has provided safe drinking water to over 19 million people since 1981! To donate or to learn more, go to: <http://betsvandkent.com> .

Please continue to keep Betsy and Kent in your prayers during this amazing, challenging journey.





# BEVERLY EVERETT RECITAL & ECW LUNCHEON



## Altar Flowers

Altar flowers were provided on July 12 in honor of Rodney Austin, on the fifth anniversary of the beginning of his work as the Shared Ministry's Prayer Intercessor on July 17. On July 19, altar flowers were given by Milly Olafson, in loving memory of Richard Olafson.

Please consider giving altar flowers on Sundays. Bouquets directly from your gardens are very welcome! 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!



## FOOD SHELF

*Please contact Art Gullette or Carol Carpenter if you would like to help at any upcoming Food Shelf dates.*

*St. Bart's helps at the Food Shelf all 5<sup>th</sup> Mondays, Weds, and Fridays of each month.*



**Next Date: August 31**

## ECW

ECW will meet not meet in August.

## SOUP KITCHEN

*Please see Jeanne Gullette if you are interested in helping with this important food ministry.*

**Thank you!**



AUG 2015	AUG 2 (HE)	AUG 9 (HE)	AUG 16 (HE)	AUG 23 (HE)	AUG 30 (MP)
<b>OFFICIANT</b>	Rev. Johannes	Rev. Steve	Rev. Ron	Rev. Johannes	Danielle
<b>DEACON</b>	Rev. Charlie	Rev. Charlie	Rev. Don		
<b>EM/AM</b>				Chuck	Jeanne
<b>PREACHER</b>	Rev. Johannes	Rev. Steve	Rev. Ron	Rev. Johannes	Danielle
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	Rodney	Kathy	Rodney	Eric	Rodney
<b>LECTOR</b>	Eric	Claire	Larry	Bea	Carol PM
<b>INTERCESSOR</b>	Eric	Claire	Larry	Bea	Carol PM
<b>MUSICIAN</b>	Carol J.	Carol J.	Gretchen	Gretchen	Gretchen
<b>GREETERS</b>	Peter & Suzanne	Chuck & Danielle	Bob & Sally	Tom & Carrie	Art & Suzanne
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Rev. Johannes	Jeanne	Susan	Jeanne	Jeanne
<b>COFFEE HR</b>	Bea & Penny	Jeanne	Suzanne	Donna & Milly	Susan & Betsy
<b>SUNDAY SCHL.</b>	~none~	~none~	~none~	~none~	~none~



# ST BARTS AUGUST 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
						1
2 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> <i>[Rev. Jo]</i> 10 am	3	4 <b>Office 9-10am</b>	5 Theology for Breakfast <b>9am</b> <b>Church Open 11am-2pm</b> <i>(Chuck Stone)</i> <b>Office 9-10am</b>	6 <b>Office 9-10am</b>	7	8
9 <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> <i>[Rev. Steve]</i> 10 am	10	11 <b>BISHOP'S COMMITTEE</b> 6 pm <b>Office 9-10am</b>	12 Theology for Breakfast <b>9am</b> <b>Church Open 11am-2pm</b> <i>(Chuck Stone)</i> <b>Office 9-10am</b>	13 <b>Office 9-10am</b>	14	15
16 <b>FOOD SHELF SUNDAY</b> <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> <i>[Rev. Ron]</i> 10 am	17	18 <b>Office 9-10am</b>	19 Theology for Breakfast <b>9am</b> <b>Church Open 11am-2pm</b> <i>(Chuck Stone)</i> <b>Office 9-10am</b>	20 <b>Office 9-10am</b>	21	22
23 <b>ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S DAY SERVICE</b> <b>HOLY EUCHARIST</b> <i>[Rev. Jo]</i> 10 am	24	25 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: 8 AM</b> <b>Office 9-10am</b>	26 Theology for Breakfast <b>9am</b> <b>Church Open 11am-2pm</b> <i>(Chuck Stone)</i> <b>Office 9-10am</b>	27 <b>Office 9-10am</b>	28	29
30 <b>MORNING PRAYER</b> <i>[Danielle]</i> 10 am	31 <b>FOOD SHELF WORKERS</b> 12:15PM					

# **DIRECTORY INFORMATION:**

**Please fill out** the following form to help us update our church directory with name changes, addresses (both winter and summer, if applicable), email addresses, phone, both cell and home, children names living at home and family birthdays /anniversaries you'd like us to remember.

**Return** this in person, email or regular mail to:

St. Bartholomew's, 1800 Irvine Ave., Bemidji, MN 56601 -- *stbartschurch@gmail.com*

(There is a basket in the narthex, next to the office door, if you are dropping this off in person.)

Would you like to continue to be on the newsletter postal mailing list?      **Y N**  
Would you like to receive the newsletter only by email?                      **Y N**  
Would you like to receive church announcements by "email blast"?              **Y N**

## **PLEASE PRINT IN INK:**

**FIRST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**LAST NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **ADDRESS:**

**Permanent:** STREET/PO BOX  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** (dates of occupancy) \_\_\_\_\_ STREET/PO BOX  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### **PHONE**

**CELL:** *area code+number* \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

### **CHILDREN'S NAMES AT HOME:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

### **BIRTHDATES (ONLY DAY/MO):**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDAY \_\_\_\_\_

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY:**

**NAMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_



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

✠ *Celebrating 103 Years of Ministry & Mission* ✠

**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** Tom Jessen  
 Ray Waukazo

**Shared Ministry Team**

**Ministers** People of St. Bartholomew's  
**Deacon/Evangelist** The Rev. Charlie Champlin  
 The Rev. Don Conner  
**Intercessor/Past.-Care** Rodney Austin  
**Pastoral Care** Kathy Schmit  
**Preaching** Carol Porterfield Milowski  
**Priest** 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**

