



The Grape Vine January, 2012

A monthly newsletter of
St. Bartholomew's
Episcopal Church
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Mike Millard
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Herb Reed
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From our Rector

Dear Friends in Christ:
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

It is almost impossible to believe that 2011 is over. And yet, by the time you read this letter, 2011 will be over. I hope the Lord has blessed you as we worshipped, worked, and learned together. I particularly want to thank you for the love, kindness, and fellowship you have shared with Alice and me. I have thoroughly enjoyed my ministry with you throughout the year. This is an amazing community of believers at St. Bartholomew's. Let me mention three items that the Lord has laid on my heart to share with you in this letter.

First, I pray that the Lord will make 2012 a marvelous and blessed year. I pray that you will seek to walk with the Lord more and more closely. I pray that you will find time to come regularly and worship with God's people. I pray that you will seek more and more opportunities to serve Christ and God's people in the community. I pray that you will seek and take advantage of any and all opportunities we have for learning together. Throughout the year, we will seek to provide such opportunities. The most important thing I, as your pastor, can give you is Jesus. In doing this, we will often use music, movie clips, TV clips, dramas, and so on. In using such tools, the goal is not to entertain you; rather, the goal, always, is to share with you the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ. At St. Bartholomew's, we come to show our love, devotion, and duty to God.

Second, as often happens, this past year has had its ups and downs. I praise God for those occasions that have brought you joy, happiness, contentment, and things to rejoice in. For some in our midst, 2011 was filled with many challenges—as they experienced trials and difficulties that, if given the choice in the early part of last year, they may not have chosen to go through. For both those who experienced a relatively blessed year and those who experienced some difficulties, I want to encourage you to look toward 2012 with faith and determination that will bring you through in greater victory and strength than you experienced in 2011. One of the passages of Scripture that brings great encouragement to me, and I hope will do the same for you, is Philippians 4:14. In this passage, St. Paul, who experienced many triumphs and trials in his journey of faith, says this to the Philippians: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me". May the Lord bless us with this sort of faith, hope, and charity.

Third, I believe that, in light of some of the wonderful ministries that have taken place at St. Bartholomew's, God is getting ready to do even greater things. Your financial commitment to God's work has made all this possible. We have done many things in a difficult financial year. God wants to do greater things at St. Bartholomew's. And God is calling on each and every one of us to dig deeper and recommit ourselves to God's work. Herb Reed, who has done an amazing job as our bookkeeper, recently mentioned to me that we need to encourage one another in terms of two items: (1) In order for Herb to facilitate the closing of the books for 2011, may I kindly ask you to turn in our pledged amounts. (2) With regard to 2012, out of about 60 pledging families, he has received only 37 cards. Without these pledges, the finance committee cannot construct an accurate budget. In light of this, may I kindly ask you to turn your pledge card to Herb by January the 8th? A pledge is simply a statement of whatever the Lord enables you, in prayer, to give for the joyful work of God at St. Bartholomew's.

The following statement from Warren Wiersbe is helpful in thinking about our pledge: "If life is to have meaning and if God's will is to be done, all of us have to accept who we are and what we are, give it back to God, and thank Him for the way He made us. What I am is God's gift to me; what I do with it is my gift to Him." God is preparing to do greater things at St. Bartholomew's. I invite you to be a part of the great things God is doing at St. Bartholomew's.

Have a wonderful and blessed New Year, and I want you to know that you are appreciated!

Yours in Christ,
Father Wilber Mundia

Postcard from the Pews

Dear St. Bartholomew;

I'm writing this on December 23, Christmas Eve Eve, a day of great anticipation. And by the time you read this, all the boxes will have been opened, all the wrappings stashed away. My mother used to carefully fold the wrapping paper and unknot the ribbons to be saved for another year. The following year, we would get gifts wrapped with odd creases and spots of yellowed tape, and we would laugh at mother's thriftiness. Now, I think she was wise in her frugality. Those re-used wrappings remind me that we are all just a bit older and maybe a bit more wrinkled with time, but inside there is always the possibility of a

new birth in the Divine, whom we call Jesus. I am so excited about the Christmas Pageant tomorrow evening! Many thanks to Leslie Cox who is directing the pageant, and to all who will be in the cast and crew!

December began with the funeral of our beloved Nan Capaldi, who was a mama and a friend to all she met. Her "I love you, honey" still rings in my ears. It was a beautiful send-off to Glory Land for Nan, with her extended family from so many spiritual paths coming together in celebration of shared love. We sang and prayed, we shared the Body and Blood, and we drummed her into the company of the saints. Afterwards, Ann Thomas and her crew and many of our parishioners and community friends put together a love feast reception in the parish hall. Special thanks to new church member Larry Williams who cleaned up afterwards.

The greening of the church on December 18 was a miracle in action. Several members got together to make it happen. See Fr. Wilber's column for the names of all these wonderful people. It was wonderful to see the fellowship that happens when we work together on a common task, in the abundance of God's love and the generosity of God's creation! Most of the greens were gathered from around the church building, which made this an extra special way of honoring who we are and what we are all about. Many thanks to Nick Meyer who thinks globally and works locally, and helped cut greens to be brought into the church. Many thanks to Charley Sims and Nancy Simons who provided the greeners with a delicious lunch. As I look around the sanctuary, I am reminded of the hands and hearts that created such a wonderful afternoon.

This past week, the Community Lunch was blessed beyond belief by the generosity of Food Lion grocery store. The Food Lion donates food to the Community Lunch once a month, on the third Wednesday. Usually, there is enough for a couple of meals, and some extras for our free grocery table on Thursday. This week, we received enough produce, meat, baked goods and deli items to fill the backs of 2 pick-up trucks! Neighbors from Credle Street, Creekside Apartments, and Walnut Grove were called, and asked to put the word out. By 10 AM, the parish hall was filled with tables of groceries and neighbors. It was a glorious time of

unexpected fellowship and abundance. Thank you, God, and thank you, Food Lion!

Last Sunday, we welcomed the Rev. Ginny Goings and Tom Henderson to our Adult Bible Study group and in our 10:30 worship service as they shared embodied prayer and Gospel Response through Interplay. Ginny and Tom are community artists, certified Interplay leaders, performers and organizational consultants. What is Interplay? It is “a system of ideas and practices that lead to greater ease, health and joy for individuals and communities. Interplay practice develops individual ability to collaborate and lead with others, be more creative, manage change and uncertainty, expand awareness and confidence, (and) enhance creativity.”

Ginny and Tom will be returning to St. Bartholomew's on Saturday January 28 to lead an Interplay workshop. No experience is necessary. Come with “beginner's mind”. All are welcome, from the very disabled to the very physically fit, to even you! Call me for more details. Scholarships are available.

We are geared for miracles. It's in our blood and bones. No matter what our outer wrappings have been, the Light of Christ burns deep within. Let's let our lights shine before all people, that they may see clearly what it is to be a follower of Christ, and glorify our God of love.
Walk in peace,
Karen

Meet Your Vestry

The Vestry at St. Bartholomew's is here to serve you. We are your representatives, and stand ready to advocate for you in any matter that may have your concern. This month, we thought you might like to meet the new vestry members that were elected at our Annual Dinner. We asked each of the three new members the following questions:

- What made you consider becoming a Vestry member?:
- What are your hopes and dreams coming from your commitment to the Vestry?
- How do you see this as your personal service to Christ and the St. Bart's community?
- What is/was your profession?
- A short description of any of your hobbies.
- Something you have not yet accomplished.

Here are the answers from your new Vestry members.

Samantha Birchard

I was asked to run for the vestry by someone whose opinion I respect, and I figured she must have intuited something worth listening to. Also, I feel I owe a deep spiritual debt to St. Bart's and would like to give back however I can.

I'm very interested in St. Bart's joining North Carolina's Interfaith Power and Light. A cornerstone of the contemporary Episcopal Church is environmental stewardship, and there are things like free energy audits available from NCDENR that would have the added benefit of saving the church's money on energy costs.

I hope to work diligently to follow the path that unfolds for me on the vestry.

My main hobby is reading, reading, and more reading!

I have always lived in cities, and I want to grow a full garden in Pittsboro.

Beverly Donaldson

I am concerned about the financial status of St. Bart's and its economic future.

I would hope to get the budget into a strong positive cash flow position so that we can pay our bills and have some money left over. I have never understood why the church does not have a special collection at Christmas and at Easter. It's a very common method of raising funds from those persons who are infrequent attendees at Sunday services..

When I first came to North Carolina and to St. Bart's I was surprised that the church did not have any fund raisers and that the general feeling was that fund raising events, (aside from the annual pledge) was frowned upon as being somehow undesirable. I do not think that we can afford this way of thinking. I would recommend that we establish at least two community fund raisers per year, one in the fall of the year and one in the spring. The proceeds of which are shared between the general budget and the building fund.

After college, I worked for seven years as a Claims Representative for the Social Security Administration in several offices in New Jersey and New York. I stopped working after the birth of my first child and was a 'stay-at-home' mother for 10 years. I then went to work at Fort Monmouth (Eatontown, NJ) as a Supply Clerk. Twenty 25 years later, I retired as a Logistics

Manager of Night Vision Equipment. I moved to Galloway Ridge which is a life care retirement community at Fearington Village. I came to St Bart's shortly after I arrived here about six years ago.

My hobby is birding. I volunteered for the NJ Audubon Center at Sandy Hook, NJ. I have enjoyed their birding trips excursions and have taken numerous Elderhostel birding trips. Last summer I did an Elderhostel birding at Yellowstone National Park.

:Currently I am working on three issues: Obtaining "Historic Church" designation for St Bart's; finding a more satisfactory location for the London House stained glass window which has been stored in a crate in the attic for the last 30 years; and continuing to establish a viable Episcopalian Church Women's Branch at St Bart's. (From personal experience, I regard the ECW as the fund raising arm of the parish.)

Mary Millard

I am a newly elected member of the Vestry starting my service in January 2012. I offered to serve as I know that St. Bart's needs leadership and I feel that the Lord led me to this as a service for the parish. I feel three years of service is really a good length of time for consistency and that it will make me feel stronger about the future of St. Bart's.

I am a first generation American from German immigrants and am from Chicago. I traveled the world for 22 years as a freelance photographer and along the way worked with Mercy Corp in Somalia and El Salvador aiding refugees. After settling in Chatham County, I joined St Bart's in 2008 and love it! I am completing my degree in International Business Management and am in the final stages of writing a book to be published on the history of western Chatham County. I live near Bennett and have many varied interests that I enjoy employing my mantra, "life is a journey, not a destination". I volunteer at Duke Children's Hospital and devote time to St. Barts finances.

CORA

It's that time of year again for New Year's resolutions. Let us all resolve to help eliminate hunger here in Chatham County by helping CORA keep the shelves stocked for our hungry neighbors. We can do that by **bringing food items for the CORA baskets each week** or by **writing a check** to St. Bartholomew's

and put "CORA" in the memo line.

CORA's baskets are hungry for the following items:

Regular sized cans of soups, (especially chicken noodle) and fruits, canned tuna fish and salmon, dry cereals, and 1# bags of rice and dried beans. Extras of toothbrushes tooth paste, and bars of soap are also wonderful to receive.

Remember that if items are opened or out of date, the law says that we cannot use them. Your paper bags are always needed – with or without handles as well as plastic bags in good condition. These may also be dropped off at the CORA baskets.

HAPPY NEW YEAR, Saints!

Sally Earnest

Thank You

Re: the Greening of the Church

Dear Pat and Bo Bierley, Nancy Simons, Peter, Julie and Dave Haman, Sara June Card, Karen Ladd, Nick Meyer, Larry Williams, Alice Mundia, Joan Mylek, Monika Bynum, and Lyn Sims:

I just wanted to take a moment to send a note to say "Thank You" for taking the time to help with the greening of the Church. This made our sanctuary so beautiful for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

I'm sure you found that as the work was being done, it also became a great time of fellowship and enjoyment as a sense of teamwork came to the surface. And then we all enjoyed some wonderful soup made by Nancy Simmons and home made bread made by Charley Sims.. Another thing that makes an effort like this so enjoyable is the realization that the work really "matters" The cleaning and adorning of our church and its surroundings is a real witness to both the church and community that we really do care about the house of God we worship together in.

I know there are many other parishioners who have given so much of their time and talent in many other areas. I will get into the habit of thanking you all individually and collectively.

Take a moment to think about this quote from Warren Wiersbe: "If life is to have meaning, and if God's will is to be done, all of us have to accept who we are and what we are, give it back to God, and thank Him for the way He made us. What I

am is God's gift to me; what I do with it is my gift to Him."

Again, thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule. I know God will greatly bless you as you continue to give of your time, talent, and treasure! May the Lord bless you abundantly.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Wilber Mundia

You Count!

Do you have 20 minutes after the 10:30 service to help St. Bart's by becoming a "counter"? Counters work with the vestry person of the week to count the offerings. It's a simple process, and your participation would be a gift to St. Bart's financial mission. If you are interested, please contact Herb Reed. Thank you, Saints!

Save the Date!

Long-time church member, Sue Wilson, is bringing a night of music to St. Bartholomew's! Sue and her music partner, Betsy Kraus, will be performing in concert with Ken Kolodner of Baltimore, MD on Saturday, January 21, 7:00-9:00pm in our sanctuary. Enjoy acoustic music on the hammered dulcimer, hammered mbira, fiddle, concertina, and more.

A portion of the proceeds will go to St. Bartholomew's. Please plan to come and bring a friend!

Cost: \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/children

Last time we did this (in 2010) we had a sold-out crowd! Reserve your seats now by making checks to Sue Wilson. Mail to: PO Box 940, Pittsboro, NC 27312, or hand a check to Sue at church.

For more information, call Sue at 542-5854 or email sswilson@mail.com

Don't know what a hammered dulcimer is? Sue will be providing special music during the 10:30am worship services on December 11 and January 15. Come get a sneak preview!

Epiphany

Bringing Ourselves & Our Gifts to God

An InterPlay Workshop

• January 28, 2012 • 9 am to 3 pm
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Pittsboro

As we move into a new year, this workshop will explore the Epiphany theme of bringing our gifts and ourselves to God. Our facilitators, Ginny Going and Tom Henderson, will help us make connections between Bible wisdom and body wisdom, using the simple, easy-to-learn forms of InterPlay. All activities will be simple and non-strenuous, suitable and adaptable for all. In a safe, supportive atmosphere, we'll discover new ways to deepen our relationship with ourselves, with others and with God. InterPlay is an art form, a spiritual practice and a way to build community based in creativity and play. It is based in movement, voice, story and stillness, the ancient tools of spiritual seekers for connecting with the Holy.

9:00 – 11:00 Introduction to InterPlay Practices

11:00-12:15 Body Wisdom/Bible Wisdom - Exploring the connection between the wisdom of our bodies and the wisdom of the Bible.

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 3:00 Embodied Worship
InterPlay as a tool for bringing more embodiment into worship life through movement, dance and story.

Note: Those attending all three sessions will have an opportunity to be part of dance and story offerings in Sunday worship.

Suggested donation: \$25 (scholarship assistance available)

Please register in advance by contacting Karen Ladd, temenos@hotmail.com, 919-542-4341 or 919-452-5679

Lunch: Bring a bag lunch; beverages provided
Workshop Leaders:

Ginny Going and Tom Henderson are master InterPlay® teachers, retreat leaders, and organizational consultants. Ginny is an Episcopal deacon and Tom is a retired organic chemist. Using accessible practices and ideas from InterPlay, they invite people to rediscover the wisdom of the body through movement, story, song and stillness. They have taught, consulted and performed internationally in their 20-year collaboration. Ginny and Tom are partners in marriage and "recovering serious people".

Altar Guild

St. Bart's has a growing need of devoted and committed people in the important ministry of our Altar Guild. The time and effort is minimal and a wonderful way to become more involved in our church. Anyone interested in knowing more, please call Joan Mylek, 967.4997 as an informational gathering and training will be held January 14th.

We Hold In Prayer:

Our Members

Jodi Betts • Jeff Clayton • Anna Deese • Bill and Virginia Dudenhausen • Kit Donner • Aleacia Fisher • Bruce Gaede • Harvey and Nancy Harman • Ruth Horton • Steve Jenkins • Evelyn Powell • Carol Price-for job • Robin Rinaldi • Valerie Scotton • Lyn Sims • Susan Turner • Paul Volk • Libby Walls

Our Family and Friends

Jan Allan • Nancy Alotis • Family of Sandra and Albert Ballard • Joan Belden • Family of Lee Bennett • David Benson • Berg Family • Betts Family • Melissa Birchard • Jack Card • Kaylee Champagne • Isabel Chicquor • Roy and Theresa Church • Toni Constant • Marie Corrin • Katie Crockett • Allen Davidson • Eli Davis • Heather Detrick • Frances Dorworth • Kay Everage • Tish Faust • Dora Fennell • Maisie Fiddes • Martha Fooshee • Nancy Foster • Sonja Fowler • Erin Gloster • Susanne Gomolski and Family • Keisha Green • Kitty Griffith • Kay Gunlach • Thomas Harris • Bruce Hawkins • Katherine Haworth • Micky Hester • Gary and Cindy Hogman • Doty Horn • Natalie Horton • Brandon Huie • Janice Hunt • Loyse Hurley • Sarah Justice • Carol Kivett • Ernest Langley • Carol Lauria • Joseph Lockavitch • Cris Longnecker • Jerry Martin • Bonnie McCarthy • Sam McCormick • Ann McIver • Dick and Ann Noyes • Lily Olive • Laura Jane Pendergraft • Laura Jane Pendergraft • Phyllis Peoples • Garrett Petty • Bernice Rappaport • John Reed and Heather Park • Bill Ross • Betsy Rupe • Billie Sessoms • Toby Singer • Lauren Sloan • L.J. Steffey • Catherine Sullivan • Swagerty Family • Steve Taylor • Vicky and Tex Takett • Margo Tesch • Chuck Thomas • Dee Threatt • Melody Troncale • Natasha Vara • Esther Volk • Ben Vryn • Walls Family • Watson Family • Minerva Whitfield • Wiggs Family • Eric Wilkinson • Rachel Williams • Wood Family • Renee Wynne

Military and All in Harm's Way

Andrew Alotis • Ryan Baker • Peggy Davidson • Gary Fitzgerald • Colin Foote • Douglas Gates • Lee Huddleston • Ray Lewis • Colt Oslund • William Phillips • Andrew Pryor • Scott Shadday • Damian Tolfree

January Birthdays

01/01 Zoe Mathewson
01/02 Karen Ladd
01/04 Carina Cassedy
01/09 Daniel Nevius
01/10 Wayne Andrews
Cam Hill
01/11 Elizabeth Crowley
01/12 Erin Sanders
01/16 Kevin Furini
Kirk Haddix
Michael Stehlin
01/18 Julia Haman
01/19 Lyn Sims
Deborah Taylor
Henry London
01/20 Al Capehart
01/23 Barb Alotis
01/24 Allan Pegg
01/25 Maria Glover
Cathy Whitted
01/27 Doug Stehlin
01/30 Lucy Boone Hyde

