

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

10627 Patterson Avenue
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Pentecost, May 2008
stbartsrichmond@hotmail.com
www.stbartsrichmond.org

Our Clergy

The Reverend
Haywood Spangler, Ph.D.
The Reverend
Bambi Willis, Asst. Rector
The Reverend David Bul Dau,
Sudanese Outreach Deacon
Kathleen Gambill, Music
Director

Our Vestry

Cheryl Emory, Sr. Warden
John Ely, Jr. Warden
Sarah Bay, Register
Kevin Dyer Brad Reynolds
Rick Jones Lexie Ross
Paul Newell Betty White
Susan Ross, Treasurer

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To seek, serve, and celebrate Christ in every person, we invite the community to worship with us, to share our gifts, and to grow in Christ's love.

Pentecost and Sharing Your Faith

The spirit of Pentecost burned strongly during our Wednesday night series, *Sharing Your Faith without Losing Your Friends*, for Pentecost is all about sharing faith.

In the story of Pentecost, as believers gathered to pray, the Holy Spirit descended as **cloven tongues of fire**. Suddenly, the Holy Spirit empowered the believers to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went into Jerusalem and began preaching to crowds. By a miracle of the Holy Spirit, they spoke in native languages of the listeners, many from all corners of the Roman Empire. When Peter preached, about 3,000 responded, were baptized, and were "added" to the number of believers. Thus, we traditionally consider Pentecost as the birthday of the Church. (Acts 2:1-41)

In the spirit of Pentecost, our series, *Sharing Your Faith without Losing Your Friends*, explored how to present our faith stories in ways that speak to listeners "in their own languages."

We all have opportunities to share the Good News of the Gospel. The next time you dine with friends, you can say, "We're having a Cuban Night Dinner at St. Bart's on May 17th and I would love for you to be my guest." Can you say to a friend, "Our choir performed a beautiful piece last week; would you like to come on Sunday to hear them?" Do your acquaintances know where you go to church? Many times, all you need to do to get someone to visit is to ask.

Every day we meet people who haven't heard the Good News, and who seek a deeper meaning in life. Sharing your faith is not shouting on the street, but quietly letting others know that you are a person of faith and that this opportunity is open to them.

How do you do that? Begin by praying for the people in your life. Pray that your heart and theirs are open to an invitation. Pray for the growth of the church and that your eyes will be open to opportunities to invite others into a closer relationship with God. We just have to do our part. God will do the rest. Jill Wood

Revisiting Our Strategic Plan

Identifying ways to strengthen our vision for Outreach, Evangelism, Christian Formation, and Worship

Our vestry and clergy are in the process of updating St. Bart's strategic plan. To this end, we are seeking input from members to plan our focus, events, and activities for the next year or so. Members of the vestry are contacting members of the congregation to join small group meetings answer three questions:

1. Over the past year, what has worked for St. Bart's and where does it fit within our vision for outreach, evangelism, Christian formation, and worship?
2. What vision area(s) (outreach, evangelism, Christian formation, and worship) might need enhancement?
3. During the next year or so, what endeavors or activities should we pursue?

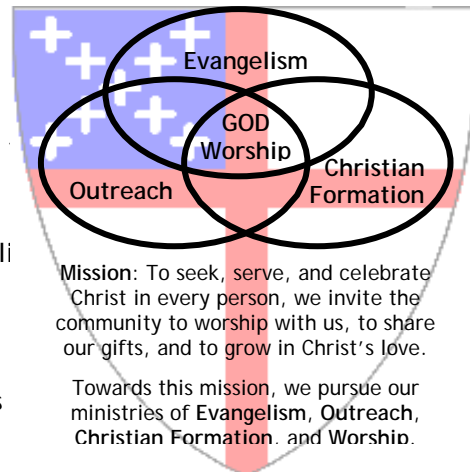
The meetings will occur between May 18 and June 15.

We are making every effort to invite every St. Bart's member to participate. Knowing that sometimes mistakes happen, or people are hard to contact, we ask your patience. If you do not hear from a vestry member by the end of May, please contact me.

Please take this opportunity to share your unique perspectives, passions, and imaginations, and to guide St. Bart's through our collective dreams, talents, and prayers.

Cheryl Emory

chylemory@comcast.net



Renewal of Worship through Song

On March 8, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church hosted a workshop taught by Alison Adam, a member of the Iona Community in Scotland. Deb Cox, Cindy Reynolds, and I participated in this memorable day, spent in song. Alison Adam is an amazing woman who can get a crowd singing in four-part harmony using simply her voice and hands. Alison reminded us of the value of congregational song and taught techniques to enable it, or as she put it "ten golden rules for improving singing in the most recalcitrant of congregations." Encouraging us to sit close together, she liberated us from the printed page, teaching many songs through an echo approach. In the evening, there was a community "Big Sing" featuring music of the global church as well as many songs of the Iona Community and its Wild Goose Resource Group.



The Iona Community is an ecumenical group founded in Glasgow in 1938 by the Reverend George MacLeod. In the poverty and hopelessness of the Depression, he took unemployed, skilled craftsmen to the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland, to rebuild the monastic quarters of a mediaeval abbey. Workers lived in community and shared a common life. Thus began an ecumenical community that has since grown to 260 Full Members and over 3,000 Associates and Friends. People of all ages and denominations now gather on Iona, not for an isolated religious experience, but to find a spirituality/work integration to take into their everyday lives. This renewed vision of the church is found in this excerpt from ***The Daily Readings with George MacLeod***:

I simply argue that the Cross be raised again at the center of the marketplace as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between to thieves; on the town garbage-heap; at a crossroad so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and in Latin and in Greek (or shall we say in English, in Bantu and in Afrikaans?); at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where churchmen should be and what churchmanship should be about.

Daily life on Iona begins and ends with worship. The work of the Wild Goose Resource Group is significant in the Community, encouraging worship that is inclusive, accessible, relevant, and participative. Their worship seeks to engage the heart and body, as well as the head. Alison Adam points out that the Wild Goose, the Celtic



symbol of the Holy Spirit, is unlike the dove, peaceful and consoling, but rather noisy and honking. It comes to bless and to disturb. It is also a creature of community, flying in formation to achieve greater range and speed than an individual goose in flight. The worship on Iona is rooted in the need and strength of sharing, inspired by the New Testament concept of community (*koinonia*).

In keeping with the ecumenical spirit of Iona, the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, the Virginia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Presbytery of the James will jointly fund a workshop featuring Rev. John Bell, another Iona Community member. Rev. Bell is a Church of Scotland minister and prolific hymn-writer. Several of his works are in the hymnal, *Wonder, Love, and Praise* used here at St. Bart's. This workshop will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2008 at Salisbury Presbyterian Church in Midlothian. If you are interested in attending with the St. Bart's group, please let me know.

Kathleen Gambill
St. Bart's Music Director
kathleengambill@msn.com

St. Bart's Picnic on June 8, after Church

June 8 following the 10:30 service. Bring a salad, drinks, or dessert.

Many thanks to Susan and Lexie Ross for organizing our next Parish Picnic planned for June 8 after our 10:30 service. The fun and fellowship will be right on our parish grounds. St. Bart's will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. Please bring a salad, drinks, or dessert to share. Our worship schedule for June 8 will be the same as always for both services (8:30 and 10:30).

St. Bart's Outreach

Our Outreach Team is working on two projects, one for the summer, and one for the fall.

In June and July, we will collect back to school packs. Stay tuned for more information.

Although further in the future, our Thanksgiving project requires considerable advance planning. We will work with the Giving Heart Community to provide Thanksgiving Dinner for homeless persons and those who have no one with whom to spend the holiday. Please consider volunteering for one or more of the jobs below.

Before Thanksgiving:

- Food Drive Collection Coordinator
- Before and on Thanksgiving Day:
- Kitchen Coordinator
- Chef (job filled)
- Decorating Coordinator (Possibility: Share this job with the Chairman.)
- Distribution Coordinator
- Publicity Coordinator (Doug Boynton will serve in this position. He would like a co-chair.)

Thanksgiving Day:

- Plating Coordinator
- Banquet Room Coordinator
- Seating Coordinator
- Check-In Coordinator
- Clean Up Coordinator
- Serve on the clean up committee
- Provide transportation to those unable to attend alone
- Host a table

To volunteer, please contact a member of the Outreach Team for details. Team members are Barbara Ambrose, John Ambrose, Doug Boynton, Carolyn Conway, Kay Cordray, Cherie Kingery, Randy Oglesby, and Janet Putnam.

A form for volunteers will be available at www.thegivingheart.org in mid September. Jobs are available on a first come, first serve basis.

We will have more details later this summer.

Whet Your Appetite with *A Taste of Shrine Mont*

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 28, from 9 AM to 3 PM



Most St. Bart's members have heard of our annual fall retreat at Shrine Mont, the diocesan retreat center in historic Orkney Springs in the lovely mountains of Virginia. Many of you have been to Shrine Mont and can't wait for the third weekend in September. Others have been but won't be able to go in September. Still others may have never been and wonder what the weekend is like.

No matter which of these three categories fit, you are bound to enjoy *A Taste of Shrine Mont*, a day-long retreat at St. Bart's on Saturday, June 28, from 9 AM to 3 PM.

The price is right: It's free! And, we'll have activities for everyone of every age.

The day will begin at 9 AM with a breakfast, featuring some recipes from Shrine Mont's famed family-style dining room. Following Morning Prayer, we will break into two groups: one will focus on learning a new song with The Spirits; the other will learn about *Lectio Divina* ("divine reading"), a traditional Christian practice of prayer and scriptural reading. In the later morning, those interested in physical activity will work together on small clean-up projects (both inside and outside). Others will work on writing a collect based on the *Lectio Divina* study. We will use both the new hymn and the new prayer in a special Noon Day Prayer service, followed by lunch, again using Shrine Mont classic recipes. After lunch, we'll have free time for private conversation, games, or a walk in the woods looking at the surprising number of flora and fauna in our adjacent woodlands. We may even have a scavenger hunt. In the early afternoon, those with an active bent can participate in a session making prayer bracelets. If you want quiet reflection, you can join a group reading the Benedictine Rule. The day will conclude with Compline at 2:30 p.m.



It's called *A Taste of Shrine Mont* because it will give you a hint of what our annual Shrine Mont weekend is like with its combination of good food, fun, fellowship, participatory worship, and quiet meditation. And, we hope it will inspire you to join the full weekend retreat on September 19-21. If you have been to Shrine Mont and plan on heading to the hills in the fall, we hope this summertime appetizer will tide you over until then. If you can't go to the mountains in September, we hope this early summer session will make up for what you'll miss.

We hope you and your whole family will join us in *A Taste of Shrine Mont*. Just sign up by June 16 on the *Taste of Shrine Mont* poster at the church, so we know how many to expect.

John Ambrose

On Behalf of the Family of Dick Jones

On behalf of the family of Dick Jones, I would like to thank our St. Bart's family for all the love, prayers, calls, cards, food, and support we were given during my father's illness and passing. It was so gratifying and overwhelming to see how many lives my father touched, and it fills my heart with even more pride for him. His 20 years at St. Bart's were highlighted by your attendance at his Memorial Service at St. Matthew's. Thank you, as that meant a lot to my Mother as well as the rest of the family. It was hard being on the receiving end of this kind of support, but it also reaffirmed my reasons for continuing my spiritual journey at St. Bartholomew's. Thank you all for everything.

In His Love,
Cindy Reynolds

St. Bart's Youth Supports Heifer International



Congratulations to the youth of St. Bart's for their huge success supporting Heifer International in their quest to end world hunger and poverty. Heifer International gives livestock to families in third world countries to help them become self-sufficient. For example, they may give flock of chickens to a family to provide food and eggs for income. The family receiving an animal gift passes on the offspring to other community members in need. Through their hard work and dedication, *our youth collected over \$1,100 from St. Bart's members* to buy a wide assortment of livestock. Many thanks to Sarah Bay for guiding our youth towards this wonderful accomplishment and to all who gave so generously.

Adult Ed--Gospel Parallels, Guest Preachers & More

Our upcoming adult education sessions promise to continue our tradition of exceptional programs. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 and on some Wednesday evenings for stimulating learning experiences as we learn and grow in Christ's love. As the summer nears and progresses, watch your email for more information about the offerings below and perhaps additional programs.

Sunday Mornings at 9:30

Gospel Parallels

Sundays at 9:30 AM on May 11, May 18, May 25, August 3, and August 10

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell us about the Good News and the life of Jesus in very different ways. Some stories are in one Gospel and not others, sometimes they tell different aspects of the same story, and sometimes they tell stories in different (maybe even conflicting) ways. On May 11 we begin to explore the similarities and differences among Mathew, Mark, and Luke by examining specific stories.

Join us at 9:30 AM on May 11, 18, and 25 and August 3 and 10 as we compare and parallel Gospel stories.

Prayer and Healthcare Choices

Sundays at 9:30 AM on June 8 and 15

From choosing the right allergy medicine to making decisions that affect life or limb, engaging God in health decisions will bring comfort and help us discern our path. Join us on June 8 and 15 as Haywood leads us in a workshop on Personal Piety and Public Liturgy: Prayer and Healthcare Choices.

Guest Preachers

Sundays at 9:30 AM on July 6, 13, 20, and 27

In preaching, one size does not fit all. Back by popular request, we have invited four preachers outside of St. Bart's to share their talents and methods and to discuss how the Holy Spirit manifests in their planning and in their preaching. After the adult education session, each guest preacher will join our 10:30 service and deliver a sermon.

Be on the lookout for more specific information about our guest preachers as the time draws near.

Wednesday Evenings

Stay tuned for more information on our Wednesday education programs, amongst them a series on *Theology and Pop Culture* planned for July.

The Belles Take a Rest

Many women of St. Bart's met at the church in 2002 with specific goals in mind. We called our group *The Belle's of St Bart's*. Our mission was to make our building more welcoming to our new Rector and prospective new members. Our enthusiasm was contagious and we found many willing workers, Belles and non-Belles.

The first thing on the agenda was to remove clutter and clean the building. Once we got started, we had the kitchen remodeled, the Narthex redecorated, and a new hanging made for the Sanctuary. We came to church weekly to clean and keep things in order; we also prepared food and helped the "Power Tools" on workdays.

We have accomplished our initial mission, and we now give the Belle's of St. Bart's rest.

Carole and I want to thank our mentor, George Bridgman, for all of his help and support. He designed the kitchen and carried out the work plans. George designed the church hanging and had it woven to his specifications. He kept us all on track, and without him, we would not have accomplished many of the improvements. St. Peter, will you pass our words on to George?

Carole Frey and Jean Boynton

Ukrop's Golden Gift Certificates



If you shop at Ukrop's, you probably received your Golden Gift Certificate showing the points you've earned (one point for each dollar spent from February 4 through March 29).

Please consider donating your points to St. Bart's. Bring your Golden Gift Certificate to church and put it in the collection plate on or before Sunday, June 9. (St. Bart's must turn them in to Ukrop's before June 14).

Ukrop's has \$400,000 to divide amongst registered non-profit participants. Please help St. Bart's benefit from this program. Thanks for your support.

Vestry Minute Summaries

See complete minutes on the bulletin board.

Summary of Minutes of the Vestry for January 18, 2008

Treasury Report for January and February 2008:

	Jan/Feb	Budget	\$ Over Budget
Total Income	22,868.90	27,344.00	-4,475.10
Total Expenses	25,981.42	27,708.00	-2,726.58
Net Income	-3,112.53	1,364.00	-1,748.52

Haywood announced that \$5,000 for HVAC repairs was given anonymously through the *Community Foundation of Richmond*. He will write a thank you note to the foundation and a letter to the congregation.

HVAC: Work is complete and the equity line approved at prime +1. Monthly payments will be \$287.

Fundraising:

- Cuban Night will be on May 17. The Pace and Alvarez families will coordinate and the vestry and congregation will assist with set-up and clean-up.
- Sarah Bay presented fundraising activities per the fundraising questionnaire distributed at the annual meeting. We will hold one fall event to encompass several activities including a Brunswick stew sale headed by Cindy Reynolds, an open house activity for children headed by Sarah Bay, and an Outreach fair headed by Janet Putnam. Sarah, Cindy, and Janet will work together to plan the event and request appropriate support from the congregation.

Rector's Report:

- Haywood and Cheryl Emory sent a letter to the congregation requesting building fund donations for the HVAC repair or pledge amount increases.
- The equity Line of credit is established
- The bequest from Jane Furhman is not yet probated by Wachovia.
- The vestry reviewed St. Bart's existing organizational development charts. In May, vestry members will lead small groups to review our vision and obtain ideas from the congregation.
- Finance Committee: Haywood will schedule a meeting.

Old Business:

- Church Beautification Day is scheduled for April 26.
- Lexie Ross will remove the trash can enclosure from the grounds, as it is no longer necessary due to the new supercan.

Summary of Minutes of the Vestry for April 15, 2008

Note: The following is a draft. At this writing, the vestry has not yet approved minutes for the April 15 meeting.

Treasury Report: Due to the need to update items in the treasury report, the report was not available. The May vestry meeting will review two reports.

Finance Committee Report: The vestry discussed current fund balances. John Ely moved to simplify the balance sheet by combining some undesignated funds and to have the treasurer bring the simplified balance sheet to the next vestry meeting for vestry review. The motion passed.

Constant Contact: The vestry discussed the email service we have used recently (60 day free trial) for the newsletter and announcements. Cheryl Emory moved that St. Bart's subscribe to Constant Contact for 12 months at a cost of \$126. The motion passed.

St. Bart's Strategic Planning—Eliciting Congregational Input: The vestry discussed plans to hold small group meetings facilitated by vestry members to get congregational feedback on St. Bart's strategic plan. The groups will discuss how we have done over the past year and what members want to see over the next year. Cheryl Emory led the group through the meeting process. Each vestry member was given a list of participants to contact and to set up a meeting with between May 18 and June 15.

Church Beautification Day: Set for April 26. There are inside and outside chores.

Events around the Corner

Sundays

- 8:30 AM Holy Eucharist I
- 9:30 AM Youth Choir
- 9:30 AM Adult Education
- 10:00 AM Nursery Open
- 10:30 AM Youth Education (After May 28, Youth Education suspends for the summer. Rev. Haywood Spangler will meet with youth of about 10 and older once per month during the summer. Stay tuned for more information.)
- 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist II
- 5:30 PM Healing Prayer

Sunday Adult Education at 9:30 AM

- Gospel Parallels: May 11, 18, 25 and August 3 & 10
- Prayer and Healthcare Choices: June 8 & 15
- Guest Preachers: July 6, 13, 20, & 27

Wednesday Adult Education

July: Theology and Pop Culture (Watch your email for more information)

Monday through Saturday Events

- 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 PM: Vestry
- Thursdays 7 PM: Adult Choir
- Saturdays 7:30 AM: Centering Prayer

Special Events

- Saturday, May 17: Cuban Night at St. Bart's
- May 18 through June 15: Revisiting Our Strategic Plan Small Group Meetings
- June 8 after the 10:30 Service: St. Bart's Picnic
- Saturday, June 28, 9 AM to 3 PM: *A Taste of Shrine Mont*
- 2nd Sundays: Youth Leads Worship
- June and July: Outreach Back Pack Collection

When's the Next Newsletter Coming? and More

Our rectors, Rev. Haywood Spangler and Rev. Bambi Willis, send various communications throughout the year. For example, Haywood typically sends the weekly *This Week at St. Bart's* email, and both Haywood and Bambi write and send letters as appropriate. However, the quest for exceptional communications is a neverending process. We prefer that our rectors concentrate on *what* we communicate rather than *how* we communicate. Hence, we rely on the time and talents within our parish. (We find that talents are abundant, yet time is a scarce commodity.)

The following plans are not final, but they will provide an idea of what communications to expect from St. Bart's in the coming months.

- **Our Newsletter**
 - Our next newsletter will come by email in August as Pentecost continues, we celebrate St. Bart's Day on August 24, and we gear up for the September "new year."
 - We are probably moving to a quarterly newsletter scheduled loosely around our liturgical calendar, but modified to avoid long periods of sparse communication.
 - We expect to supplement a quarterly newsletter with special editions for Holy Week and/or other appropriate times of the year.
 - We will post hard copies of the newsletter on the bulletin board and have them available for visitors and persons who do not have email.
 - We will post a copy of the newsletter on www.stbartsrichmond.org.
 - Upon request, we will send a hard copy to persons who do not have email.
- **St. Bart's Website:** Go to www.stbartsrichmond.org for information on St. Bart's, copies of recent newsletters, and more.
- **This Week at St. Bart's:** Haywood sends this email each week, typically on Wednesdays.
- **Event and Special Information Emails:** We will continue to send emails for special events such as Cuban Night (May 17), clean up days, and special education offerings.
- **St. Bart's Bulletin Board:** Spend some time perusing the bulletin board (just outside the kitchen) and you will find vestry minutes, event information, and many items of interest.
- **Sunday Announcements and Bulletin Inserts:** Each Sunday during the 8:30 and 10:30 services, either Haywood or Bambi announce happenings. The bulletin insert also provides pertinent information.
- **Vestry Minutes:** Beginning July, we will email vestry minutes monthly as the previous month's minutes are approved. In addition, we post the minutes on the bulletin board.
- **Special Mailings:** When a special situation or event arises, we mail letters or cards from Bambi, Haywood, Kathleen Gambill (our Music Director), the Vestry, or appropriate other persons.

Thanks again for understanding as we work through communications issues and strive to keep everyone informed. Stay tuned for more concrete information and, as always, we value your help and feedback.

Cheryl Emory
cherylemory@comcast.net

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