

# Full Circle



A Monthly Newsletter

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Livermore, CA.

February 2014

Rector's Reflections	Page 1	Vestry and Deanery Highlights	Page 4, 5
Parish News	Pages 2, 3	Jubilee Year History	Page 6
Prayer List	Page 3	Calendar	Page 7
New Vestry, Commissions	Page 3	WebLinks	Page 8

## Rector's Reflections

### Creating New Habits for the New Year

I'm writing these reflections on an aircraft bound for Seattle, where I will attend an Episcopal Conference on Peace and Justice. Two days ago, my family and I watched President Obama's *State of the Union Address*; in two days' time, your vestry and I will deliver our "State of the Church" report. Last week, we attended our Deanery-Vestry retreat at the Bishop's Ranch; the week before that, I participated in my first Executive Council (our Diocese's Board of Directors) meeting. In all of these encounters, we considered the challenges ahead, and how to leverage our gifts to meet them. Given this context, my thoughts are now soaring with dreams for our country, our Church, and St. Bartholomew's, my lists bursting with goals for the year, both personally and organizationally.

Last month, I wrote about the journeys we take that lead us home to Christ. Today I'm mindful of how we embark on new paths toward this destination. If we are led by the Light of Christ, what are the new steps we take to get there? What causes us to make the choices of one direction over another, to create a new path in our behavior? The

book that I have with me today sheds some light on that question. In *The Power of Habit*, author Charles Duhigg suggests that the way we chart the course of our lives and our organizations begins with forming new habits.

I learned about this book from our Bishop, the Right Rev. Marc Andrus, when he met with those of us on the Diocesan Task Force to end gun violence. Bishop Marc suggested – in a manner reminiscent of our Godly Play "wondering" – that we look more deeply into those behaviors that reinforce violence, toward ways to form new habits of peace, and recommended Duhigg's book. I guess I'm a more obedient Episcopalian than I realized, because I bought the book the next day!

Like many of you, I'm determined to form new habits this year: I'd like to run more often and lose weight, so I can keep up with work and family demands and stay healthy. Our family would like to save money and spend more active time together, rather than using media side by side. What habits can we form that will help us to realize the tremendous potential that is St. Bartholomew's, Livermore? How can we choose to come to church

every Sunday, instead of going shopping or to a sports event? How can we form the habit of participating in bold visions of abundant ministry, rather than relying on others to do God's work?

One of the chapters most pertinent to faith work explores two movements: the Montgomery bus boycott, and the growth of the Saddleback mega church in Southern California. Duhigg concludes that such hugely successful and transformative movements occur based on three elements: the bonds of friendship, the habits of communities, and leaders encouraging new habits by individuals. The bus boycott that galvanized the civil rights movement began with bonds of friendship with people like Rosa Parks, it grew based upon social habits of the black community, and succeeded when the Rev. Dr. King encouraged a habit of non-violence. At Saddleback church in Southern California, pastor Rick Warren asked members to commit to three new habits to help them "grow in Christ's likeness": to spend time in prayer and meditation daily, to tithe 10% of their income to the church, and to participate in a small group at the church in addition to weekly worship.<sup>1</sup> These habits built the largest church community in the nation, and transformed thousands of individual lives.

As we gather for our Annual Meeting, and consider our course for this year of growth and transformation, I wonder what new habits we can cultivate that will cause us to grow, both as individuals and as a community. Can we build on the strong friendships here, and *invite more friends to join us*? Can we take a deep look at our social habits and build on them to help us grow? Can we commit to giving more of our time, talent and treasure to support ministries that matter? Entering into February – and anticipating the practice of Lent in March – I encourage us all to renew our belief in equality and justice, and to pray for the discipline to forge new pathways toward peace and abundance.

*Yours along the way,  
Mother Joyce*

<sup>1</sup> Duhigg, Charles, *The Power of Habit*, (New York: 2014, Random House) pg. 238

### Guest Preacher Feb. 9

Mother Joyce and her family will be traveling to Montana from Feb. 5 to Feb. 12 to meet their new granddaughter. Father Peter Champion will preside and preach on Sunday, Feb. 9. Deacon Kathy will be available for pastoral care.

### Big Heart Thank You Party on Feb. 20

Volunteers will be recognized at the Big Heart Thank You Party on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 11:30am to 1:00pm at St. Bart's. Parishioners and volunteers from the Big Heart Garden and the Big Heart Wellness Center's partner agencies – the Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Bay Area Legal Aid (BALA) and the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) – are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided.

### *Lambs of God*

St. Bart's Book Club has just started reading a new book, *Lambs of God* by Marele Day. This book is about nuns living in a crumbling monastery on a remote Australian island, forgotten by time, the world, and the Church. One day, seemingly out of nowhere, a priest appears. Hoping to rise in the Church hierarchy, he has presented plans to his bishop to convert what he believes to be an uninhabited and valuable piece of Church property into a resort for the wealthy - and he has come to survey the land. It's a moving and often hilarious story of their struggle - a struggle of wills, but also of faith.

St. Bart's Book Club meets every Monday in the Parish Hall from noon to 1:30pm. Bring your lunch, everyone is welcome!

*Toni Sarrica*

### Outreach update

One of the families we "adopted" for Christmas became homeless shortly before Junction Avenue School closed for the holidays, and the Outreach Committee was unable to deliver their gifts before Christmas. When school reopened on Jan. 6, we learned that the family members – a single mom with two little daughters -- were living in a nearby hotel, so we delivered their gifts to the school. We included information about the Big Heart Wellness Center, where the mom can receive info about local resources that might help her.

*Laning Thompson*

**Parish Prayer List**

**Those Needing Prayers:**

Amanda Leeds	Di Coburn
Gwen Grimke	Steve Thompson
Bill McGuire	Marsha Reiter
Tony Chivers	Alicia
Teigh Mitchell-Hall	Millie
Vera Martin	Cathy Willett
Lisa	Cathy Radosevich
Anna Campbell	Jennifer Nelson
Suzanne Cocroft	Joan Boer
Bob Wood	Jessie Anderson
Del Graves	Beverly Psenak
Chris	Karen Silliman
April Aparicio	Tatiana
Linda Miller	Linda Troen
Kathy Whalen	Helga Christopherson
Larry	Marshall & Sharon Crutcher

**Those in Military Service:**

Michael Goudreau, Christopher Weaver, Tommy Moore

*Prayer request forms are located in the pews and may be placed in the offering plate or sent to the parish office. An open invitation is extended for personal prayer time with Mother Joyce.*

**2013 Fundraising Figures**

Thanks to the considerable efforts of many members our parish, the 2013 Dickens Faire grossed \$5,449 and netted \$3,077 after expenses. This Faire’s total expenses of \$2,372 were high because of the one-time costs (about \$1,762) of creating the atmospheric storefronts for our London shopping street. However, those “sets” were a capital investment – they are now ready to erect at future Faires, so we expect to clear at least \$5,000 from the 2014 Faire.

Dickens Faire revenue sources:

- Admission - \$1,806
- Tea tickets - \$1,065
- Food sales - \$633
- St. Bart’s Crafts - \$605
- Booth Rental fees - \$420
- “Donation Drawing” (raffle) - \$322
- Other Donations - \$590.

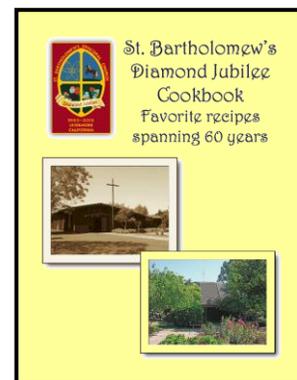
Proceeds from other 2013 fundraisers:

- e-scrip - \$403.82
  - E-Waste ingathering - \$392
  - Now and Then performances - \$339
  - Recycling cans and bottles - \$294
  - Reilly & Maloney concert (net) - \$265
  - Dining Out - \$201
  - Calendar sales - \$182
- Special thanks to Abigail Plemmons for spending so many hours on “the books.”

**Calling all Foodies!**

St. Bart’s Diamond Jubilee Cookbook needs your recipes. If you have cooked or eaten a dish that you really want to share, this is the place to do it. The only request is that you give credit to the person from whom you got the recipe and that you have taste-tested it. Anything is welcome.

Sue Vincent is compiling all the recipes, so you can email them to [sevincentart@gmail.com](mailto:sevincentart@gmail.com), or bring or mail them to the church office. If you have pictures, please include them. She will do the rest. We are hoping to have these available by Mothers’ Day (May 11), so don’t wait. Send it in today.



*Sue Vincent*

**New Vestry Members and Commissions**

At a special meeting on Jan. 12, 2014, St. Bart’s elected five new members to the vestry: Melissa Adkins, Thomas Grenville and Deepa Abraham were elected for a three-year term ending in January 2017; Bob Wood for a one-year term ending in January 2015, and Ann Butcher for a two-year term ending in January 2016. Retiring from Vestry duties are Mark Plemmons, Dave Rettinger, Lanny Thompson and Steve Weber, and Royce Eckard has resigned.

At the Jan. 24-26 vestry retreat, several commissions were renamed or reorganized to reflect a more inclusive, expansive approach to their particular ministries.

The Congregational Vitality/Hospitality

Commission is now Hospitality/Events, and will be headed by Ann Butcher. "Education" has been renamed the Enrichment Commission; it will be led by Liz Wilkins as Sunday School director, with Steve Chiolis leading the Youth Group and Mark Plemmons, Adult Education.

Stewardship is now Stewardship & Development and will be led by Thomas Grenville. Thomas will also be in charge of finance and fundraising, along with Abigail Plemmons. Deepa Abraham will lead the new Social Justice Commission, which will include St. Bart's outreach projects and the Big Heart Garden, directed by Sue Vincent; Sue will also continue to serve as the vestry liaison to the Big Heart Wellness Center.

Administration & Communications has been split into Administration & Records, led by Carol Purcell, and – thinking about communications as inviting people to join in our activities – the Invitation Commission, to be led by Melissa Adkins.

The Worship Commission is now Worship and the Arts, and will be headed by Sue Vincent. The Building & Grounds Commission will remain unchanged, led by Bob Wood with the assistance of Dave Rettinger.

## Vestry Highlights

### January 12, 2014 Meeting

#### Treasurer's Report – Abigail Plemmons

As of Dec. 31, 2013, the balances in the following accounts were: Operating \$329.11; Savings \$10,188.68, and the Big Heart Wellness Center \$469.91. The Capital Campaign has ended and that account has been closed.

The December 31 Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF) account balance at UNCLE Credit Union was \$86.58, and the RDF savings account balance was \$25.

Abby reported that the 2013 pledges were right on the pledged amounts, with other accounts near the budgeted amounts. There was a shortfall in fundraising.

#### Shed Purchase

Liz Wilkins reported that a friend had a 12'x8' Tuff Shed for sale for \$500. She proposed that in lieu of

building a shed to house the Dickens Faire sets, we could purchase the shed and set it up on the grounds near the Big Heart Garden Barn. After discussion and determination that funds were available, the vestry approved a motion to purchase the shed. Setting up the shed in the garden area will give us an opportunity to remove the various piles of mulch, make more of the land space usable and welcoming, and hopefully stop further unwanted dumping.

#### Education Commission

Congratulations to our youth! Thanks to a matching donation from a parishioner's company, our youth raised \$742 for their Clean Water Project and were able to help provide water for not one, but two third-world villages.

### January 24-26, 2014 Vestry Retreat

Vestries from the six churches in the Southern Alameda County Deanery met (for the fifth year) at the Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg Jan. 24-26 to worship together and discuss Deanery ministries and activities.

Each Vestry also met separately for extensive periods throughout the weekend. The 15 attendees from St. Bart's included outgoing, current, and newly elected Vestry members; Jenny Moy, St. Bart's Deanery rep; Abigail Plemmons, treasurer; Mary Myers, clerk; Deacon Kathy, and Mother Joyce.

The keynote speaker, Bruce Rockwell, is assistant to the bishop for stewardship in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts. He gave excellent talks on stewardship -- his engaging and humorous presentations were some of the most informative and useful of any retreat to date.

We welcomed five new members to your Vestry – Melissa Adkins, Ann Butcher, Thomas Grenville, Bob Wood and Deepa Abraham (who was unable to attend retreat). In order to get to know one another and start building a working relationship, the members have been reading *Becoming the Transformative Church: Beyond Sacred Cows, Fantasies, and Fears*, by Kay Collier McLaughlin.

We began by identifying and listing our strengths – strengths as individuals, strengths as a Vestry, and as St. Bartholomew’s Church, then strengths as a Deanery, as a Diocese, and the strengths of living in the Bay Area. We continued with exercises to identify our leadership styles. We discussed new ways of doing and being.

We held detailed discussions of the proposed 2014 Budget – both increasing and decreasing various items, and keeping the amounts of some items as they were proposed; your Vestry -

- Created a new line item for Non-routine Maintenance (“rainy day” expenses). It was decided to put \$1,200 under this account to act as a place-holder for savings built up over time, i.e. living legacy giving (as a way to see “fruits of giving”).
- Discussed ways to promote and encourage successful fundraising. The St. Bart’s Victorian Christmas Faire (same event, new name) will continue to be held on the first weekend in December. Three other potential (and smaller) events will be held during 2014.
- Approved the line item expense for a paid, part-time office administrative assistant.
- and after long and thoughtful discussions, passed the 2014 budget.

Mother Joyce thanked and presented gifts to the retiring Vestry members who were present – to Steve Weber, a gift representing his wisdom; to Mark Plemmons, a gift representing his kindness, and to Dave Rettinger, a gift representing his steadfastness.

Deacon Kathy announced she would be starting a Pastoral Care Team.

Mother Joyce announced that Carol Purcell (who was unable to attend retreat) will be Senior

(rector’s) Warden for 2014. The election for Junior (people’s) Warden will take place at the Feb. 19 Vestry meeting.

### Southern Alameda County Deanery Report

At the recent Vestry retreat, vestry members and Deanery reps met in a group and suggested the following Deanery mission projects/activities that we, as a Deanery, could participate in for 2014:

- A’s Game – chose July 3, 2014
- Big Heart Wellness Center
- Campfire/Evensong
- Choir swap
- Sacred Space
- Ranch work day/swim in the new pool
- Habitat for Humanity
- Youth Day
- Faith-based advocacy
- Arts & Worship
- All Deanery BBQ & softball game
- Rotating Book Club
- Corazon – Rev. Ron Culmer and Rev. Joyce Parry Moore announced plans for a May concert to raise funds for Corazon

The Vestry of each parish will pick three activities from this list. If you would like to know more about the Southern Alameda County Deanery and how to participate in projects and activities, please contact our Deanery Representative, Jenny Moy.

There was some discussion about putting together a slide show to travel around to the various churches in the Deanery showing us at work and play. If you would like to help put together a slide show of St. Bart’s work/play activities, please contact our Invitation/Communications Commissioner, Melissa Adkins.

*Mary Myers, Clerk  
St. Bartholomew’s Vestry*

**Editor’s Note:** All members of St. Bart’s are encouraged to share news items, photos, articles, website links with fellow parishioners. Send in your articles to the parish office or email to [saint.barts@att.net](mailto:saint.barts@att.net) .

The deadline for the March edition of the *Full Circle* is the 20th of February!

### St. Bartholomew's Diamond Jubilee Year

*Many things have been planned to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of St. Bart's! In addition to monthly events, there will be an article about some aspect of our history in each issue of the Full Circle.*

### In Our New Building

Groundbreaking for our innovative round church with its central altar took place on Labor Day, 1966. Just over a year later on September 10, 1967, the sanctuary was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. C. Kilmer Myers, Bishop of California. The first service in the church had been held on July 1. When the bishop came in September, the congregation took part in the traditional custom of church dedication. Everyone gathered outside the southern doors with the churchwarden, Van Hudson, inside the church. The bishop knocked at the doors three times with his crosier, and then Hudson opened the doors to the bishop, the congregation, and visitors, about 400 people in all. After the dedication of the altar and its furnishings was over, a trumpet sounded, and Mary Barody played the organ in a processional hymn. The church vicar, Chet Howe, and former vicar, Richard Ford, assisted with the celebration of Holy Communion. In his sermon, Bishop Myers said, "God wants us to move in the world to bring the Holy to all persons, places, and things so that no place is profane, and this taking of the Holy to persons, places, and things is the mission of the church." The junior and senior choirs participated in the service.

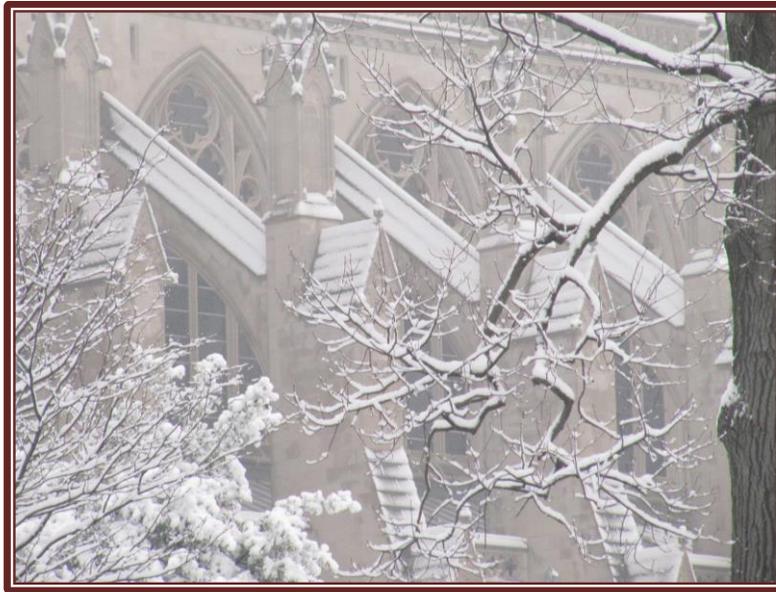
The original altar top was made of redwood, with a concrete base connected to the floor beneath. Thus, it was immovable. The cross under the baldachin was created by Michael Lactman, a liturgical artist on the faculty of UC Berkeley. The red carpet in the sanctuary stood out richly against the natural colors of the cement and wood interior. Later on, someone who shall remain nameless wanted to change the carpet color to blue, but Cynthia Bird told him: "If you do that, I'll become Presbyterian so fast it will make your head spin." Needless to say, it has remained red all these years. The congregation paid the \$4,240 pew bill, but hoped that individuals would contribute \$165 for a single pew as a memorial. Many did—you can read their names in the Memorial Book at the back of the church. Among them were the Struthers, the Baroodys, the Eckards, the Ruzickas, and the Woods.

The organ used for the dedication service was still the little field organ. Our pipe organ was not installed until 1974. Many members of the congregation contributed to the organ fund, including the Baroodys, the Halaszes, and the Beckers. If you want to check out other names, they are also in the Memorial Book. The organ was built by Schoenstein and Company of Benicia in 1956 for St. Anne's Catholic Church in Lodi. It was bought by St. Bart's and installed here by Schoenstein in 1974. Called a Möller Opus 8910, it is an electropneumatic action pipe organ with two manuals and four ranks. Schoenstein and Company has cared for it since installation. It has been remarkably free of problems except for a rat infestation, which cost over \$11,000 to repair. They had chewed through portions of the leather bellows.

*Anne Homan*

### Diamond Jubilee Year: Calendar of Events

<b>February</b>	<b>Big Heart Wellness Center Valentine's Celebration, <i>Mother Joyce</i></b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Fat/Shrove Tuesday Dinner, <i>Hospitality/Youth</i></b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Easter Garden Party, <i>Sue Vincent</i></b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Loaves and Fishes Cook Book, <i>Sue Vincent</i></b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Fundraising event, <i>TBD</i></b>
<b>July</b>	<b>Block Party, <i>Mary Myers</i></b>



Our National Cathedral in Washington

*Calendar of Events ~ February 2014*

**Sunday Worship Services**

8:00am	Contemplative Eucharist
9:15am	Bible Study with Mother Joyce (resumes Feb. 16)
10:20am	Godly Play
10:30am	Sung Eucharist with choir; child care available at 10:15am

**Special Events**

Wednesday, Feb. 12	Sacred Brew, Panama Red Coffee Co., 2115 First St., 7:00pm
Saturday, Feb. 15	Parish Workday, 9:00am on
Wednesday, Feb. 19	Vestry meeting, Lounge, 7:30pm
Thursday, Feb. 20	Big Heart Wellness Center Thank-You Party, 11:30am – 1:00pm

**Regular Events**

Mondays	Book Group, Lounge, Noon-1:30pm
Tuesdays	Choir Practice, Church, 7:30pm
Sundays	Youth Group, 4:00 – 5:30pm

*Coming up in March*

**Tuesday, March 4, at 7:00pm: Fat/Shrove Tuesday Celebration** – Come join us and bring friends for jambalaya AND pancakes. Wear Mardi Gras beads, and let’s dance and sing our way into the quietness of Lent.

**Sunday, March 16, 12:30 -2:00pm: Mental Illness Workshop and Lunch** – Marsha McInnes, president and founder of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Tri-Valley, will give a talk on “Understanding Mental Illness: its nature, its challenges, and hope for recovery,” followed by a discussion. Lunch will be provided by our ECAN grant for the Wellness Center; no charge.

