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### Rector's Reflections

#### *Coming Home*

With the Christmas holidays fading behind us, and the feast of Epiphany on the horizon, I am mindful today of journeys: all the traveling to visit family and friends, the journeys we have achieved in the year now past, and those that beckon us in 2014. As we travel, it helps to have a sense of direction, marked by some steady landmark.

As my family will readily attest, whenever and however I travel, I'm always chatting people up, getting to know their story. On an airplane, I might begin by asking the people squished into the ever-shrinking seats beside me, "are you leaving home or coming home?". "Home" is often the place by which we measure our journeys. Many young people came "home" from college for Christmas; some of us older folks left "home" to visit adult children and grandchildren.

The story of the Nativity, including the visit of the Magii which we celebrate as Epiphany, occurs away from home for nearly all of its characters. Mary and Joseph have traveled away from home for the census; the shepherds have left their flocks and tents to check out the excitement in Bethlehem. And the Magii have traveled very far, from the fringes of the Arab world where they lived in an entirely different culture, in order to experience a radical change.

Where is our home? Is it our house, where we eat dinner and watch cable? Is it our community, our workplace? Is it even the lovely round building that we call our "church". Or is "home" more about the people who make us feel grounded, steady, by whose light we order our lives?

I'd like to suggest that the Nativity, and Epiphany of our Lord, offers us a new home, a new way to plan our journey through life. That the star of Jesus' birth guides not only the shepherds and the wise men, but that it represents God's "way out of no way". That we can still navigate by its light, and find our way to our heavenly home.

This kind of navigation involves risk, and faith. It requires stepping outside of our "comfort zone", getting up off the couch and getting our hands dirty. But it also offers adventure, and discovery; and a home where we are all included, always loved, and always needed.

This year, I invite you to "come home" to Jesus Christ. I welcome you to come as you are -- bringing all of your journeys past and journeys yet to come -- your whole self -- and to participate fully in the adventure that God has in store for you. For it is at the cradle of our incarnate Lord, that we find one another, and ourselves.

May God richly bless you this year, with a journey beyond your wildest imagining.

Yours on the Path,  
*Mother Joyce*

## A New Year, A New Budget: a step by step journey

When the New Year arrives, many households take time to look over their finances and make plans to achieve their goals in the months ahead. Perhaps you are saving for a family trip; or buying a new car. Here at St. Bart's we are looking toward supporting our youth group and our Deacon, and adding a part time administrator to increase our ministry potential. One important roadmap on any financial journey is the Annual Budget. Any budget – whether for an individual, a family, or an organization – is composed of two major categories: income and expense. Each category depends on the other, and each involves a balance of both discipline and optimism.

In your household, you may begin by taking stock first of your projected income – how much do you expect to earn in the year. At St. Bart's, when your Vestry and Rector create our 2014 Budget, we also must look responsibly at our resources. As we expressed in this year's Stewardship Booklet, even when we all work very hard at fundraisers, grant writing, and space rental – as with most churches – this income accounts for only 17% of our total budget. The other 83% comes from Pledges – commitments from members to support the church each month with planned donations. Without clear commitments from members, we cannot make a responsible budget.

Our expenses stay fairly much the same each year in terms of categories: salaries, administration, building costs, and fees such as assessment. Of course, as with any costs, they increase from year to year. Salaries increase with cost of living, and lately our administrative costs have increased with our expanded ministry, which is a good thing. It may interest you to know that, even though our costs increase from year to year, pledges seem to stay the same. At this point, only 57% of our households have made their pledge, covering only 61% of our stewardship goal. Without additional and/or increased pledges, this means we cannot afford to do ministry this year. Fortunately, there is another step.

This step comes before looking at our projected income, or our necessary and visionary expenses. This step is gratitude. Remembering that everything we have comes from and in fact belongs to God, and giving thanks for our blessings. Believing that “putting God first” may be more than simply a catch phrase. Making a commitment that brings with it a countercultural and enriching way of life to benefit people beyond ourselves.

So please: as you create or revise your household budget for 2014, remember to include a commitment to God's work at St. Bart's. Include a line item of \$2,000 for the year – that's \$166 a month, or \$41 a week, \$6 a day – in your budget and in ours. Without you, there is no St. Bart's.

*Mother Joyce and your Stewardship Team*

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## Bishop's Visit

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus visited St. Bart's on December 22, 2013. He met with the Vestry over breakfast at which time he reviewed the annual reports from the various commissions. He stated we should no longer consider ourselves on the “fringe” of the Diocese; our various activities have turned the Diocese's eye towards Livermore - a good thing! He stated we are an example of what a small church can do...an example of Vitality!

He likes how we are beginning to work with the neighborhood; need strategies to remain vital; that we have found a good partner in Mother Joyce.

Our guests at breakfast included Mrs. Sheila Andrus and Archdeacon Carolyn Bolton. A big thank you to Ann Butcher, Liz Wilkins, and Carol Purcell for their delicious strattas, Mary Myers for providing fruit, Abby Plemmons for furnishing scones, Sue Vincent for her homemade biscuits, and Lanny Thompson for providing jam and butter for the scones and biscuits.

After breakfast, the Bishop met with the confirmation candidates. He then presided at 10:30 Holy Eucharist, confirmed our two young men – Ben Hurst and Connor Razma - and then along with Archdeacon Bolton, he officially installed the Rev. Kathy Bradford as our new Deacon. ~ *Mary Myers*

## Chapter Five : The Wests, the Eckards, and a Long Line of Vicars

*Anne Homan has graciously agreed to write a series of articles to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Saint Bartholomew's Church, Livermore. The fifth in the 12 part series looks at another celebratory moment in the history of St Bart's.*

In February 1958 on the eve of Ash Wednesday, the Women's Auxiliary of St. Bart's gave its first Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Kip West was the head of the planning committee. The Wests had come to Livermore in 1956 and joined the church soon after their arrival. Kip was active in many of the early money-raising efforts, including art shows in the church, a fashion show, a cookbook. She remembered working with an early effort called "Helping Hands," a group of church women who brought meals to a family when the mother was in the hospital having a baby and shortly after when she was at home. Kip said that most of the church members were young and adding new babies to the church population regularly. Many had large families. Kip was also on a church flower committee. Church members would call the committee when they had flowers and greens available in their gardens, and Kip or others on the committee would gather the materials for decorating the church (this "church" was still the parish hall). This saved the church money for florists.

Kip remembered our second vicar, Rev. Engeseth, well—they had met at San Francisco State, where they were taking classes. Friends called him "Whitey," because of his hair color—so blond that it was almost white. Rev. Engeseth only stayed as the vicar for a year and was replaced by Rev. Richard Ford, who was here for the completion of the western wing of the parish hall. Rev. Donald Sower took over in September 1960 and stayed for six years. The church welcomed their new vicar, Rev. Chester Howe, on the same day in September 1966 that ground was broken for the new round church, designed by San Franciscan architect, Ian McKinlay.

The co-head of the planning committee for the first pancake supper was Concie Raboli, and one of the committee members was Lynne Eckard. Lynne's husband, Royce, while he was in the armed services, happened to come through Livermore in 1955. He stopped and talked to people. He felt that the place was a close-knit group. Royce thought, "Wow! I want to work in a small town like this!" Later, when interviewers came to the University of Idaho, Royce signed up to work for the Lawrence Livermore Lab as an electronics engineer. Royce served as the treasurer on the bishop's committee in the 1970s. Lynne died in 2010 on Christmas Day.

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### Christmas Outreach

Thanks to the generosity of St. Bart's parishioners, the Outreach Committee was able to gather gifts and gift cards for five families whose kids attend nearby Junction Avenue K-8 School, where Jennifer Hayes is a teacher. The parent coordinator at Junction provided the names of the needy families.

Our parishioners adopted a total of 20 individuals - 7 parents, and 13 kids ranging in age from 3 to 18 - and provided at least one wrapped gift for each person. We were also able to give each family a \$100 Walmart gift card, plus another \$100 worth of grocery store cards. Thank you so much for your cash/card donations, which totaled over \$1,000! Special thanks are due for the following:

to Deacon Kathy, for Lucky cards in memory of her mother; to Jennifer Hayes, for a vacuum cleaner for one of the families, and to Kip West, for granting the request of a young girl with leukemia.

Jennifer Hayes, Chris Hurst and Laning Thompson delivered gifts to four of the families on Dec. 22 and 23. However, earlier that week we had been told that one family – a single mom with 5- and 4-year-old daughters – had recently become homeless and needed a prepaid cell phone. Sadly, by the time we purchased the phone and were ready to deliver everything, Junction Avenue School had closed for the holidays and we had no other way to reach that family or deliver those gifts. We are hoping to be able to get in touch with that mother when school reopens. ~ Laning Thompson

# The Buzz

*Just for Kids!*  
...and parents.

Welcome to St. Bart's Children and Youth Ministries.

*Uma Grandhi writes a heart-warming tale of love and trust between a stray mutt and his young caretaker at an animal shelter.*

## A Beautiful Friendship

"Are you done with the food, Ella?" Kira asked, wiping her forehead with a cloth.

"Almost," Ella replied. She shook the bag of food over Max's bowl. As he came running over, she smiled and rubbed his back. His dark fur felt soft, and he gazed at her with warm brown eyes. As an employee at the local animal shelter in her community, she couldn't be happier with her work.

"Now I'm done."

"Okay, well it's time to close up then." Kira walked towards the front of the animal shelter and grabbed her jacket off of the tall rack next to the door.

"Goodnight," she waved.

"See you," Ella nodded. As Kira opened the door, a cold gust of air blew into the small shelter. Someone approached the door carrying a large object.

"Hey, Carter, I was just leaving. Good night," Kira waved and walked out.

"You too, take care," Carter nodded as he brushed some snow off of the dog in his arms.

"Who is this?" Ella gasped as she ran to Carter holding out her hands to pet the small bundle of fur. Suddenly, the dog snapped back her, causing her to quickly withdraw her hands.

"Watch out," Carter cautioned. "He's not that friendly, yet."

"Is he a stray?" she asked, trying not to let the fact that he tried to bite her fingers off hurt her too much. She rushed towards an empty enclosure, picking up the food bag and a water jug along

the way. Opening the plexiglass door, she filled a two compartment bowl with food and water.

"Yeah, I found him on the way here. No collar and no sign of anyone looking for him. I can take care of him now, thanks for your help," Carter released the dog in the enclosure.

"Are you sure? I can fill out his paperwork, or make signs, or-"

"Ella, it's fine," Carter laughed. "Go home and get some rest."

Ella sighed and took one more look at the dog. She wanted to help, but she knew Carter was right. There wasn't much they could do, and it was unlikely an owner would turn up looking for him. The sad look in his eyes broke her heart. With no family to love him, he was all alone.

"Bye, Carter. Take care of him," grabbing her jacket and hat, Ella waved and walked out.

"I will, have some faith!" Carter laughed again and closed the door to the dog's new home.

Ella hurried home down the sidewalk, shivering. Wind whipped snow around her face, making her cheeks and nose burn with cold. Even though the freezing winters sometimes bothered her, she loved living in the city and being able to walk to where she needed to go. Tall skyscrapers towered over her, and each lamp post along the way was decorated with a string of lights and a wreath. The holiday season brought a sense of joy and cheer to everyone.

~ Continued



Ella's thoughts drifted towards the dog back at the shelter, once again thinking of how he didn't have a family. She soon reached her apartment building door and practically ran up the stairs, thankful for the warmth. Unlocking the door, she kicked off her heavy snow boots and fell onto her couch, relaxing into the soft cushions. Her small, one bedroom apartment brought her comfort at times like this. Suddenly, her cellphone buzzed, signaling that someone was calling her. Tapping the green button on the screen, Ella picked up the call, smiling.

"Hi, Mom! How are you doing? Are you staying warm?"

"Sweetie, relax! You're always worrying about me, at times I feel like I'm the daughter here!"

"I know, but I want to make sure you're okay!" Ella laughed at her mom's joke.

"Just calling to check in with you. Anything happen at work today? Is Tracy doing well?" Tracy was a dog her mother had found and brought to the Shelter a few of weeks ago.

"Tracy's fine. She has so much energy, she's always jumping around. Today, Carter brought in a stray. He wasn't very friendly, and he tried to bite my fingers off!"

"Maybe you scared him, honey."

"I guess. It makes me sad that he doesn't have a family, or anyone to spend the holidays with."

"I know, but you're doing the best you can for him. Speaking of the holidays, are you coming home? Jake really misses you!" Jake was Ella's younger brother by four years.

"I doubt he does, what with all his teenage business, but I'll be there. I can't wait!"

"Great, I'll see you then! Love you!"

"I love you too, Mom, bye!" Ella heard the line disconnect and stood up. She finished getting ready for bed and burrowed into her soft comforter. As she closed her eyes, the stray dog back at the shelter appeared in her mind. Drifting off, she wondered what would become of him.

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"His name is Sam," Carter said with finality.

"But he doesn't look like a Sam at all!" Ella argued, trying to pet the dog again. This time, instead of snapping at her, the dog backed away. They were trying to decide on a name for the dog. It had been a week since he had arrived, and in that time, he had become friends with the dogs around him. After Carter and Kira had given him a good wash, his golden fur gleamed.

"Yes, he does," Kira nodded. She squinted at the dog, and then reached out a hand to call him. "Sam, come here, boy, c'mon, Sam!" Sam, liking his new name, ran to Kira and jumped, eager to be petted. Ella frowned.

"Jealousy scares away dogs," Carter teased, grinning at Ella's expression.

"Max still loves me, right boy, isn't that right?" she gave Max a good rub and kissed his forehead. Max barked with joy, and Ella smiled at him.

"Max needs fresh air, and he has to escape your desperate clutches. I'm taking him for a walk," Carter announced, grabbing a leash and hooking it onto Max's collar. "You stay here, with Sam and Kira."

Ella stuck her tongue out. "Fine," she turned to Sam. He gazed back up at her with wide eyes. Suddenly, she had an idea. "Kira, do you think someone is going to adopt him soon?"

"No, not really. Why?"

"Well, I was wondering if, maybe, I could adopt him?"

Kira turned around. "Do you really want to?"

"Yes! I've been thinking about adopting one of our dogs for a while, and I earn enough to take care of him, so may I?"

"Well, I don't have a problem with it, but are you sure you want to adopt Sam? You two aren't exactly friends," Kira grinned, looking at Sam with laughter in her eyes.

"Can't we become friends? Watch. Sam, Sam, come here, boy!" Ella folded her legs and patted her knees. Sam looked at her uncertainly, as if he was not sure if she was a friend. "C'mon, Sam, I don't bite! I won't hurt you," Ella tried her best to look friendly. Slowly, Sam put one paw forward. Step by step, he continued to walk toward her and slowly bent his head, allowing her to pet him. Ella laughed. "Yes! This is going to be the start of a beautiful friendship!"

~ The End

Calendar of Events ~ January 2014



**Sunday Worship Service**

8 am & 10:30 am  
 9:15 am  
 10:20 am

Holy Eucharist  
 Adult Bible Study  
 Sunday School

January 8, 7 pm

Sacred Brew, First Street Alehouse, Livermore

January 10

Last Day For Vestry Nominations

January 12

Vestry Elections

January 18, 9 am ~ noon

Parish Work Day

January 24 ~ 26

Southern Alameda County Deanery Vestry Retreat,  
 Bishop's Ranch, Healdsburg

**Regular Events**

Mondays at Noon to 1:30 pm

Book Group (Bring your own lunch)

Tuesdays at 7:30 pm

Choir Rehearsal

Sundays 4 pm ~ 5:30 pm

Youth Group Meeting

Vestry Election January 12, 2014

Nominations are open for individuals who wish to serve on the 2014-2017 Vestry. There are 5 openings and anyone who wishes to participate in this shared ministry is encouraged to submit his/her name for consideration. If you would like to nominate someone else, please be sure that the individual is willing to serve before submitting their name.

You may nominate either by e-mailing, calling or stopping by the church office before noon on January 10. Voting will take place during both the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services on January 12. ~ *Carol Purcell*

**Parish Prayer List**

For those in Military Service: Michael Goudreau, Christopher Weaver, Tommy Moore

For those needing healing:

Amanda Leeds	Di Coburn	Marshall & Sharon Crutcher	Gwen Grimke
Steve Thompson	Bill McGuire	Marsha Reiter	Millie
Teigh Mitchell-Hall	Vera Martin	Tony Chivers	Cathy Willett
Cathy Radosevich	Anna Campbell	Lisa	Doug
Bob Wood	Jessie Anderson	Jennifer Nelson	Larry
Alicia	Susan Cocroft	Beverly Psenak	Joan Boer
Karen Silliman	Abril Aparicio		

*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.*

## Vestry Notes

Mother Joyce graciously hosted the December Vestry meeting at her home. Prior to the start of the meeting, Vestry members visited and enjoyed special holiday treats and beverages.

### Rector's Report – Rev. Joyce Parry Moore

Mother Joyce began by stating how grateful and truly blessed she feels by the current Vestry members. Looking toward 2014 she plans to continue to take care of her health and plan for the hard but fruitful work ahead.

Mother Joyce offered “snaps” (quick, spur of the moment, without deliberation, comments followed by the snapping of fingers) about each of the Vestry members, including the Treasurer and Clerk.

Mother Joyce thanked retiring members Mark Plemmons, Lanny Thompson, Dave Rettinger and Steve Weber for their service to St. Bart's. Mark will continue his passion for ministry by facilitating the Education for Ministry program which is slated to begin in February 2014. Dave will continue to be involved with facilities upkeep. Lanny has resigned as Outreach Chair, but will continue to help with various projects.

In the absence (due to illness) of our Treasurer, Abigail Plemmons, there was no official Treasurer's or Stewardship report. Mother Joyce advised that Abby has been calling parishioners who have never pledged to inform them how important pledging is in creating a budget. Mother Joyce advised that 75-80% of our budget comes from pledges; this is the immediate goal to continue our programs.

### Candidates for Vestry

In addition to Mark, Lanny, Dave and Steve retiring from Vestry service, Mother Joyce announced that Royce Eckard is also retiring - we will need to elect five (5) people to the next Vestry. Mother Joyce advised that of the candidates recommended so far, she has one affirmative, two “considering”; still need more candidates to step forward. The **Vestry election** will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2014** (at each service). The

new Vestry members will attend retreat along with the retiring members. Mother Joyce stated her hope is to get a lot of our usual work out of the way so that we can “dig in” and do other kinds of work during the retreat.

### Bishop's Visit – Confirmation - Installation

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus will visit St. Bart's on December 22, 2013. He will meet with the Vestry over breakfast at 9 am at which time he will review the various annual Commission reports. After the meeting he will meet with the candidates, and then will preside at the 10:30 am Eucharist. Along with the confirmations, Deacon Kathy will be formally installed by the Bishop and Archdeacon Carolyn Bolton.

### Commission Reports

#### Outreach – Lanny Thompson

Christmas Giving - Lanny reported that \$100 in gift cards and \$100 in grocery cards will be presented to each of the five families along with their requested gifts.

#### Buildings & Grounds – Dave Rettinger

Dave reported that he met with an arborist from a local tree company. After walking the grounds with Dave, the arborist stated there are three trees (listed by priority) that need attention: 1) the large evergreen hanging over the Church office; 2) the Eucalyptus in the northwest corner of the parking lot, and 3) the tree in the courtyard patio (it is affected by wood borers, not termites). Dave reported that there is no immediate funding needed at this time; the arborist is not available until into January 2014.

The next Vestry meeting will be held at the Southern Alameda County Deanery Vestry Retreat at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg, January 24-26, 2014.

~ Mary Myers, Recorder,

*Vestry Minutes, December 19, 2013*

**Editor's Note:** Contributors are encouraged to share news items, 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).

Deadline for the February edition of the *Full Circle* is the 20th of January!



Check out the latest info on our [Website](#)

[Latest News and coming events](#)

[Pictures](#) of recent events

[Buzz](#) for kids, including our serialized novella: [Soul Siblings](#)

[History Timeline](#): to learn about the history of our parish

[Calendars](#): to review the date and time of upcoming events and meetings

[Schedules](#): to check whether it is your turn to serve

Sign up to host the [coffee hour](#)

[Pledge Form](#) for our operating budget

Information on current [fundraising campaigns](#)

Check our new [St. Bart's Shopping Mall](#)

Registration forms for [Sunday School](#) and Sunday morning [child-care](#)

St. Bartholomew's Church

FULL CIRCLE

January 2014



Rev. Joyce Parry Moore	<b>Rector</b>
Rev. Kathy Bradford	<b>Deacon</b>
Thomas Yearsley	<b>Music Director</b>
Mark Plemmons	<b>Senior Warden</b>
Carol Purcell	<b>Junior Warden</b>
Cynthia Bird	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Abigail Plemmons	<b>Treasurer; Sunday School</b>
Steven Chiolis	<b>Youth Leader</b>

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<b>Vestry Members</b>	<b>Commissions</b>
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Carol Purcell	Administration & Communications
Dave Rettinger	Buildings & Grounds
Dan Moy	Congregational Vitality
Liz Wilkins	Education
Royce Eckard	Fundraising
Laning Thompson	Outreach
Steve Weber	Stewardship
Mark Plemmons	Worship
Sue Vincent	Big Heart Garden
Mary Myers	Recorder

### Church Office

Phone: 925.447.3289

Fax: 925.242.5849

Email: [saint.barts@att.net](mailto:saint.barts@att.net)

[www.saintbartsLivermore.com](http://www.saintbartsLivermore.com)