

Full



Circle

A Monthly Newsletter

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Livermore, CA.

MARCH 2014

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Rector's Reflections

Journeying through Lent, step by step: The Power of Small Choices

You've heard it said that "the longest journey begins with a single step". But lately I've been wondering: what about all of the steps after that? In our journeys through life, there are countless beginnings, countless moments when our choices cause a shift in direction, for ourselves and for others. As we enter into this year's journey of Lent, I'd like to invite us to contemplate these small choices, using the curriculum offered in the book by Hilary Brand. During this five week journey, during which we will watch clips from two amazing movies (The Shawshank Redemption and Babette's Feast), we will, in Brand's words "... awaken (y)our understanding of how God's world holds endless creative possibilities, how walking in God's way is a unique and purposeful journey for each one of us, and how small choices actually aren't that small at all!"

As someone whose spiritual life has been informed by Buddhist practices, I have enjoyed doing walking meditations. During these walks, one is not trying to problem solve, or focus on any spiritual conundrum. One simply tries to remain mindful of the present moment, noticing each step, being aware of one's foot upon the earth, of one's breath and senses. In strengthening our awareness

of the present moment – not allowing our thoughts to spin uncontrollably into the past or future, full of worries and projections – we can begin to cultivate our openness to God's possibilities in those moments.

As someone who is also very driven by vision and mission, this discipline presents a real challenge for me! In our goal-oriented society, I would imagine that it might seem challenging to each of us. In fact, I believe both are needed: an openness to God's vision of abundant peace, as well as a grounded in the present, in which all of God's vast possibilities are, well . . . present! Another "both and"; another "middle way". Perfect!

My invitation to you all is twofold: first, to make the choice to enter this journey with me, with your community of faith, trusting that God is able to do something wonderful if you just give him your time and your heart. Second, I'd like to invite you to consider the small choices you make which make a difference to others: choosing to get up early and help in the food pantry; choosing to give of your resources to support ministries at St. Bart's and elsewhere around the world; choosing to reach out to friends and strangers and telling them the story of your faith. Together, our small choices can add up to making a big difference in the world!

Yours along the journey,
Mother Joyce

Big Heart Wellness Center

This past Friday, I learned that a family, who visited The Big Heart Wellness Center, received a \$1000 assistance fund for her family's delinquent PG&E bill. Alameda County's Season of Sharing usually provides clients with a \$500 assistance on utility bills. However, due to extreme circumstances, the amount was raised to \$1000.

This referral was very challenging and we had to jump over many obstacles, but the application was submitted successfully. This lady, who visits the food pantry often, was overjoyed and in tears, when I gave her the good news! We are making a difference!

~ Charisma Thomas

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

St. Bart's 60th Anniversary Committee hosted a thank you luncheon honoring the Interfaith Sharing Food Pantry and Big Heart Wellness Center Volunteers on Thursday, February 20th. The committee has thanked Casse Croute Bakery for providing bread for the luncheon.

Guests included Stella Beck, one of the original founding members of Interfaith Sharing (over 20 years ago), Marsha McInnis from NAMI, Tri-Valley, the Rev. Joseph Peters-Mathews, the Working Head of Communications at the Diocese of California, Rosemary Young, President of the Interfaith Sharing, Inc., and Charisma Thomas from the Big Heart Wellness Center.

Thirty-five guests enjoyed a salad and dessert luncheon while listening first to Rosemary speak about the beginnings of Interfaith Sharing, then to a short program about the beginnings of the Big Heart Wellness Center, its community connections, and its future planned growth. The BHWC program was presented by Mother Joyce.

Make A Joyful Noise !

Calling our youth members & friends to celebrate with music at the next Youth Sunday, April 6th.

Contact Thomas Yearsley, music director.

For Our Neighbors

The Interfaith Food Pantry located at St. Barts requests donations of family-size non-perishable food for our neighbors, especially cereal, cereal bars, canned tuna, macaroni & cheese, juice boxes, plastic jars of jams, jellies and mayonnaise, one pound packages of spaghetti, macaroni, rice or pinto beans.

Collection baskets are placed in the sanctuary and in the parish lounge. Each week, the donated food will be brought to the altar as an offertory from St. Bart's parishioners, prior to distribution.

Volunteer for Backpack Project

St. Bart's Outreach Committee needs a "point person" to oversee our annual backpack drive to provide 45 kindergarteners with packs full of school supplies as part of the Livermore Interfaith Student Support Project (LISSP). This point person would ensure that the necessary funds are raised, the supplies ordered through through LISSP and picked up, and the packs filled and delivered to the LISSP organizers on time.

Laning Thompson, who has coordinated this project for the past few years, will be available to help -- but cannot be in charge of the project this year due to her involvement with two other interfaith organizations: Interfaith Interconnect and Interfaith Housing. If you can take charge of this worthy project, or would like more information about it, please contact Laning or Deepa Abraham.



Chapter Seven : The Venerable Reverend Shirley Frese Woods

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

Shortly after arriving in Livermore in 1957, Shirley Woods began teaching English and Latin at Livermore High School. The family moved to Livermore because her husband, Robert, was hired at LLNL. They had four children. They worshiped here at St. Bart's. A botched cancer surgery in 1959 left the right side of her face paralyzed, but she said that the misfortune made her work twice as hard to achieve her dreams.

Two years before her planned retirement, she talked to a fellow language teacher, Judith Beery, and asked if she would consider teaching Latin. Shirley was afraid the school district would drop the subject if there were not a current teacher ready to step into her shoes. Judith agreed and studied Latin for two summers at Berkeley to prepare herself. Judith told me that Shirley was an incredibly intelligent person who was a wonderful role model for other teachers. When I was developing a humanities class at the high school for non-college bound students, Shirley agreed to teach part of the class. And yet, she taught AP classes at the same time. A student of hers, Joe Volponi, wrote to me about Mrs. Woods, his Latin teacher: "She was one of the most exceptional teachers that I ever had, although I didn't realize it until many years later." Joe told how she managed to bring the dead language to life for her students. His fondest memory was of her enthusiasm during Spirit Week when she taught the class to yell cheers in Latin. The climax to this occurred on the day she climbed up on her desk with a pompon and guided the class in a spirited recitation.

One of the Woods children, James, killed himself at UC Santa Cruz in 1972. His funeral was at St. Bart's, and the rose garden in the church patio was given in his memory by his family. In 1970 Shirley became one of the first women to be a deacon in the Episcopal Church, and seven years later she became one of the first female priests in the California diocese. Because Bishop Swing was ill, the Rt. Rev. W.R. Chilton Powell officiated at her ordination, which was held at St. Bart's on 25 May 1977. She taught humanities and philosophy at Chabot College as well as medieval theology at the Diocesan School for Deacons in Berkeley. She retired from Livermore High in 1978 and from her church position in 1990. She was named "The Venerable" by Bishop Swing. After her death in Livermore in 2003 at age 85, her funeral was held at Grace Cathedral.

Fasting Prayer

The origin of the word 'Lent' is from the Anglo-Saxon or Old English word 'Lencten' meaning the season of spring.

The church calendar marks the time from Ash Wednesday to Easter, commemorating Christ's fast in the wilderness (Matthew 4:12). From early times it was a period of fasting, penitence and meditation culminating in the Passion Week which heralds His resurrection.

Fasting is a spiritual exercise like prayer which cleanses us to receive His gifts. Fasting is increasing our faith to a point where God can work miracles through us.

The act of fasting leads to a revival of the spirit; renews the powers of concentration; restores physical balance to the body.

During the period of fasting we ought to set ourselves apart for earnest prayer (Isaiah 58); soul searching; reading and meditation on the word of God.

Prayer and fasting together is a powerful armor against illness and adversity.

~ Sarojini Sargunraj

Reprinted from Half Circle, March 2010



The Poems Of Patience Strong

Unity

We depend upon each other,
each one in his own small way -giving
something of himself in terms of
service day by day -
working for his own reward yet adding
to the common good. Half our troubles
would be ended if this truth were
understood.

We are bound by unseen cords
and every- thing we say and do - tends
to help or harm another. Let us try
then to pursue - nothing that would
cause division, hate, unrest or
jealousy. Put no strain upon the ties of
fellowship and unity.

All our lives are interwoven. On
each other we rely. Brain and brawn
must work together, letting ancient
grudges die. At the desk and
at the plough, in mine and mill and
factory.

All are needed in the drive for
peace and for prosperity.

If You Stand Very Still

If you stand very still in the heat of a wood
You will hear many wonderful things;
The snap of a twig and the wind in the trees,
And the whirr of invisible wings.

If you stand very still and hold to your faith
You will get all the help that you ask;
You will draw from the silence
the things that you need,
Hope and courage and strength for your task.

Woodland Cathedral

Go into the woodland
if you seek peace of mind--
As this time when Nature's mood
is gentle, quiet and kind,
When soft winds fan the trembling leaves
about the cloistered glade--
And paths go winding deep into the green
and breathless shade.

Where nothing breaks the silence
of the warm and fragrant air--
But snatches of sweet melody . . .
and wings that rend and tear--
The stillness of the windless dells
where shallow brooklets flow--
And shadows fleck the water
as the sunbeams come and go.

An unseen Presence walks the woods,
a sense of holy things--
Haunts the dim Cathedral aisles;
and every bird that sings--
Is like some morning chorister,
and every breath of air--
Seems to bring the secret murmur
of a whispered prayer.

The Faith That Moves The Mountains

When you know not where to turn,
stay still, just where you are.
There is something yet to learn.
Be careful lest you jar the threads that
fate is weaving in a pattern you can't see.
Be Passive.
Trust the Hand that works the looms of
destiny.
Though it is your wish to set things right
and put things straight,
Choose the wiser way.
Have faith.
With patience watch and wait.
There's a purpose in it all,
as time will surely prove
And when you least expect it,
you will see the mountain move.

A Constellation of Parties to Benefit St. Bart's!

Do you have an idea for an event that could help raise some funds for St. Bart's? Now is your chance to throw an easy, fun party, invite some friends and parishioners, and contribute to our budget at the same time. Announcing this year's Constellation of Parties – ten events, **between April 2014 and January, 2015** each one sponsored by a parish member, bringing their unique gifts and experiences.

Here's how it works: think of when, where and what you'd like to do. Perhaps a picnic under the stars? An Italian meal with music? Lunch with a noted scientist? Let your imagination shoot the moon! You don't need to have it at your house: it can be at a friend's house, outdoors, or even at the Parish Hall (as long as you set up and clean up). You can invite as few as 15 or as many as 50 people, its up to you! You can charge as little as \$15, or as much as \$50 (depending on what is offered, and how much of your own costs you wish to recover).

Give your ideas to the office staff, or to Ann Butcher, our Events Commissioner. We will put together a calendar of events, and parishioners (and neighbors, family and friends) can choose to attend one, two or more! Sounds like fun, doesn't it?



Here's the first idea on the calendar . . .

An Effervescent Evening with Lanny Thompson, April 6

A fun fundraiser is planned for Sunday, April 6, when St. Bart's will have a beer tasting starting at 5:30pm in the parish hall. We will be offering draft beer from the two Livermore breweries, Workingman and Altamont, as well as the remainder of the beers bottled in Berkeley, Oregon and Texas that were donated for the Dickens Faire. The exact format of the event has yet to be determined, but music will definitely be a part. We could have a voice-guitar duo during the beer-tasting hour, and later a local non-profit band. There will be food, too – perhaps simple pub fare, or possibly a partially catered Sudsy Supper: a sit-down dinner featuring foods made with different kinds of beer (like shepherd's pie simmered with stout). Contact Lanny if you are interested in helping with this heady event.

Save These Dates !

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| March 9, 12:30 pm | <i>The Scoop On New Health Care Laws</i> by Bay Area Legal Aid
With information and support from Covered California |
| March 16, 12:30 ~ 2:00 pm | <i>Mental Illness: Its nature, affects and hope for recovery</i>
Presented by Marsha McInnis, Founder & Director NAMI, Tri-Valley Workshop & Lunch ~ No Charge. <i>Bring A Friend!</i>
Registration through the St.Bart's website or call the parish office. |

Calendar of Events ~ March 2014



Sunday Worship Service

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

Holy Eucharist
Adult Bible Study
Sunday School

March 4, 7 pm

Shrove Tuesday Celebration, Parish Lounge
Jambalaya, Music & Beads!

March 12, 7 pm

Sacred Brew, First Street Alehouse, Livermore

March 15, 9 am ~ noon

Parish Work Day

March 19, 7:30 pm

Vestry Meeting

Lenten Series

Wednesdays

March 12, 19 & 26

April 2, 9, 16

Lenten series with potluck supper at 6 pm; discussion
of *The Power of Small Choices* by Hilary Brand

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



March 9, 12:30 pm

The Scoop On New Health Care Laws

Bay Area Legal Aid

March 16, 12:30 ~ 2:00 pm

Mental Illness: Its nature, affects and hope for recovery

Marsha McInnis, Founder & Director NAMI Tri-Valley
Lunch & Workshop *Bring A Friend!*

Parish Prayer List

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

For those needing healing:

Kip West

Di Coburn

Marshall & Sharon Crutcher

Gwen Grimke

Steve Thompson

Bill McGuire

Marsha Reiter

Sue Barber

Millie

Teigh Mitchell-Hall

Tony Chivers

Helga Christopherson

Cathy Radosevich

Anna Campbell

Lisa

Emily

Del Graves

Jessie Anderson

Kathy Whalen

Larry

Alicia

Susan Cocroft

Beverly Psenak

Suzanne Cocroft

Karen Silliman

April Aparicio

Chris

Tatiana

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

Rector's Report – Rev. Joyce Parry Moore

Mother Joyce reported she is actively working on several different grants to help fund our various projects, i.e. Summer program and Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Sanctuary lighting and sound, plus a portable stage; rain water collection containers to help irrigate the Big Heart Garden.

March 2, 2014 is Youth Sunday – the youth hope to take on a more active role in the Youth Sunday services.

March 4, 2014 – Shrove/Fat Tuesday – Jambalaya (recipe will be provided) and pancakes; 7pm in the Parish Hall; wear your Mardi Gras beads!

Lenten Series – beginning Wednesday, March 12 at 6pm for potluck, followed at 7pm by the Lenten program featuring the book, *The Power of Small Choices* by Hilary Brand. Over the course of the weekly series we will be examining how the small choices in our lives make a difference. Mother Joyce reported the book is under \$10 and can be purchased through amazon.com.

Treasurer's Report ~ Abigail Plemmons

As of January 31, 2014 the balances in the following accounts were: Operating \$99.86; Savings \$10,189.54 and the Big Heart Wellness Center \$9,472.92. The January 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 2014 pledges are slowly coming in; currently not enough funds to pay all of our bills. The Vestry then discussed the importance of pledging and then paying for the pledge. Abby reported that several parishioners have picked up their year-end statements; all remaining statements will be mailed.

Junior Warden

The Junior Warden is considered the People's Warden; your go-to person on the Vestry who you can approach with your ideas, requests, or for any needs or concerns. Our new Junior Warden is Melissa Adkins.

Commission Reports

Some of the commissions have been renamed or reorganized to reflect a more inclusive, expansive approach to their particular ministries – Administration now includes Finance; Enrichment (formerly Education); Hospitality & Events (formerly Congregational Vitality & Hospitality); Invitation (formerly Communications); Social Justice (formerly Outreach); Stewardship now includes Development, and Worship now includes the Arts.

Buildings & Grounds – Dave Rettinger

Dave reported that two bids have been received for gutters and downspouts for the courtyard roof area; he is waiting for receipt of a third bid. So far, the estimates have been between \$1,100 and \$1,220.

The other commission heads spoke about some planned changes, and about some of the activities and events that are in the planning stages for 2014.

~ Mary Myers, Recorder;

Vestry Minutes, February 19, 2014

Episcopal Society of St. Anna & St. Simeon

On Sunday, February 2, 2014, during the worship service, the following individuals were inducted into the Episcopal Society of St. Anna and St. Simeon – honoring wisdom gained and given during their many years of service to St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church: Jean Miller, Mary Myers, and Barbara Wood. Absent at the service but also given recognition, was Kip West.

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.

Deadline for the April edition of the *Full Circle* is the 20th of March!



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

Read our [2013 Annual Report](#)

[Latest News and coming events](#)

[Pictures](#) of recent events

[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](#)

Fill out a [Pledge Form](#) for our 2014 operating budget

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

Information on current [fundraising campaigns](#)

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

St. Bartholomew's Church **FULL CIRCLE** March 2014



- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Rev. Joyce Parry Moore | Rector |
| Rev. Kathy Bradford | Deacon |
| Thomas Yearsley | Music Director |
| Carol Purcell | Senior Warden |
| Melissa Adkins | Junior Warden |
| Cynthia Bird | Altar Guild |
| Abigail Plemmons | Treasurer |
| Steven Chiolis | Youth Leader |

Vestry Members Commissions

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Carol Purcell | Administration & Records |
| Bob Wood | Buildings & Grounds |
| Liz Wilkins | Enrichment |
| Ann Butcher | Hospitality & Events |
| Melissa Adkins | Invitation |
| Deepa Abraham | Social Justice |
| Thomas Grenville | Stewardship & Development |
| Sue Vincent | Worship and the Arts;
Big Heart Garden |
| Dan Moy | |
| Mary Myers | Vestry Clerk |

Church Office

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