



# *Saint Bartholomew's News*

*2016 January*

## Words from Wendy

Dear Dear Ones:

This was my first opportunity to type the date as 2016 and it felt so strange. We are moving into a new calendar year, and with our new year we have so much to look forward to here at St.



Bartholomew's. Our first two Sundays will be filled with joy and action as we first celebrate the confirmation of four new amazing children of God. Bishop Harrison will be with us to lay on her hands to welcome the members of the Rodriquez family. We are so excited to celebrate this moment in the lives of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Then, we will move to our Annual meeting, where we will elect two new Vestry members and four delegates to

the Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Texas. We are blessed to have people who are willing to serve the church and protect this precious place.

I am particularly excited to begin my first full calendar and liturgical year as your Rector and spiritual leader. My first 8 months have been amazing as we share stories and learn about one another. You have patiently welcomed me and my dog(s) and my occasionally insane ideas to share God's Word in the world. We have had fun times as we enjoy Yoga Eucharist (which we hope to continue in 2016); Pardoning the Turkey; County Fair Cheering Squad; Brene & the Bible; Blessing the Pets; Grand Foster Pet Program with 4-paws; Tuesday Crafts; Meals on Wheels, and so much more. In case you think things will quiet down in the new year—forget it!!

Jesus calls us to be pretty radical in the world: stopping to help the Samaritan on the side of the road; hanging out with tax collectors and (eek) lawyers and women of ill repute; turning water into wine (but only if your Mother asks);

showing love to your neighbor; and the one we all struggle with—forgive... not just once, but pretty much always!!!

So I promise, we will not stop trying to be like Christ around here. And of course we will continue to fall short and try again and again. That is the great mystery we are all called to embrace—the mystery of grace and forgiveness. We are given this perfect gift of love from God and we are expected to pass it forward to one another. Let's try to do something everyday to show love to one another—and some days that means just extending a hand to help, or offering a kind word of encouragement to a discouraged friend or neighbor, or even giving a gentle smile to the harried mother at the grocery. We can be the hands of Christ in the world when we take the time to consider: what might Christ do in each situation we encounter?

I love each of you and I pray 2016 will bring amazing things to our own community of prayer warriors.

Love and Peace,

*Rev. Wendy*

## Brownie Barks

Dear Friends:

I have a question for you...it has to do with obedience. Dogs are supposed to be *so* obedient and we even go to classes called "Obedience Class" so we can become even *more* obedient. Now most of you know me by now. I am generally pretty obedient. When the Rev wants me to come with her or get in the car or come to the office, I am usually pretty obedient, (I might have to

smell a couple more shrubs on the way to church, but I am just checking to see who has been visiting.)

So here's the deal. I got into that tangle with the bobcat last month and I had to keep those bandages on my leg for *weeks!* The Rev picked me up and put me into a big sink and washed my leg and re-bandaged it for *weeks!* It was weeks. Get it? Even so, I left the bandages alone and did not chew them at all! Oh! She did try to make me wear the "cone of shame." Well, I wouldn't even stand up with that ridiculous get-up on. I mean, I was going to be obedient and wear it... I just wasn't going to move. See, like I said. Obedient to the core. Well, most of the time. For you see, my injury was nearly healed, and they kept putting the bandage on, and I knew fresh air was best at this point... so I *finally* gave in and chewed it off.

I was disobedient and I feel badly about that. There were chewed-up bandages everywhere. And I really don't like being disobedient; I feel guilty. Found myself wondering what Christ teaches about obedience and guilt. It's amazing how Jesus teaches us about almost any subject with which we might need help.

First, Jesus models the behavior in Luke 2:51 when he slipped away from his parents and then was obedient to them. In John 14:23 again, it's pretty clear. Jesus says, "Those who love me will keep my word...." We need to be obedient and I suppose I was not obedient to the Rev.

And then the guilt—well, we will all have guilt from time to time. Because we all make mistakes. The beauty of our Savior is His teaching on forgiveness. Jesus was and remains a ministry of forgiveness. As we begin our new year together, let's consider

forgiveness as we start everything freshly and with love.

I will try to be obedient. And when I fail, I will be forgiven and can begin again—which means I shall also forgive others and do my best to remain obedient.

God loves you and all His creatures, including me. Blessed Christmas Friends,



# Confirmation Class 2015:

Confirmation Date, **Sunday January 3, 2016 at 10:00 AM**; please add this important date to your calendar now.

Bishop Dena Harrison will be confirming this class. All those getting confirmed will meet with her before the Confirmation to let her get to know you.

Alexander Rodriguez III,  
Allyson Rodriguez,  
Madison Rodriguez,  
& Melissa Rodriguez

will be confirmed on the first  
Sunday of January.



## Announcements

- ❖ If you did not get a newsletter in 2015 through mail, please let Cathy know. Also, all newsletter submissions need to be turned in on the 15th of each month to Aubrey.
- ❖ Sunday pew bulletins and inserts can be taken home with you. If you miss a Sunday and would like that pew bulletin please let Cathy know and we will be sure to get it to you.
- ❖ **CONFIRMATION!!** January 3<sup>rd</sup>! There will also be a reception afterwards.
- ❖ January 3<sup>rd</sup>: the undesignated offering is for the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. All checks should be made to the Episcopal Diocese, noting: Bishop Harrison's Discretionary Fund.
- ❖ As Bishop Harrison will be in town, she will be:
  - Meeting with confirmands before the service
  - Meeting with the Vestry for reports on goals, challenges, and accomplishments
  - Viewing the Parish Registers and Safeguarding God's Children files.
- ❖ January 15-17 will be the first Discovery Retreat. Rev. Wendy worked on the working group of 3 who developed a new

Discernment Process for the Diocese of Texas. (See article attached) and the first Discovery Retreat will be held at Camp Allen January 15-17. This is the first step to assist in discerning a call to ministry including lay ministry, and ordained ministry.

- ❖ January 22-24 will be the weekend Rev Wendy's son Robert turns 21 (Lord willing) and the family is gathering in Austin to celebrate this milestone. Please pray for the joyous gathering as the youngest of the cousins of four turns 21.

[www.stbarthempstead.org](http://www.stbarthempstead.org)

[www.facebook.com/pages/St-Bartholomew-Episcopal-Church-Hempstead-TX/1637244059838215](https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Bartholomew-Episcopal-Church-Hempstead-TX/1637244059838215)

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If you have any suggestions or ideas that you would like to be in the newsletter, email Aubrey.

# Lay Ministry

Lay Ministry is subject to change.

## *Sunday 1/3*

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Gerald Ladig
Lesson Lector	Helen Panetti
Prayer Lector	Susan Ashley-Lafitte
Acolyte	Skye Youngblood
Ushers	Charles Menke, Darrell Lafitte

## *Sunday 1/10*

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Bobby Drew
Lesson Lector	Lee French
Prayer Lector	Nancy Wilson
Ushers	Gerald Ladig, Tom Scholl
Acolyte	Aubrey French

## *Sunday 1/17*

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Gerald Ladig
Lesson Lector	Nancy Wilson
Acolyte	Aubrey French
Prayer Lector	Helen Panetti
Ushers	Charles Menke, Tom Scholl

## *Sunday 1/24*

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Charles Menke
Lesson Lector	Susan Ashley-Lafitte
Prayer Lector	Nancy Wilson
Ushers	Volunteers
Acolyte	Volunteer

## *Sunday 1/31*

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Gerald Ladig
Lesson Lector	Helen Panetti
Prayer Lector	Susan Ashley-Lafitte
Acolyte	Skye Youngblood
Ushers	Charles Menke, Darrell Lafitte

\*\*We will also have new slots for different roles such as:

- Poetry Reading Ministry
- Movie Night Ministry
- County Fair Cheering Ministry
- Bible Study Ministry
- Pet Ministry
- Craft Ministry
- Yoga Prayer and Eucharist Ministry
- Grand Foster Pet Ministry
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Lay Readers
- Sunday School Teachers

# January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 -Service-10:00 Confirmation! And Bishop Harrison is here	4 <u>Birthday!</u> Corbin Vines	5 <u>Birthday!</u> Alyne Morgan	6	7 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	8	9
10 -Service- 10:00	11	12 <u>Birthday!</u> Lee French	13	14 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	15 Discovery Retreat	16 Discovery Retreat
17 -Service- 10:00 <u>Birthday!</u> Anita Gamble Discovery Retreat	18	19	20	21 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00 <u>Birthday!</u> Claire Vines	22	23
24 -Service- 10:00	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

# Changes in Ordination Process Announced

To sustain the Diocese of Texas' focus on mission, a task force of the Commission on Ministry has designed processes to support mission efforts across the Diocese. Two new features now mark diocesan discernment work: Discovery Retreats and Regional Discernment Committees.

The first Discovery Retreat will be offered January 15-17, 2016. It will begin at 3:00 pm on Friday and conclude by noon on Sunday and will include worship, education about discernment, self-reflections and the opportunity to learn about various forms of ministry and mission across the Diocese. The retreat is limited to the first 30 applicants. Registration will be available on the Camp Allen website after November 1, 2015.

After January 1, 2016, anyone applying for consideration to ordained ministry will be required to participate in a Discovery Retreat. Following the completion of the Discovery Retreat, participants may request, through the head of their congregation, further discernment with a Regional Discernment Committee. In 2016, Regional Discernment Committees will replace Local Discernment Committees in the canonical process.

The Regional Discernment Committee will provide a report to the head of the congregation and the vestry for further discernment. The application process to be considered for ordained ministry remains the same.

All baptized Christians are called to take their places in the continuing ministry of Jesus in the world. Ministry takes as many forms as there are people and needs in the world. The Diocese empowers the full range of ministries of the baptized for both lay and ordained.

For those for whom lay ministry is the call, various resources are available for follow-up formation. To support this, the IONA School of Ministry is expanding its curriculum to provide support and training for lay ministries. More details will be made available as this work progresses.

Questions about the Discovery Retreat should be directed to the Rev. Wendy Huber at [revwend@gmail.com](mailto:revwend@gmail.com).

Questions about the Regional Discernment Committees should be directed to The Rev. Victoria Mason at [vmason@austin.rr.com](mailto:vmason@austin.rr.com) or the Rev. Francene Young at [rev.f.young@gmail.com](mailto:rev.f.young@gmail.com).





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