

2015 July

Saint Bartholomew's News

Words from Reverend Wendy

Dearest Ones:

What a year we are having in the rain department! I know many of us vowed if God would just bring us rains after the years of drought, we would never complain about the rains again. It is wonderful to be this far into the summer and not have sprinklers running and burned up yards. As I write this note we are expecting yet another major storm to come out of the Gulf Coast. We are blessed with all this rain and will give thanks for the abundance.



We are so excited for all the abundance at St. Bartholomew's, too! We have wonderful leadership in our Vestry as they shouldered the transition from rector to rector. It is hard discerning what is best for a parish family and when the spiritual leader changes it makes it difficult for many to adjust. As Christians we know change will come and we are to maintain our faith. It is still hard. The Vestry has been faithful in keeping the church financially healthy and the physical plant maintained. We have some additional building maintenance to undertake in the next few months

and our able Vestry will guide us as we tend our building.

Our new Church Administrator, Cathy, is working on our Church Directory and hopefully you have updated your contact information so we can let you know all the fun things we are up to at St. Bartholomew's. Please, make sure your information is up to date so we send things to the correct address.

It is time, though, for each of us to begin to think about the ministries in our own community we might undertake. We have been an institution in the community for more than 150 years and, Lord willing, another 150 years—what do we need to do to prepare for the next 150 years? We are doing some preparing by keeping the building in good repair and our playground maintained across the street. What else can we do to help our community? Are there families in need we might assist? Are there single parent families who might like a break from their parenting roles from time to time? Is there a community health need we should consider? Are there fun activities we might offer the community on our wonderful side lawn? (Movies on the Lawn; Dog Parties; Lawn Bowling; family fun days; etc.)

Church is all about being in the community, and part of being in community is looking around and serving those who need help. I wonder if we have looked in our own backyard, literally, to invite

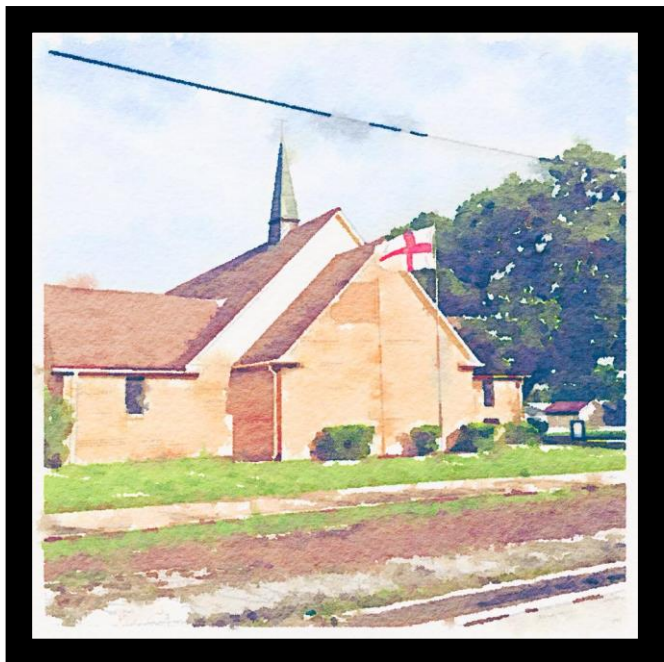
our neighbors to church. Have you invited someone to be part of your church community? July is hot and at the current rate, wet. It's generally cool inside our walls so consider inviting someone to join you at your cool community church!

As you visit relatives and see friends when you go on vacation—send us a postcard so we can put it on the Bulletin Board. If you visit other churches (which you should on Sundays) see if there is something they are doing you can import back to St. Bartholomew's. I like to visit other churches and sometimes get great ideas to bring back to my home church.

July is a great month of celebrating our nation's independence and the deep heart of summer. Don't forget to include worship in your plans, too. I love seeing each of you and your hospitality to me has been amazing. Thank you and know what joy each of you bring me when your faces are in the pews and your texts and emails and phone calls greet me. This is a vibrant community and I want to shout it from the mountaintops--- Come to St. Bartholomew's--- a loving and caring church community.

Peace & Love,

Rev'd Wendy



Barks from Brother Brownie

Dear Friends:

Most of you know me by now. I am a rare breed: A Bellville Hook-Tailed Hound. I love coming to church and seeing all of you but I have a confession. I think I am getting old. I guess I am about 9 years old, which I am told in "dog years" means I am about 63 years old. Some days realize I am getting older because while I can usually catch cats, I can't catch up with rabbits anymore. I also find I am a little sore when I run and run and run. And recently, I realize all I really want to do is sleep most of the time.

So recently when all the kids came to see me in the office after church I was really happy to see them but I really didn't want to stop my nap. I wanted to keep sleeping for a while and darned if those kids didn't want me to get up and play with them. I mean I am a pretty dignified dog in the first place and while I love to hang out with the kids, playing is not something I like to do much. So I have been thinking about how to tell people that I just want to sleep some days without hurting their feelings.

I know Jesus must have said something about all this. And really as I am aging I realize how important experience can be as a teacher. We all know how experience has taught us, and I am no different. I have learned that tangling with possums and raccoons can be pretty dangerous if you don't get them by the back of the neck before they get you. I think about pain and suffering and realize those difficult experiences teach us endurance and empathy. If we had never experienced suffering ourselves it is hard to show empathy to those who are suffering.

I really love that short little book in the New Testament: The Letter of James. There is such good stuff there. James tells us to "consider it pure joy... whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything (James 1:2-4) I suppose I need to work on this patience business, and maybe even consider a few patience exercises.

I read an old book, (please don't tell her I can read, as it's embarrassing,) called *Strength of Will and How to Develop It*. The author E. Boyd Barrett reminded me that in the "old days" Christians used to do exercises to build patience. This is a book from the 1930's so some make me laugh. Here are a couple for you:

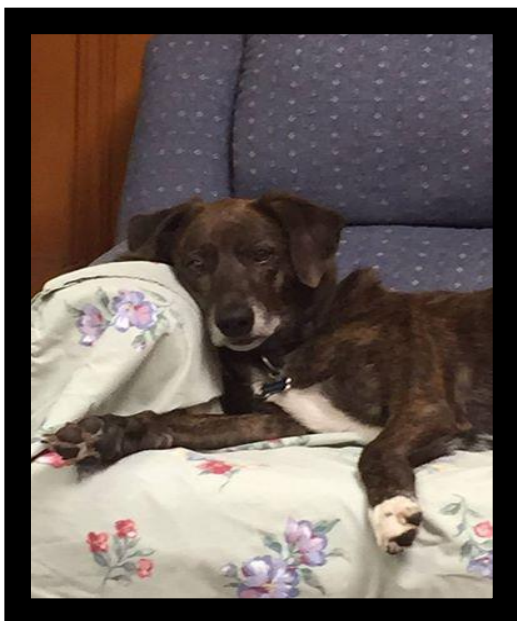
Scatter 50 coins on the floor. Quietly and slowly pick them up and place them in a pile. Do this once a day for several days and increase number of coins as you go.

Beginning with the number one count out loud slowly and distinctly for 10 minutes.

Now, I know what you are thinking—how silly. I agree since I have no thumbs but the point was to teach a discipline and in this case patience. I do see some value in seeing the little things and realize every day we have to practice patience just as I will with those dear children to come looking for me after church.

I will remember that patience virtue even if some days I just feel like an old dog and want to be left alone to my nap.

Blessings and Barks,



Announcements

- ❖ Acolyte Training Classes Forming: Please consider becoming an acolyte and assist during the service. If you are 9-13 years old and would like to participate, please contact Susan Ashley-LaFitte (713-344-3983) for scheduling.
- ❖ Confirmation Classes Forming: We have 4 persons currently preparing for confirmation at St. Bartholomew's. If you are interested in this 5 session class on Scripture; Church History; Being Episcopalian; and Spirituality contact Rev. Wendy at revwend@gmail.com for scheduling.
- ❖ Prayer Requests: We will be adding our prayer lists back to the newsletter and the pew bulletin so please give those names to Cathy in the office. Check the weekly Pew Bulletin for her hours and days.
- ❖ We need the following to assist in our worship services:
 - Food Hosts: Please sign up on the bulletin board to turn on the coffee pot, bring a little snack and help tidy up a few Sundays a year.
 - Flower Sponsors: Please sign up on the bulletin board to sponsor a few Sundays—a special birthday, anniversary or even a memorial or JUST because. We love flowers on the altar. (If you would like to make a special donation for flowers, just note that on your check.)
 - Lay Eucharistic Visitors & Ministers: Taking communion to shut-ins and those hospitalized and/or "chaliceing" (giving the wine) during communion.
 - Readers and Intercessors: Reading scripture lessons, psalms and prayers during the service.

URGENT PRAYER REQUEST:

The Rodriguez family's house burned down and they believe it to be a total loss. Everyone including their pets are safe. Below is a list of needs for their family which can be brought to the church Sunday from 8 am to 2 pm or Tuesday from 9 am to 4 pm. If those times do not work for you please let us know and we will arrange another time. The following is needed:

Jayden, boys 5/6 or 6/7 shoes 12 1/2

Kenzie, girls 7/8 shoes 13 or 1

Abbey, girls same as Kenzie

Maddy, Women juniors' size 3/5 or 5. Shoes 9

Ally, Women's large and shoes 9

Anything and everything is appreciated!



Lay Ministry

Sunday 7/5

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Bobby Drew
Lesson Lector	Helen Panetti
Prayer Lector	Susan LaFitte
Ushers	Darrel LaFitte, Gerald Ladig

Sunday 7/12

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Charlie Menke
Lesson Lector	Nancy Wilson
Prayer Lector	Open
Ushers	Tom Scholl, John Allen

Sunday 7/19

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Gerald Ladig
Lesson Lector	Helen Panetti
Prayer Lector	Susan LaFitte
Ushers	Carl Nettles, Tom Scholl

Sunday 7/26

Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Bobby Drew
Lesson Lector	Helen Panetti
Prayer Lector	Susan LaFitte
Ushers	Darrel LaFitte, Gerald Ladig

Camp Allen!

We are in full swing starting our second week of Summer Camp. Although, we are full for most sessions, there are still some openings for boys in Sr. High Session D, Primary Boys in Session J, and Horsemanship Boys in session Y. You can check availability at: www.campallen.org or call Suzi Bailey to be added to a waiting list for any full session.

We have our annual Summer Camp for Moms coming up July 17-19, 2015 for those mamas looking for a fun weekend away!

Now is the time to book for our Labor Day Family Camp on Sept. 4-6, 2015. This is a wonderful way to end the summer and kick-off the school year for your family. This year will feature a western hoe-down and family fun for all ages.

If you have any questions or if you would like additional information on any of the above events, please let me know,

-Toni Christopher

A poster for Camp Allen Summer Camp 2015. The top half features a photo of a person sliding down a yellow and blue slide. The bottom half contains the camp schedule and registration information.

**CHUTE ON DOWN TO
CAMP ALLEN
SUMMER CAMP 2015**

2015 CAMP SCHEDULE
Session age based on grade as of Fall '13

PRIMARIES (grades 1-4)
June 7-13, June 21-27, July 5-11,
July 12-18, July 19-25, Aug. 2-8

MIDDLE (grades 5-6)
June 7-13, June 14-20, June 21-27,
July 5-11, July 12-18, July 19-25,
July 26- Aug. 1, Aug. 2-8

JR. HIGH (grades 7-8)
June 7-13, June 14-20, June 21-27,
July 5-11, July 12-18, July 19-25,
July 26- Aug. 1, Aug. 2-8

SR. HIGH (grades 9-12)
June 14-20, July 26- Aug. 1

HORSEMANSHIP (grades 7-12)
Aug. 9-13

Tuition for all sessions: \$576
Camper registration opens
11.01.14 at campallen.org

www.stbartshempstead.org

www.facebook.com/pages/St-Bartholomew-Episcopal-Church-Hempstead-TX/1637244059838215

979-826-2525

St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
811 14th Street
Hempstead, Texas 77445

At the corner of Austin and 14th

Rev'd Wendy:
revwend@gmail.com

Cathy Nettles (Sec.):
cathybec@gmail.com

Aubrey (Editor):
frenchaubrey7@gmail.com

(PO BOX)

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



Summer Camp for MOMS

July 17-19, 2015

Join moms of all ages at **Camp Allen** for a weekend of relaxation, adventure and retro-style fun! Packages include hotel lodging, delicious meals, and activities every mom will enjoy!

Weekend Activities: cooking class, lakefront inflatables & the "chute", giant swing, skeet shooting, horseback riding, ropes course with zip line, canoeing & paddle boarding, archery, crafts, scrapbooking, yoga, decadent dessert social, chick flick movie night, massages, jewelry making, photography, women's speaker, painting, hiking & fishing, and more!

To register, call 936-825-7175 or visit campallen.org

 Camp Allen



LABOR DAY FAMILY CAMP

SEPTEMBER 4-6, 2015

Kick off the school year with a fun-filled family weekend in the piney woods of Camp Allen! Our all-inclusive packages include two nights hotel lodging, buffet meals, and tons of fun for the whole family! The weekend is topped off with a Western Hoe Down featuring a BBQ, line dancing, rope tricks, and more!

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES: rock climbing, giant swing, canoeing, paddle boards, adventure summit with zip line, swimming, discovery dome theatre, giant water slide, live bird classes, live reptile classes, guided hikes, fishing lessons, hayrides, archery, themed crafts, jumping pillow, horseback riding, skeet shooting, and family movie night.

REGISTER:
campallen.org
936.825.7175
weekend@campallen.org

 Camp Allen

July Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 -Birthday- Alanna Nettles	2 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	3	4
5 -Service- 10:00	6	7 -Birthday- Joshua Kuna -Crafts- 10:00-3:00	8 -Birthdays- Emorence Kennedy & San Juanita Rodriguez	9 -Birthdays- Bella Hillman & Melissa Holiday	10	11 -Birthdays- Aubrey French & Kendall Vines
12 -Service- 10:00 -Vestry Meeting -Birthday- Sarah Hillman	13 -Birthday- Peter Burland	14 -Crafts- 10:00-3:00	15 -Birthdays- Clayton Kiesling & Larry Dennis	16 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	17	18
19 -Service- 10:00	20 -Birthday- J.R. Vines	21 -Crafts- 10:00-3:00	22	23 -Birthday- Matthew Mackie	24 -Birthdays- Woody Kramer & Mason Wellmann	25 -Birthday- Gerald Ladig
26 -Service- 10:00	27	28 -Crafts- 10:00-3:00	29	30	31	

A photograph of a church roof with a steeple against a blue sky. The roof is covered in reddish-brown shingles. The steeple is a dark, pointed structure with a cross on top. The sky is a clear, light blue.

See you on Sunday at 10:00 am!

St. Bartholomew Episcopal Church
811 14th Street
Hempstead, Texas 77445