

2015 June

Saint Bartholomew's News

Words from Reverend Wendy

Dear St. Bartholomew's
friends and members:

I am writing as your new
Rector for a full two months
now—what an action packed
time we have had together!

From my first Sunday at the beginning of Holy week to the huge funeral the very same day to enjoying our first Easter together to finding a new church administrator and newsletter editor to meetings galore—we have been busy. A dear friend once advised me that when you go to a new church (or really any new position), it's a good idea to learn about your new place for a while rather than bumble around changing things. He described it: "Dust for the first year, no need for any heavy cleaning."

I think that advice is wise and I am trying to keep from making too many changes. I know historically this has been an "Anglo-Catholic" church with all the beautiful liturgical touches like Sanctus bells and incense and lots of genuflecting and chanting. I grew up a lower church Episcopalian with crockery chalices and sometimes even "real" bread at the Eucharist. What is exciting to me is we will each teach the other about our experiences and what they mean to us! I promise to learn to chant, if you promise not to laugh out loud when I go up instead of down with my voice. And some days if I bring a loaf of bread and we use the pottery Eucharist set please be patient with me.



Christ teaches us to be in community and I am confident the Holy Spirit has brought each of us together to learn and teach and share our lives for a while. We are God's creatures and God makes not mistakes. (I would like to discuss fire ants and poison ivy and their role in the world.)

One of the ways I have fallen in love with this community is being a part of (and a recipient of) the hospitality you each offer. So many examples of your hospitality and kindness: The bulletin board in the front of the Parish Hall with my introductions and welcome and the meals and kindness offered to me and my guests when at the church. The clearing of the playground of debris after a huge branch was blown into the play area.

I hope you will enjoy our times together and join us for worship and fellowship and study as we move forward together. So as we move along in the community let's seek out ways we can be Christ-like in our treatment of others. A kind word or gesture may just make the difference to someone when you least expect it.

If you have an idea for any area of the church, please let us (your Vestry or Rector) know and we will look into implementing your ideas.

With the love of Christ & Joy to be with YOU,

Rev'd Wendy

Barks from Brother Brownie

Dear Friends:

I am having so much fun at the new church. I have been outside a little bit and you have so much grass to inspect. I enjoy seeing who has been by the church and unlike you humans, I can tell if someone has been around the church just using my nose. Dogs are pretty lucky that way—A dog interprets the world predominantly by smell, whereas a human interprets it by sight. While a dog's brain is only one-tenth the size of a human brain (well, other dogs), the part that controls smell is 40 times larger than in humans. A dog's sense of smell is about 1,000 to 10,000,000 times more sensitive than a human's (depending on the breed). A human has about 5 million scent glands, compared to a dog, who has anywhere from 125 million to 300 million (depending on the breed). When dogs smell something they are not just registering a smell, we get an entire story.

We can smell pheromone, which is not only found in the urine and fecal, but on the skin and fur. From this we can tell a lot about another dog or human including if they are male or female, what they ate, where they have been, what they have touched, if they are ready to mate, if they have recently given birth, or had a false pregnancy, and what mood they are in. Some dogs have even been known to smell cancer on people, alerting them to it and saving their lives. While a human will smell something like spaghetti sauce as one smell, a dog smells each individual ingredient. Unlike humans, dogs can move their nostrils independently; allowing us to know what direction a smell is coming from.

Imagine if you had the power of smell I have. I am told human memories can be evoked from smells. For instance, baking cookies may remind you of your grandparents or a happy memory from your childhood. Or unpleasant smells might remind you of difficult times. So this month I would like you to think a little bit about the gifts you have.

I know we have retired people who were teachers and business executives and business owners and all sorts of experiences. Each of those experiences help you to discern what your gifts might be to serve God. I like to think I am sniffing for Christ. So next time you see me out there sniffing around think about what you are really good at—your gifts... How are you using those gifts to glorify God?

See you around and I am so happy to see each of you whenever SHE lets me come with her.

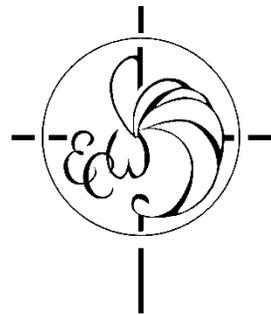
Love and licks—



Announcements

- ❖ Pardon-the-Turkey Year—there will be no Annual Turkey Dinner this year. Instead we will have a “Pardon the Turkey” celebration. We need ideas for a location and timing.
- ❖ Acolyte Training—we are currently scheduling Acolyte training for children between 8-13 years old. Let us know if you are interested.
- ❖ Confirmation Class—if you wish to be confirmed, we want to make that happen. Let us know because we are forming a class soon.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)



All Episcopal Church Women are invited to the final meeting of the year. This meeting on Monday, June 15, will be at the home of Nancy Wilson. Her address is 1625 15th Street. We will gather from 6 – 8 pm. A salad bar dinner will be shared. If you are willing or able to contribute to the salad bar, please let Nancy know what you will bring. The next ECW meeting will be in September.

Rev. Wendy will introduce us to *The Gifts of Imperfection*, a book by Brené Brown. This book discusses courage, compassion, and connection in our roles as Christian women. We ask that each participant bring a children's book to donate to the Women's Storybook Project. We will share a copy of the book, *The Gifts of Imperfection*, with you. In the fall we will talk about continuing our discussions we start in June.

As summer approaches and schedules relax, we as women of the church can recharge too. If members of the group wish to begin a small group discussion before the Fall we can consider that as well. We hope you will join us and even bring a friend.

Please contact Nancy (832-298-7061) or Rev'd Wendy (713-291-7195), or leave a message at the church office (979-826-2525) to let us know if you will be able to join.



Lay Ministry

Sunday 6/7

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

Sunday 6/14

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

Sunday 6/21

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

Sunday 6/28

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

Why are the Doors on Some Episcopal Churches Red?

First, I had never noticed that some church doors were painted red, and I certainly would have never tied that tradition back to the Episcopal church. But when Rev'd Wendy posted an article on her blog (www.revwend.wordpress.com), about red church doors, I was intrigued.

A simple Internet search for "red church doors" brings back hundreds of links and images, many of which are of Episcopal and Anglican churches. And the explanations as to why the doors are red vary. Here a few of the more interesting I found (many from www.churchmousec.wordpress.com).

–It’s just a tradition, like wearing academic gowns. Since there’s no authoritative source about what they symbolize and why, the fun is in finding your own meaning. –Louie Crew

–The only answer I ever got was that this is the color associated with the Holy Spirit.’ – Cipher Deavours

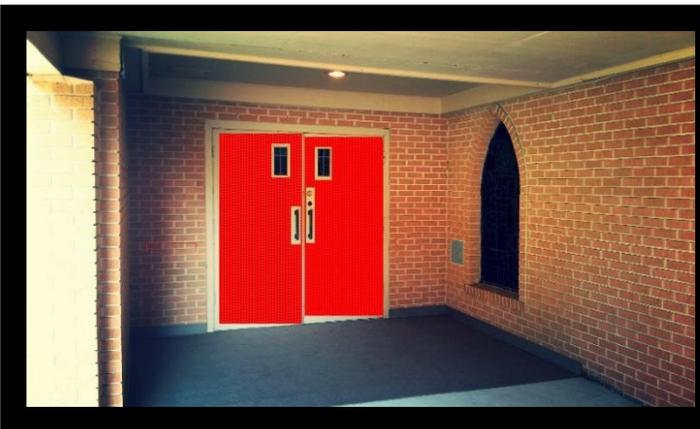
– The red door tradition originated during the Middle Ages in England when it was a sign of sanctuary. In those days, if one who was being pursued by the local populace, shire reeve (sheriff), or gentry could reach the church door he/she would be safe. – Ron McGee

– Anybody read about Passover lately? You remember how the children of Israel were to mark “the lintel of the door” with blood, as a sign for the Angel of Death to pass over? Before modern chemistry and the variety of paint formula, red paint was made with a combination of buttermilk and animal blood. It’s a pretty short step from there to red doors, if you are deeply steeped in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, and know about marking the lintel of the door with blood to signify that you are among the saved. – The Rev’d Linda Strohmeier.

No matter the original reasons for painting church doors red, the color itself has power. Red is the color of fire and blood. It is associated with energy, war, danger, strength, power, and determination. It is also the color of passion, desire, and love, and is an emotionally intense color.

On Sunday, May 24, parishioners gathered together after services and marked the beginning of Pentecost by painting the doors at Saint Bartholomew’s church red. Join us on Facebook and let us know what you think!

–Lee French, Guest Contributor



CONTACT US!

www.stbartshempstead.org

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

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A warm welcome to our
new church secretary,
Cathy Nettles!



June Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| | 1 | 2 Crafts 10:00-3:00 | 3 | 4 Meals on Wheels 10:00 B-Day! John Nettles | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Second Pentecost 10:00 | 8 | 9 Crafts 10:00-3:00 | 10 B-Day! Katie Tompkins | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Third Pentecost 10:00 | 15 ECW Meeting (Nancy Wilson's) | 16 Crafts 10:00-3:00 | 17 | 18 Meals on Wheels 10:00 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Fourth Pentecost 10:00 Vestry Meeting | 22 | 23 Crafts 10:00-3:00 | 24 | 25 | 26 B-Day! Janice Jeffries | 27 B-Day! Elisabeth Merrill- Earl |
| 28 Fifth Pentecost 10:00 | 29 | 30 Crafts 10:00-3:00 | 31 | | | |

See you on Sunday at 10:00 am!



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