

Saint Bartholomew's News

2015 November

Words from Reverend Wendy

Dearest Ones:

Where did October go? We were just beginning the month and I looked up and it was nearly gone. What fun we have been having in October as we continue to pray for rain. The month started with an entire St. Bart's Delegation attending the Waller County Fair together to serve as the cheering section for our own Newsletter Editor/ Senior Acolyte, Aubrey French. AND to our great excitement, Aubrey won Grand Champion Turkey, and yours truly picked up a turkey (upside down and very heavy). What a wonderful day we had together.



We went nearly immediately to a day in which we blessed many pets in a

community celebration and pardoned the turkey to commemorate the decision not to hold the community-wide turkey dinner for which many know St. Bart's. I went off to Reno to make a presentation on peacemaking and the role of the church and decided that may have been the worst place I have ever visited. (Sorry my dear ones who live or love the place.) While I was gone our NEXT Grand Champion artist, Skye Youngblood won at the Austin County fair for her artwork. We have amazing kids!!

We started our Yoga Eucharist with good attendance, and even though many of us cannot even stretch in the ways we were asked to stretch, it was a wonderful way to think more meditatively about our own spiritual lives. We slowly considered scripture lessons and then took communion from our mats while stretching.

Spiritual life is about stretching—we must stretch our minds and our hearts to make room for more love of others and work in our community. It is that time of year we are each asked to “pledge” a

financial contribution to the church and so we are always spending time talking about sharing our gifts. Of course it costs us more to keep this big building air-conditioned when we have staff here and events happening here and so our monthly expenses increase. It's a good thing to open our doors to our community—why have this big beautiful building if we are not going to use it to the Glory of God?

As you consider your pledge (which is useful as we put together an Annual Budget for 2016), please consider what your God-given talents might be. Are you a carpenter? We sure need help repairing our fascia boards and replacing the gutters. Are you a leader? We need Vestry leaders to serve those spots coming open in 2016. Are you a teacher or a musician? We need substitute Sunday School teachers and Organists? Would you be interested in writing a few short Lenten devotionals so we could create our own Lenten Devotional Book for 2016?

Have you got a friend who never goes to church? This Sunday, stop by and bring them along. We can do so much just by asking and being present in the lives of one another. Let's give thanks this Thanksgiving for the love we share and the amazing fellowship right here at St. Bartholomew's.

I give thanks for each of you. Your encouraging and smiling faces are such a joy to see each Sunday morning—I remain deeply in love with this amazing parish!!

Blessings,

-RevWend

Barks from Brother Brownie

Dear Friends:

This is my first November with you. I better tell you a little thing about me. I LOVE TURKEY. So here is how the problem started. It was late in the day on Thanksgiving a few years ago and everyone was full of food and adult beverages and had gone outside to digest for a while in the sunny day. I have a dog door, so it was up to me whether to go with them or to remain inside. I had been smelling the turkey in the oven all day cooking and I was really looking forward to a taste. And while everyone else ate, I did not get a taste. So I was just a little miffed.

I could see up on the kitchen island there was what appeared to be the remains of the turkey. I think most of you recognize I am a pretty agile dog. So I don't remember what happened next, but all I know is that I was suddenly standing there with this amazing smelling carcass in my jaws. And the taste... Oh brother, it makes my mouth water even now just thinking back. If there's one thing I believe it's that if you're going to do something, you darn sure need to do it right, do it big, do it like you mean it. So I headed for the doggie door, that delicious, beautiful leftover bird clamped tight in my teeth. It was dusk, so I quietly trotted out to one of the trees in the yard where it was even darker. I settled in to gnaw a little on the remaining meat on the bone and was having a great time enjoying the setting sun. I mean, could the day get any better? And suddenly all those crazy people starting hollering and running toward me. So I grabbed my turkey and dashed into the yard. I could not get away

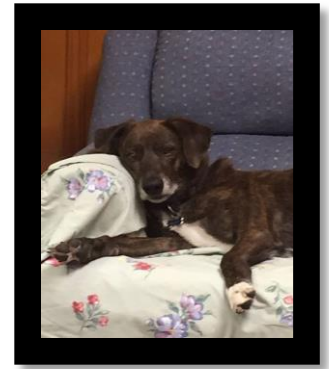
from the people, so I decided the gig was up, dropped the body, and I split. They took away my turkey and have never left much food unattended near me since then. So that started my reputation as a Turkey Lover. (I also had a little bit of trouble with some Guinea Fowl—I killed some... maybe 8 or 9 or maybe 12. But hey, who's counting, right?) So I guess I have a slight problem with fowl.

I was not invited to attend the Waller County Fair, but let me tell you—I smelled lots of fowl on the priest—she had been with turkeys!! Can you imagine what might have happened if I had gone to the fair? Whew—that might have been too much temptation, and then seeing all those fat chickens and turkeys—I might have turned into a killing machine. That might have been a bad thing for the priest's dog to eat all the fair animals.

Have you ever found yourselves in a situation in which you wish you were NOT? What about seeing something unfair in the world and whether you want to do something about it... or not? Christ did many things he did not want to—but he did them anyway for us. He went so far as to taste a horrible death so that followers may have eternal life.

This Thanksgiving, give thanks for your blessings. I give thanks for all of you and the wonderful reception I have received at St. Bart's. It's probably a good idea you did not have a Turkey Dinner this year—I might not have been allowed at the church. I am so glad God loves dogs, too. Even those with slight fowl problems.

Your friend,



Announcements

- ❖ Yoga Eucharist was such a success last month! We invite everyone to join us on Tuesdays.
- ❖ There will be a Church-Wide Bible Study about Advent on the 29th of November.
- ❖ The LAST Bible and Brene study will be on the 2nd of November

Pardon the Turkey

On a bright sunny Sunday, October 4th, Reverend Wendy pardoned the first Thanksgiving turkey in front of church.

For the first time in many years, St. Bartholomew's will not be hosting our annual Turkey Dinner Fundraiser. Pardoning the turkey is our gesture to inform our parishioners, and the Waller County community, that there will be no turkeys roasted at St. Bart's this year.



Lay Ministry

(This Lay Ministry is subject to change)

Sunday 11/1

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 11/8

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 11/15

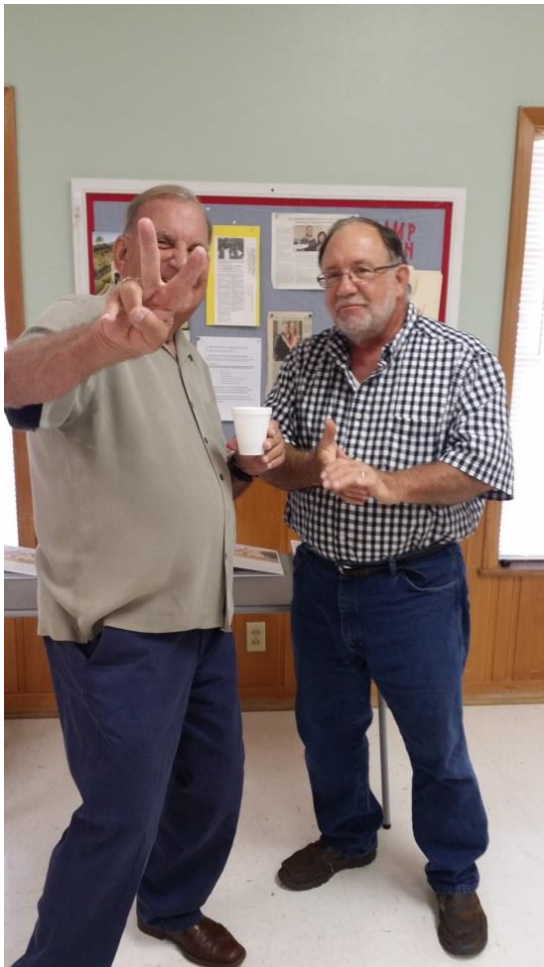
Altar Guild	Volunteer, Volunteer
Chalice Bearer	Tom Scholl
Lesson Lector	Helen Panetti
Acolyte	Sky Youngblood
Prayer Lector	Susan Ashley-LaFitte
Ushers	Bobby Drew, Darrell LaFitte

Sunday 11/22

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

Sunday 11/29

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



November Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 -Service- 10:00	2 -ECW- Bible & Brene	3 -Crafts- 10:00 -Yoga Eucharist- 5:00	4	5 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	6 Birthdays: Pam Sciba & Betty Vines	7 Birthday: Jodie Johnson
8 -Service-10:00	9	10 -Crafts- 10:00 -Yoga Eucharist- 5:00	11	12 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	13	14
15 -Service- 10:00 -Confirmation Class- Birthday: Robin Cooke	16	17 -Crafts- 10:00 -Yoga Eucharist- 5:00	18	19 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	20 Birthday: Reagan Coburn	21
22 -Service- 10:00	23	24 -Crafts- 10:00 -Yoga Eucharist- 5:00 Birthday: Kay Scholl	25	26 -Meals on Wheels- 10:00	27	28
29 -Service- 10:00 -Advent Church-Wide Bible Study- Birthdays: Justin Allen & Garrett Thompkins	30 Birthday: Sandy Nettles					

New Process to Identify Missionary Leaders

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.

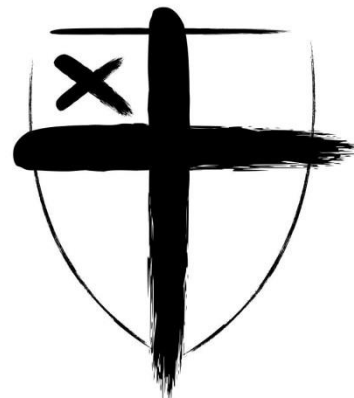
All baptized Christians are called to take their places in the continuing ministry of Jesus in the world. Ministry takes as many forms as there are people and needs in the world. The Diocese empowers the full range of ministries of the baptized for both lay and ordained.

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.

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

(<http://www.epicenter.org/article/new-process-to-help-identify-missionary-leaders/>)



Advent Bible Study Schedule, “A Thrill of Hope”:

-November 29: Advent I,

1. A Visit, Luke 1:26-38
2. The Nativity, Luke 2:1-7

-December 6: Advent II,

3. The Shepherds, Luke 2:8-20

-December 13: Advent III,

4. Epiphany, Matthew 2:1-12

-December 20: Advent IV,

5. Presentation in the Temple, Luke 2:21-40
6. Flight in Egypt, Matthew 2:13-15



Yoga Eucharist... Was a Success!!

Yoga was very much a success in October. Even though Charlie didn't make it, he was definitely there in spirit. We invite everyone and anyone to come to our stretching-sermons!!



See you on Sunday...



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