
ST. BART'S MONTHLY

March 2016



Words from Wendy

Dearest Ones,

This is that wonderful time of year where we move from the heavy Lenten season into the glorious celebration of Easter. We have had a great time looking at the idea of Restoration in our Lenten Bible study, and we have had a chance to look joyfully to our future as individuals and as a church. We have had such a wonderful year together. This marks my first anniversary as your rector, and it has been so fun. From my first Sunday when we held a huge funeral on Palm Sunday, to our fun at Yoga Eucharist, to the most fun

pancake supper ever (confession here—I don't think I have played Bingo since 5th grade), to amazing craft groups, to spending time sharing our lives together. St Bartholomew's is a healthy, vibrant, and (YES!) growing church with so much to offer.

I hope you will each embrace the church that is yours and keep all that makes it special in your heart. The "Jesus Movement," as Bishop Curry calls it, is alive and well in Hempstead, Texas. We are in the center of the fastest growing county in Texas, and we are ready to welcome new people to join our community—to stretch and paint and stitch and pray and study and share of ourselves and our lives. You need to do your part by inviting your neighbor to join you this Sunday. Really! Do it now—before you forget.

You know I have been cleaning like crazy lately, and it has been so painful for me. To pick up the eighteenth folder of Robert's art projects from 1st or 2nd or 5th or 8th grade... And I sit there and wonder how I could possibly throw away the adorable picture he drew of (yikes, it is unidentifiable) many things. We are learning to let go and by we—I mean me... Stephen is so good at doing away with things he doesn't need and at clearing the decks. I must rely on absolute faith to let go of the stuff.

I bet you have some stuff you need to let go of, too. Oh it may not be kid stuff, but it might be the snarky comments about "you know who," or the gossiping habit we can get into, or the complaining about the preacher's sermon (yes, even that)—it can be so hard to let go. God brings us together and knows exactly what we need in the future. We need to do a better job of trusting God to keep all of us more Christ-like in our interactions.

I hope you will join us for our holiest of weeks as we celebrate Easter together at the end of this month. I pray the blessings of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Love and Blessings,

-Rev' Wendy



Barks from Brownie

Hello Friends:

Has a year really gone by since I arrived at St. Bart's? I think it is true!! I have had so much fun getting to know each one of you. I love when Henry comes to see me on Sunday morning. And you know what? I don't even get up out of the chair to greet him because friends stay right where they are and greet one another. Henry knows. I can tell. And I love when the kids come get me after church to join you in the Parish Hall for begging time—or as the Rev calls it, fellowship time.

I have been thinking about how things change, yet stay the same. I am the same dog who came a year ago, but my muzzle is a little greyer and my muscles a little more tired when I run hard, and I sleep a little more. In Dog years, I will be 70 this year. I think I am wiser now, and I may be realizing how important friends are in our lives.

I am usually a loner dog and I tend to avoid “playing” with other dogs. I have preferred to trot through the woods on my own where I can think about things all alone. I guess as a Christian dog, I realize I am never ever completely alone. God is with me always. Just like He is with you. And even though I don't necessarily like to be with other dogs, I love thinking about God in my life.

Do you realize God made His Son Jesus so that we can be forgiven our wrongs? His own precious Son died on a cross. I learned that there are lots of people in our Parish who sometimes have a hard time. Some have even lost a child to death. It makes me realize just what an amazing group of people are here at St Bartholomew's. And through all that, they still love one another, and I think they even kind of love me.

I pray as only a dog can—that you remain as loving to others as you are to me. I pray you will care for one another as you have cared for me. I pray you each know how I appreciate your special friendship and love.

Blessed Easter to each of you,



-Brother Brownie

Lay Ministry:

Sunday, Mar 6	
Altar Guild	Volunteers
Chalice Bearer	Bobby Drew
Lesson Lector	Nancy Wilson
Prayer Lector	Helen Panetti
Acolyte	Skye Youngblood
Ushers	Charles Menke, Tom Scholl
Sunday, Mar 13	
Altar Guild	Volunteers
Chalice Bearer	Gerald Ladig
Lesson Lector	Lee French
Prayer Lector	Susan Ashley-Lafitte
Acolyte	Aubrey French
Ushers	Gerald Ladig, Bobby Drew
Sunday, Mar 20	
Altar Guild	Volunteers
Chalice Bearer	Tom Scholl
Lesson Lector	Susan Ashley-Lafitte
Prayer Lector	Helen Panetti
Acolyte	Skye Youngblood
Ushers	Lee French, Gerald Ladig
Sunday, Mar 27	
Altar Guild	Volunteers
Chalice Bearer	Charles Menke
Lesson Lector	Nancy Wilson
Prayer Lector	Susan Ashley-Lafitte
Acolyte	Aubrey French
Ushers	Volunteers

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Suggestions for the newsletter?

Email Aubrey!

March 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship at 10:00 am Birthday! Mills Menke	7	8 Crafts at 10:00 am	9	10 Meals on Wheels at 10:00 am	11 Birthday! Heather Devine	12
13 Worship at 10:00 am	14 Birthday! Kathleen Mackie	15 Crafts at 10:00 am	16	17 Meals on Wheels at 10:00 am St. Patrick's Day!!	18	19 Fathers' Day!!
20 Worship at 10:00 am Palm Sunday!!	21	22 Crafts at 10:00 am Birthday! Justine Kluna	23 Birthday!! Rev. Wendy Huber	24 Meals on Wheels at 10:00 am Maundy Thursday!! (6:00 pm)	25 Good Friday!! (6:00pm, 6:30 pm)	26
27 Worship at 10:00 am Easter!! Birthday! Christy Jenkins	28 Birthday! Jeremy Neuwirth	29 Crafts at 10:00 am Birthday! Reese Bayh	30	31 Meals on Wheels at 10:00 am		

Easter!

For Easter, we asked three members of our parish, all from different backgrounds and origins, about memories and feelings that they remember around Easter. As we all know, Easter is the day that we remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ that took place 3 days after his death. Mr. Darwin Bayh along with Ms. Bayh and Nancy Wilson have shared a few personal thoughts that can really define this holiday for our parish.

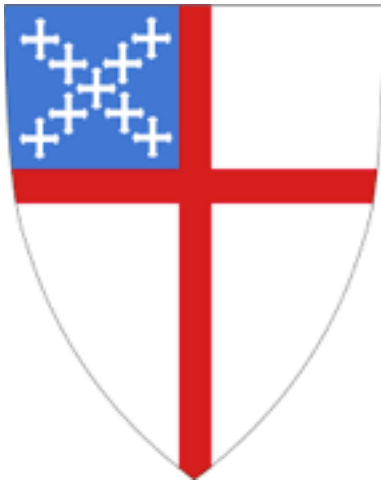
Mr. Bayh remembered those Easter mornings where he and the his family would spread out and pick flowers for the St. Bart tradition of the flower cross and watching his kids participate in the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn of the church.

Ms. Bayh remembered that, as a child, she would go with her family to the “sunrise service” at a local drive-in movie theater every Easter. As the pastor would preach from just in front of the movie screen, all of the church’s families would listen and sing hymns from their cars.

Ms. Nancy Wilson shared a memory of a tradition where she and her brothers would take a picture with their best Sunday attire every Easter. Also, right around that time, her family would get nice, new clothes and shoes for the occasion. This special tradition of new clothes is carried on as she still gets a new—usually polka dotted—dress for the springtime.

All of these traditions link to the meanings of Easter through celebration. Mr. Bayh noted that Easter is a time of year when everything negative can be reborn and replaced by the good of life, that everything in the past is in the past, and that this time is a great time to start anew. This can be linked to Ms. Nancy, who at a time of need was comforted by love and warmth to get her through rough times and into a time of bliss and peace. She even says now that she feels the same love and security. Ms Bayh’s “sunrise services” mean much more than a new day. They are the PREMIER of a new day.

So, this Easter, if you find yourself in a situation that couldn’t get much worse, just feel the warmth and security that the Lord provides you, and the chance to improve your situation.





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