

St. Bartholomew's Newsings

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 906, High Springs, FL 32655

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-----Vicar's Message-----

Grace, peace, and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with each of you.

I have a lot to share with you in this message concerning our church family. I am excited to be a living member of God's family to share the Good News and the work He has for each of us. So let's get started. In February of 2011 I received the keys from St. Peter to St. Bartholomew's and vowed to carry forth the work of Christ in our congregation that dates back to 1889. Over the years I have had the privilege of watching Christ in the Holy Spirit affect all our lives. We have celebrated and struggled together. We have also aged together and lost some dear members either to job relocations or our Lord promoting them to a position in His Kingdom. At the same time the Lord has sent us new members to help in our work and become a part of our long honored tradition. Being a member of St. Bartholomew's is much more than a place to go to church. It is an honor and a privilege to be a part of a great tradition that Christ blessed and ordained for His work in our community and in the Diocese. I pray that the Holy Spirit sets and keeps the fire burning in our hearts to advance the Good News that God forgives, loves, and gives Eternal Life to all, regardless of their past faults, to all that take up the work of His Son, Jesus Christ. Yes, the work of Christ is far, far more important to Life than any secular desires we may want to place first in our lives.

At the annual meeting of convention of the Diocese held at Camp Weed on January 26th attended by our delegates, Ladd and Cherie Harris and myself, we were encouraged to hear speakers and our Bishop emphasize to all our Baptismal gift and the need to do Jesus' work of evangelization that our churches and members are called to do. We heard about tradition (and that is like Ladd's music to my ears) and the need to be solid in our reading, study, and use of Holy Scripture, and faithful in Sunday worship and praying together. We are called to practice and be dedicated to our faith and not treat it as something that comes only if we can fit it in to our schedules. Anything we sacrifice today for the work of our Lord here and now, He will remember in the day of His second coming. Why all this? It is simple. It leads to proven health of the mind, body, Soul all leading to Eternal Life.

The annual meeting of our congregation will be held after the 10 am service on February 17th. Plan to attend since this is your church. At this meeting you will receive information concerning the work, challenges, and plans of your church for the coming year. We also will be electing two new members to the Mission Board and delegates/alternates to the next Diocese Annual Meeting of Convention.

At the Mission Board meeting we held on Sunday, January 27th, our dedicated and faithful treasurer Gail Dispenza provided us with the results of 2018. The good news is that our general fund ended up with \$8,000 and our building fund also grew substantially. We also met our pledge to the Diocese that helps support Camp Weed, missions to the poor in Tallahassee and Jacksonville, our university ministries, mission churches that are struggling, and the planting of new ministries in the Diocese territories. The bad news is that our annual pledges have not increased to keep up with inflation of costs resulting in a downward trend. What can we do? First of all let me say we are being as frugal as possible such as not doing services in the old Sanctuary because of high winter utility costs. We do a lot of volunteer work to minimize expenses. Cutting expenses is not the cause of the problem for us. It is a matter of income. A sustaining member of St. Bartholomew's is a member that contributes by pledging and supporting the financial needs of the church. Sustaining members are the true saints that have decided that St. Bartholomew's is where they want to dedicate their life's work to sustaining the work of Christ and the grand tradition of St. Bartholomew's. I used to belong to a lot of organizations some charitable, some professional, some recreational. When Beth and I decided to strive to be tithing members I was amazed at how much these other organizations were affecting what we could be giving to help the church. Also we took a serious look at our checkbook to see what we were spending money on and lo and behold we discovered things that were not contributing to anything as great as our church. What is amazing is we found ourselves feeling fulfilled in a Godly purpose and really enjoying spending money on our church family. This worked for us and I know it will work for you. Fall in love with your church, make it central to your life, be a pledging member, find little ways to increase your giving, participate in the fund raisers, and receive blessings upon blessings and a fulfillment in purpose from our Lord.

Fund raisers coming up are the Great Chili Cook off competition on Saturday February 16th starting a 5 pm. Bring your best pot of chili with enough to share for about ten others. We will have a contest to see who can take the coveted trophy currently held by Sharon Scianimanico. This is always a fun night and the suggested donation is \$10 adults, \$5 children 6 to 12, and children 5 and under are free.

Our next fund raiser will be Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) pancake supper on Tuesday, March 5th. Again, a lot of fun and some really fantastic all you can eat pancakes. Suggested donation is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 to 12, and children 5 and under free. Don't forget Ash Wednesday services the next day with imposition of ashes available at noon and 6pm. This is how Christians around the world begin a Holy Lent. Be a part of it.

Please participate in our fundraisers. If you can't attend please consider sending your charitable donation to help the church and mark on your check fundraiser contribution.

Looking way forward to April we have Holy Week with Maundy Thursday on April 18th. We will celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday April 20th at 7 pm. Easter Sunday is April 21st followed by a fellowship and an Easter Egg Hunt. Then on Saturday April 27th and Sunday April 28th is Pioneer Days which will be a significant fund raiser for the church so plan on scheduling some time to help out with this event. Many hands make for a light load and certainly make for a great time.

The Holy Spirit is giving us many opportunities to advance the work of our Lord Jesus Christ through evangelizing and building strength in community. Pray for your church, and pray for the Holy Spirit to increase the fire in your heart to make St. Bartholomew's central to your life and service for Jesus Christ our Lord.

Much love to all in Jesus Christ, fir lance+



Editor's Note

. We hope you are enjoying the Newsletter and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

Deadline for next issue is February 17th. Articles gladly accepted earlier.

Contact: Annette Jones - (386) 454-8585 pgrscoot97@aol.com



From our Senior Warden... Carol Griffin 386-497-2292

The eight o'clock service often includes the words "All things come of thee oh Lord" from Father Lance followed by our response "and of thine own have we given thee" (1Chronicles 29:14 KJV). As we work on our church budget, prepare for our annual meeting, and consider our pledges for 2019 we need to reflect on these words. We need to keep in the forefront that everything we have comes from God and in pledging; we are merely giving back to God what is already His. The Hebrew word for tithe literally translates to "tenth part" – "Ma-aser". This is where we get the general consensus to tithe 10% of our income to the church.

The current pledged income for 2019 does not meet the anticipated expenses of running and maintaining the church. Father Lance has asked us to reach a "little deeper" and increase our monthly donation. I am sure we all have a non-essential monthly or weekly "splurge" we could redirect to St. Bart's.

Whatever you decide to give, please remember these five principals:

- (1) God owns everything.**
- (2) God deserves and expects us to give to Him first before anything else**
- (3) God expects us to give cheerfully.**
- (4) God expects us to give regularly, generously and, at least, in accordance with our income.**
- (5) God will bless us for our giving**

Remember this:

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8 NIV)

GodWink for February...

Will I Ever Find My Perfect Mate?



JP was becoming resigned to the notion that finding God's perfect mate for her was just another

unfulfilled wish. She began to wonder if her dreams to settle down with a wonderful guy were nothing more than a fairy tale. She writes about it in her letter.

Don't Change the Color of your Hair

I had been single for ten-plus years and was actually getting rather comfortable in that role, even though my family and friends were always trying to fix me up.

After making many poor choices in boyfriends, I had become tired of the dating life; yet I didn't want to spend my life alone. While reading *When God Winks on Love*, I decided to do what I read in one of your stories: ask God to find my soul mate – my bashert, as they say in Yiddish. "I might as well ask God to find him," I joked. After all He has a better view!"

So in October 2006. I decided to let God be in charge. I basically forgot about dating.

Three months later, a guy I knew just as an acquaintance was driving by my place of work and noticed a fire behind the building I was in. He ran into the building and basically rescued me from the fire.

A couple of weeks later, he gave me a Valentine's Day card and wrote "Don't change the color of your hair... I love you just as you are!"

"Wow, kind of intense," I thought. But I ignored the message, since I wasn't the least bit interested in him. He was just a nice, kind, caring, humorous, and intelligent man. That was as far as it went.

The next morning, I awoke to the words written on my valentine from my clock radio: "Don't change the color of your hair... I love you just as you are!" It was a song I'd never paid attention to before: "Just the Way You Are: by Billy Joel. I jumped up and ran to find the card to confirm the words were the same.

They were: My thoughts were a jumble: "Is this a godwink? I think so. Oh no, what does this mean?"

A short while later, a friend asked if I knew whether this person was available - because she wanted to fix him up with her friend. That question, surprisingly, sparked a little bit of jealousy in me. "Hey, he's flirting with me – he's mine," I thought. But...did I even want him?

Well, to bring this story to its happy ending, God did find my soul mate – just as I asked - and gave me several godwinks to keep me on the path to marriage. Now, five years later, I'm happier and more in love than I ever dreamed possible.

JP

Don't we love happy endings? God wants us to have a mate. He said it Himself, when he created Adam:

It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him.

Genesis 2:18 NLT

In this newsletter you will find **quotes from various sources**, followed by a corresponding reference from the Bible.



"If you consistently experience God's mercy on a daily, ongoing basis, then you know that there are no second chances. There are infinite chances."

~ Eric Greitens, Navy Seal

Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me.

Psalm 40:11

☞☞ Lessons for February ☞☞

February 3rd: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

10th: Isaiah 6:1-8,(9-13); Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

17th : Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26

24th: Genesis 45:3-11,15; Psalm 37:1-12,41-42; 1 Corinthians 15:35-38;
Luke 6:27-38



This submitted photo is dedicated to all of you who have lost and miss a beloved dog.



"We don't laugh because we are happy, we're happy because we laugh." ~Submitted

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Psalm 118:24



Children's Activities and Family Fellowship



Sunday School Teaching Schedule for 10am Services

Feb. 3 rd :	Betty Sheryl	Feb 10 th :	Cherie Ben
Feb. 17 th :	Ben Cherie	Feb 24 th :	Sheryl Cornelia

Upcoming Children & Youth Events

- ~ Wed. Feb. 6th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Wed. Feb. 13th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Wed. Feb. 20th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Wed. Feb. 27th at 6pm: Leadership Meeting for Sr. Youth
7pm: Youth Group

"Our potential in God includes nearly unimaginable possibilities."

~John Bevere

from his book Killing Kryptorite: Destroy What Steals Your Strength



With God all things are possible.

Matthew 19:26

NEWS FLASH Your editor recently had a nice telephone conversation with **Carla Tibbits**, who as you know is now living in Virginia. She is doing well even though they have had two snowstorms this winter—one was eighteen inches! She said the newsletter helps to keep her in touch and she loves the pictures we include, but is amazed at how the young ones are growing up so fast. She sends her best to everyone and misses her "St. Bart's family."

The second in the series of short articles on the twelve apostles which your editor will be sharing in this year's issues of the BartholoMewsings.

I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. Matthew 26:34 (KJV)

THE TWELVE IN EACH OF US
PETER'S DENIAL

By Terry Helwig

Cock-a-doodle-doo!

With dawn breaking across the Jerusalem sky, Peter wept. The rock upon which Christ promised to build His church had just fulfilled what seemed an impossible prediction. Jesus had told Peter that before the rooster crowed, Peter would deny Him three times. Peter never believed it could happen, yet it had come to pass.

Years ago, at a new job, I was eager to fit in. Somehow, I mentioned the importance of God in my life. "You aren't a Jesus freak, are you?" asked my coworker, backing away.

I froze and then quickly assured her, "No, I'm certainly not." I hastily retrieved my papers and headed for the security of my desk.

Perhaps that is why I feel a special kinship with Peter. He denied his truth too. As I reflect upon the thread of Peter woven within me, I seem to hear him urge: *Have the courage to stand up for what you believe in. The inner peace you gain will far outweigh any adversity.* For Peter, that peace meant going forth and boldly preaching the first sermon to thousands at Pentecost.

"Don't settle for average. Bring your best to the moment. Then, whether it fails or succeeds, at least you know you gave all you had."



~Angela Bassett, actress

Concentrate on doing your best for God, work you won't be ashamed of, laying out the truth plain and simple.

2 Timothy 2:15



Hostess List for February



Feb 3 – Pot Luck**

Feb 10 –Cornelia

Feb 17 – Sharon S/ Danelle

Feb 24 – Nancy/ Elizabeth

If you would like to volunteer to provide a light snack and drink, please contact Nancy Brewer 386-496-3445.

**** PLEASE NOTE.** The term Pot Luck will be reserved for our first Sunday dinners, Thanksgiving and St. Bart's Day picnic; and all are encouraged to bring a dish to share for these occasions. Special occasions such as Baptisms, Funerals and Weddings will be referred to as Receptions and those who wish, may sign up to assist with refreshments. In the case of Funeral Receptions, the Kitchen Crew will be happy to coordinate for the bereaved family, if desired.



"Grace is a power that comes in and transforms a moment to something better."

~Caroline Myss, author

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

2 Corinthians 12:9



Chalice Bearers - February

- 2/3 - Annette
- 2/10 - Gregg
- 2/17 - Margaret
- 2/24 - Wes

Lay Readers -February



- 2/3 - Debra Wright
- 2/10 - Beth Treese
- 2/17 - Samantha Shiver
- 2/24 - Cherie Harris

"Instead of telling God how big your problems are, tell your problems how big your God is!"

~submitted



Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7



A Joyous Occasion at St. Bart's
The Baptism of Jenna Mae Lewis
on January 20, 2019



"There is never a wrong time to pray."

~Kelly Johnson, from her book Being Brave: A 40-Day Journey to the Life God Dreams for You

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing...

1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

A group of 4 to 8 year olds were asked the question: “What does **LOVE** mean?”

Here are some of the answers given—pure and true:

- 1) **LOVE** is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well. Tommy -- age 6.
- 2) **LOVE** is when my Mommy gives my Daddy the best piece of chicken. Elaine -- age 5
- 3) **LOVE** is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day. Mary Ann – age 4
- 4) **LOVE** is what makes you smile even when you’re tired. Terri – age 4
- 5) When someone **LOVE S** you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth. Billy – age 4
- 6) **LOVE** is when Mommy sees Daddy smelly and sweaty and still says he is handsomer than Robert Redford. Chris – age 7
- 7) During my piano recital, I was on stage and I was scared. I looked at all the people watching me and saw my Daddy waving and smiling. He was the only one doing that. I wasn’t scared anymore. Andy – age 8
- 8) **LOVE** is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen. Bobby – age 7
- 9) “It makes you feel like you’ll never feel lonely,” says 8 year old Ben. “True **LOVE** is a mixture of friendship, appreciation and, like, happiness.
- 10) Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglio once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose was to find the most caring child. The winner was a 4 year old whose next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the gentleman’s yard, climbed into his lap, and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he had said to the neighbor, the little boy said, “Nothing, I just helped him cry.”

That is true and profound **LOVE**, poured out of the heart of an innocent child.



“Today choose forgiveness over self-pity. Choose joy over fear.”

~submitted

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Psalm 86:5



February Birthdays

- Feb 1 – Seth Diepersloot
- 7 – Ben Hill
- 9 – Dawn McKinstry
Curt Tibbits
- 11 – Calvin Hencin
- 16 – Annette Jones

Anniversaries in February

- 9 – Jim & Peggy Addington
- 23 – Debra and Mike Wright



Congratulations to Each of YOU! If your name does not appear here, please contact Annette Jones (396-454-8585) to have it added for next time.



“Today choose forgiveness over self-pity. Choose joy over fear.” ~submitted

You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you. *Psalm 86:5*

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What: St. Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

When: Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 5:30 to 7pm (or when food runs out)

Where: St. Bartholomew’s Parish Hall

Why: Shrove Tuesday is the traditional start of the Season of Lent This annual dinner is to benefit the youth ministry, specifically Vacation Bible School.



Cost: Pancake dinner tickets are sold for \$6.00 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6=12, and children under 6 and under are free. Tickets may be purchased at the dinner. Meal includes regular or whole wheat pancakes, fruit, bacon, sausage and drinks.

Please let your family and friends know about our annual supper. Spread the word to your neighbors. It’s always a fun time.

As in the past, we need assistants to help our Chairman Ben Hill, Fr. Lance, and the “crew”(Joe , Ed and Neil) cook the meat, mix the batter and help set up and clean up. Let one of us know if you can assist. Thank you!

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In this month in which we celebrate our love for one another:

