

# Bartholo Newsings

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 906, High Springs, FL 32655  
<http://www.stbartshighsprings.org/>

February 2021 Vol XI Issue 2

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

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

I continue to thank our Lord for his love and protection of the members of our blessed church family. COVID continues to be troublesome to our traditional worship as well as a concern to our members that are worried about other health factors. I find myself looking for an epiphany that shows God's plan with this pandemic. What I have discovered is that the Church remains the sanctuary of our hope in God's love and promises. Our members have not lost their love of or support for our church or our church family. I am happy to hear that several of our members have already received the COVID vaccine.

Hospitals and nursing homes remain reluctant to have non-family visitors. My visitations have also been curtailed for much the same reason. I am in High Springs on Wednesdays and Sundays. If you would like to receive a visitation and communion on either of those days please email, or text me at 301-848-0129 at least a day or two ahead. If you are in COVID quarantine or have one or more of the high risk factors or have any illness I recommend we postpone the visit. I would feel terrible if I found out someone got COVID after one of my visits or if I got COVID and could not provide worship services. I will definitely have you in my personal prayers and in the church prayers. I will never show up uninvited or as a surprise. Also, I will avoid making telephone calls so as not to disturb the patient but I welcome your calls to me.

Lent starts February 17<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday. I will hold two services; one at noon and one at 6 pm. The noon service will be abbreviated for those that need to get back to work. Both services will be held in the parish hall. Ash Wednesday is a very Holy Day in the life of our church family. It is the foundation to the season of Lent.

Our church Bible study group has been very faithful in attendance during the COVID situation. We have moved through Genesis, Exodus, and are now in Leviticus. These sessions are really worth attending especially if you do not have a Bible study plan in your life. The sessions start at 9:30 am on Wednesday and run to 11 am. The sessions are fun and very informative for all (including me).

I want to make special mention of the energy I see from the members in helping to keep our church an active worshipping community. Those helping in sanitizing; Joe, Sharon, Carol Ruthann, Peggy, and others are right on top of preparing the hall between services. Ladd and Cherie have gone the extra mile to provide quality music for our services. I am so blessed to be with you all.

Much love to everyone, stay safe, and I look forward to seeing you on Sunday. Lance+

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

### We are Family

In attempting to develop the Church Member History Questionnaire, I reflected on my family and their history within the Episcopal Church. Of the relatives I knew growing up, both sets of grandparents were practicing Episcopalians and I have many fond memories of attending both St. Paul's and Christ Church in Rochester, NY. I recently found the confirmation papers for my parents while sorting through boxes; Jane Elizabeth confirmed at St. Paul's on Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 1942 and John Eric on Ascension Day, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 1938 while attending Kent School in Connecticut. My brother and I both attended Episcopal Schools in Peekskill, NY. Robert at St. Peter's and me at St. Mary's which was started in 1872 by the Community of St Mary (CSM) an order founded by Sister Harriet Starr Cannon who was the first "Mother Superior" at the school. While both schools are now gone, I remain in contact with the Sisters who have now moved to Greenwich, NY. They are now caring for a different type of "kid" by raising cashmere goats.

The Episcopal Church has always been at the center of and a core anchor in my life. I have not been as attentive in my faith as I should have been throughout the years, but I always felt the unfailing love and support that was instilled during my life by many amazing people that showed me the grace and goodness of our awesome God through their teachings and example. It has been a safe refuge for me and my family all these years – the Church was my extended family.

This January the Forward Day by Day devotional for Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, brought the above home to me. To quote from that day the author says "What Jesus is suggesting is that there is a bloodline that runs through baptism....." and in summation "We are the household of God, and we are family".

We frequently refer to "our St. Bart's family" but these are not empty words – we **are** a family and I for one feel blessed to call each of you my brother and sister. With much love to each of you this Valentine's Day and in the year ahead.

"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:35 (NRSV)

## **Member History**

As we go into 2021, St. Bartholomew's would like to gather information related to our members.

Churches have historically been the "keeper of records" and are sources for many individuals when researching genealogy. A questionnaire is provided for you and your immediate family members. However, we would like to give you the opportunity to share more of your history with us. Please feel free to give us as much family history as you like, including parents, grandparents, siblings, etc. and we will be stewards of that information on your behalf.

A copy of the form is included in this newsletter and will be available in the Parish Hall. You will note that there is a place for you to number your pages. If we can assist you with this, please let us know.

The general criteria for membership is as follows:

### **National Church:**

Recognizes all those baptized in The Trinity

Attends minimum of three services a year

### **Guidelines for Membership: (St. Bart's Guidelines/considerations for membership)**

Baptized in Episcopal Church

Confirmed/Received by Episcopal Church

Attends Church on a regular basis

Participates in church activities

Supports the church in its work

Is a Subscribing Member

Confirmation is a reaffirmation of your baptismal vows. If you have not been confirmed and wish to be Confirmed or Received in the Episcopal Church, please contact Fr. Lance or one of you Mission Board Members. For further information you may also visit "[An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church, A User Friendly Reference for Episcopalians](#)," to see what confirmed/received entails.

## **Updated Church Directory**

Additionally, we will be updating the Directory in 2021 (hopefully with photos) so please review the old Directory and advise us of any changes or additions. More on this will be coming as Diane Shimeck will be taking over this monumental endeavor – Many Thanks Diane

**History of Church Members (and their Family)**  
**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, High Springs, FL**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name/Location of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name/Location of Confirmation or Received in the Episcopal Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Married: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Location Married: \_\_\_\_\_

If Married in Church: Date, Name & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY MEMBERS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name/Location of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name/Location of Confirmation or Received in the Episcopal Church: \_\_\_\_\_

If Married in Church: Date, Name & Location: \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY MEMBERS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Name/Location of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_ Name/Location of Confirmation or Received in the Episcopal Church: \_\_\_\_\_

If Married in Church: Date, Name & Location: \_\_\_\_\_



This year 2021 St. Bartholomew's Episcopal church will be 125 years old. A 125 years is an impressive milestone in the St. Bartholomew's and High Springs community history. A quasiquicentennial celebration is being planned for November 6th & 7th 2021. Your support and ideas are greatly appreciated. Contacts: Ruthann Swanson or Jane Woodward.

As a part of St. Bartholomew's rich history, I would like to share with you a tribute to St. Bartholomew's, Estelle Pope Young, Deacon-in-Residence, wrote in August 1996 for St. Bart's 100th birthday.

Little did I dream that I would be so richly blessed by becoming a small part of the history of this "beautiful little church," this holy place, built by the community gathered together, from trees felled by a hurricane, sawed and hewn and planed by hands of men who loved God, who were creating a house in which to worship their Lord. The pews, the Altar, the lectern and pulpit were lovingly made by their hands.

For a hundred years St. Bartholomew's has been a place for prayer and praise. A place to give thanks to God for His love and care and gifts. A place to rejoice when prayers are answered, when babies are Baptized, lovers are joined in Holy Matrimony, when souls of the faithful begin their journey into the Larger Life, a place where we share the Holy Eucharist at that Banquet Table with all who have gone before and will come after us.

To enter this sacred place is to be aware of all the joys and sorrows, the tears and agony, the prayers and rejoicing, the triumphs and failures of a century of worship. There is also an awareness of the Presence of God, and of the close, loving family that is here now. St. Bartholomew's is a family which always welcomes others to join us.

Let us thank God for every one of His Children who have entered into this place. Each of them is a thread in the rich tapestry that is St. Bartholomew's. It takes all sizes and colors to complete the texture and richness of life. Let us put our lives into the hands of God, the Master Weaver, and pray that His Spirit will enable us all to be more alert to His daily presence with each of us.

Some pictures from Christmas 2020





*DOK News..... Betty Pieklik, Secretary*

New officers were elected at our December DOK meeting and were installed during the 10:00 service January 10. The new officers are: Peggy Addington, President; Ruthann Swanson, Vice President; Betty Pieklik, Secretary; and Diane Shimek, Treasurer

We are excited about our upcoming projects. Easter cards are being created and will be distributed to staff and residents of local assisted living facilities. We also delivered cards for Christmas. We hope to bring some light into their lives. An ice cream social and card signing will be held. It was suggested that we have a tea party after COVID.

If you would like to learn more about DOK or are interested in becoming a member please join us at our next meeting February 6th, 9:30 a.m. Training for new members will begin at that meeting. Come have fun with us while serving the church.

*An Invitation from DOK*

Just a note to invite all ladies of St. Bart's to attend monthly DOK meetings to be held in the Parrish Hall at 9:30 on the first Saturday of each month. The next few meetings will be focusing on preparing new members to join our Order. By attending you will not only learn the history of DOK and how the Orders work, but more importantly to *help you determine* if you are ready to join our loving Sisterhood.

We have a lot of fun projects in the works for the community and our church so please join us on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> in a Sisterhood of Service, Love and Prayer.

In His Name,

Peggy Addington

President, St. Catherine of Sienna Chapter, DOK

In view of the fact that the Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17<sup>th</sup>, the following is an explanation of Lent as found in the online Episcopal Dictionary of the Church. Your editor

**Lent** Taken from the Episcopal Dictionary of the Church

Early Christians observed “a season of penitence and fasting” in preparation for the Paschal feast, or Pascha (BCP, pp. 264-265). The season now known as Lent (from an Old English word meaning “spring,” the time of lengthening days) has a long history. Originally, in places where Pascha was celebrated on a Sunday, the Paschal feast followed a fast of up to two days. In the third century this fast was lengthened to six days. Eventually this fast became attached to, or overlapped, another fast of forty days, in imitation of Christ's fasting in the wilderness. The forty-day fast was especially important for converts to the faith who were preparing for baptism, and for those guilty of notorious sins who were being restored to the Christian assembly. In the western church the forty days of Lent extend from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, omitting Sundays. The last three days of Lent are the sacred Triduum of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Today Lent has reacquired its significance as the final preparation of adult candidates for baptism. Joining with them, all Christians are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word” (BCP, p. 265).



### *February Birthdays*

Feb 1 – Seth Diepersloot  
7 – Ben Hill  
9 – Dawn Fifer  
Curt Tibbitts  
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 your editor (Annette) to have it added for next time.*

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**☞☞ Lessons for February ☞☞**

**February 7th:** Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-12,21c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23;  
Mark 1:29-39

**14th:** 2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

**21th:** Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15

**28th:** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:22-30; Romans 4:13-25;  
Mark 8:31-38

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### **Valentine's Day and Love**

Reprinted from February 2018 BartholoMewings

Valentine's Day is a special day of the year. There are parties, chocolates, cards, and candy with "Be Mine" written on them. Other than all that, where does Valentine's Day come from?

There are several stories about a priest named Valentine who performed secret marriages when an emperor ordered that no young men should be married because they would be better soldiers in the war.

Another story is about a man named Valentine who fell in love with a girl while he was in jail. Just before he died he wrote her a love letter and signed it, "From your Valentine".

I don't know if these stories are true or not, I guess it doesn't really matter. I think the important part is that we know what love is and know where it came from.

The Bible tells us that love is from God and that God is love. The neat thing about God's love is that it's not a feeling to him, he can't fall out of love with us. He loves us

even when we're not loveable and when we're grumpy or doing bad things. He loves all of us no matter what.

The tricky part is loving others like God loves us. God's love is much different than the mushy stuff that you see on TV or all around you. It's not bad to be mushy with your family but sometimes it is harder to show other people how you love them. We can't just go around kissing everyone to show them our love!

There is a special kind of love we can have for others; it's called agape love. This doesn't have to be mushy love, just see people as God would see them. Pretend for a day that you have special glasses on and that everyone you see you love just because God loves them, like the way you love a mom or dad, brother or sister.

I'm sure you'll run into somebody you don't think deserves your love or you just don't want to love at all, but God loves them and if we love God we are supposed to love them too.

Who exactly are we supposed to love?

- \*Love God
- \*Love yourself
- \*Love your family
- \*Love your friends
- \*Love your neighbors
- \*Love your enemies

What are some ways that we can love God? It's not as hard as you think. How do you show others you love them? We talk to them, try to get to know them better, listen to them, and sometimes we do things for them. We can do all these things for God. We might not be able to touch Him, but we can pray to God, read the Bible and learn about him, obey Him and do the things he asks us to do.

We are also supposed to love ourselves. This doesn't mean that we should think we're better than everybody else. We get this from a Bible verse that says do for others as you would want them to do for you. This means we should take care of ourselves. Things like looking before we cross the street, eating our vegetables, and getting a good sleep at night are ways we can do that. Remember that if you're a Christian the Spirit of God lives inside us and he wants us to treat ourselves with respect.

Loving our family is hopefully pretty easy. Even though we get mad at our parents sometimes because they don't let us do something, we still love them. Just remember that you are part of a family and nothing will ever change that. You should always be

able to depend on each other and they'll be the ones to tell you the truth before anyone else.

Loving our friends should be easy because we pick the people we want to be friends with. The thing is, sometimes when we disagree with our friends we think we don't have to be their friend anymore, but God's love would ask us to forgive them and try to work things out.

Do you know who your neighbors are? Neighbors aren't just the people who live next to you but are everyone you might run into. I don't want to encourage you to run up to strangers but think about helping others with love. By helping an elderly lady who needs help with her groceries, returning a wallet found on the street, or even praying for people on the news that are in trouble are just a few ways to love a neighbor.

I hope you don't have any enemies but there will always be someone that you don't get along with or believes the opposite of what you believe. There are many, many people that don't believe in God and that purposely do things that hurt him, and God still loves them. Loving people that bully us or our friends seems impossible, but it's not with God's help. By asking for God's help we will be able to love our enemies easier when we just can't do it on our own.

Learning to love like God takes a long time and takes God's help. It's easier to love than to hate, so have lots of fun learning to love God and everyone around you!