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

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October 2023 Vol. XIV Issue 10

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

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

I lift up my voice and thank the Lord for his help and mercy during this Fall season. It was in the Fall of 2021 that I was diagnosed with stage four renal cancer that had spread to my liver and right lung. I was expected to live four to six weeks. Here it is Fall of 2023 and I am still given the honor to serve my Lord Jesus Christ at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in High Springs.

The journey has been difficult, but I have learned so much concerning spiritual courage. I have often commented in church that the Lord could come at any moment; right through the front door. Am I ready? Better yet, would you be happy if he did? The old expression that we believe the Lord is returning but we are not ready for that coming just yet. Give us a little more time.

Spiritual courage is waiting and preparing for the Lord to come in joyful expectation and knowing he will. Earthly trials and tribulations would consume me if my Lord was not beside me and guiding to the promised paradise where there is no pain or sorrow rather peace and love. "I shall fear no evil for thou art with me, Thy rod and thy staff comfort me." I would add to this 23rd Psalm, "My Christian companions of ST Bartholomew's comfort me".

Whatever your troubles may be trust that the Lord walks with you and that he will lead you to a great beautiful future for you are faithful in your love for him. I look forward to our time together mortally and spiritually thanks be to our God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In Christ's love, Fr Lance

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

Deadline for next issue is October 20th so it can be reviewed.

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

This month we have included quotes from various people and then verses from the Bible following similar themes.

"Each person on this planet is here for a purpose... That purpose is to care for other people and to help this world become a better place through service to others."



~Gary Sinise, whose foundation serves veterans

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. ~Galatians 6:2



Mew-sings from the Senior Warden...Carol Griffin 386-497-2292 cfgriffin@aol.com



Welcome Fall – The cool mornings have been invigorating and I hope you are feeling the change in the air. Serving God is one of the principal doctrines of the Christian faith. Serving God involves more than just reading daily devotionals, daily prayers and <u>attending church</u> services; it also involves offering our time and talents to, in and for the church. This will lead to stronger bonds within our church family and expand our lives through our good deeds and

interaction with others in the community. Each of us is given a unique gift or ability that should be used to benefit others and serve to glorify God. Remembering - "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10 (NRSV) and "For we are what he has made us, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV).

The last few months of this year will be busy ones at St. Bart's and we will need the help of our entire "family" to accomplish everything we have planned. In addition to work, we will also enjoy some special fellowship gatherings. Please check out the following and mark your calendars.

October 8th – Oktoberfest Pot Luck after church. St. Bart's kitchen crew will provide brats. Bring your favorite side dishes and desserts to share in this festive event. (More information to follow)

October 21st - High Springs Fall Festival and St. Bart's Yard Sale (7:00-4:00). Bring your "gently used treasures" to the Parrish Hall for this annual event. We will also need volunteers to assist with the sale throughout the day.

October/November - Annual Thanksgiving "Basket" project with collection of food and gift cards for meals to be distributed by HSFD to those in need (More information to follow)

November - Thanksgiving Pot Luck (More information to follow)

December – The Great Train Event with Santa Claus in attendance. We will have six days of sharing the enthusiasm and love of trains from "The Train Guys" (including one our very own, Pete Woodward) with the High Springs Community and surrounding area. There will be three separate train layouts, one being interactive for children of all ages. Dates and time are as follows:

December 8th – 5-8PM December 14th 5-8PM December 9th – 2-5PM December 15th 5-8PM December 10th – 1-4PM December 16th 11-4PM

Hopefully, this will be the first of many "Christmas Train Events" which will introduce St. Bart's as the fun and welcoming church that it is. Work is already underway but there is still a great deal of left to do, not to mention scheduling church members to assist during the above hours of operation. Please consider volunteering for some of the pre-event preparation and/or as a "conductor/greeter" for our guests during the actual event. Our Santa Claus', Mrs. Claus and Elf are ready and waiting in eager anticipation – will you join in the fun? Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or one of our committee heads, Nancy

Brewer or Sharon for the Pot Luck Events, Sharon for the vard sale, , Ruthann for Food "Baskets" and Pete or Kathy Bratcher for the Train Event.

I can confidently say that all of the above will be a success and fun because I know the love you have for each other, St. Bart's and how you always welcome our "visitors" on Sunday mornings.

"I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his **service**" 1 Timothy 1:12 (NRSV)

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

GODwink

Heartache to Happiness

By SQuire Rushnell

An unbelievable godwink lifted the life-long resentment Chad held against his birth mother for giving him up for adoption.

The popular appeal of Facebook and Twitter underscores our innate desire to remain connected. There's a comfort in reconnecting with old friends and distant family. Yet some of us desire to connect with family we never had, always wanted, and wondered about.

Danella Hoff, dressed in a starch-white nurses' uniform, looked intently at the crying young woman. Through tears, she pleaded, "Can I hold my baby for just a minute." Danella knew hospital policy. St. Margaret's manual says, if the mother is giving the baby up for adoption, avoid bonding. But this young girl was breaking her heart. She decided to break the rules. She watched as the mother tenderly placed her lips on the forehead of the baby, quietly saying, "I'll love you forever." Then before another torrent of tears she handed the child back to Danella. This was a scene, in her nursing career, she'd never forget.

Twenty years later Danella had experienced her own worry as a mother. And when her daughter Amanda came home to announce, "This is the man I'm going to marry, Mom", Danella reserved judgment. "What's his name?"

"Chad."

As Danella came into the living room, her mother's antenna went up. The young man was nervous but also had a chip on his shoulder. Danella asked a few questions about where he grew up. "I was born here in Montgomery, Jackson Hospital. But my mother gave me away the night I was born." Chad nearly spit the words out. *That's it,* thought Danella. This kid is carrying around resentment for his birth mother. The image reentered her mind from years before, when she witnessed the gut-wrenching decision by a young girl to give up her baby, for the sake of the baby.

"Wait just a minute Chad, let me tell you a story. "You should know the love and sacrifice a mother feels when she gives up a baby for adoption." But as she began telling the story, looking deeply into Chad's now attentive, compassionate eyes, she began to wonder, Could this be? No. "Are you sure you were born in Jackson Hospital?" "Yes." She shrugged. After they were married, Amanda started thinking that Chad should try to find out about his birth parents. He was now 21 and could legally request the information from the state. Danella was sitting at the kitchen table the day Chad sat down with Amanda to open the envelope containing his records. Chat read his mother's name and that he was born, not at Jackson but at St Margaret's hospital. He looked up at Danella whose eyes were already filling with tears. "I held you as a baby," she said to Chad, "and I want you to know that nobody ever loved you more than your mother did." Wow, some godwinks can be tearjerkers.

After a long search Chad Brooks was reunited with his birth parents, found living on a military base in Alaska.

When you reconnect with loved ones and friends, godwinks are like the invisible threads that have held you together all along. Suddenly they become visible. And give you feelings of hope.

I'm SQuire Rushnell, good wishes and godwinks.

[&]quot;All right, when do I meet him."

[&]quot;Tomorrow" said Amanda, gaily.



As promised, a picture of Lisa Victoria Paparella and Ryan Arthur Chapman after their wedding ceremony performed by Fr. Lance, June 17th, 2023.

Lisa is the daughter of Denise and Gino Paparella, members of St. Bartholmew's.

"You are loved by a God who delights in you and calls you good not because of what you've done but because of who you are."

~Lisa-Jo Baker, author

The Lord appeared to us in the past saying, "I have loved you with an everlasting love. I have drawn you with unfailing kindness. ~ Jeremiah 31:3



October Birthdays





Oct 1 – Kathi Smith 9 – Kalynn Matisco 10 -- Lee & George Forzley 3 – Daryl Brewer 10 – Neil Boyle 17 – Gail & Peter Dispenza 5 – Alex Matisco 25 – Kurt Jones

5 – Diane Shimek 25 – Camden Treese 6 – Debra Wright 30 -- Gail Dispenza

Congratulations to Each of YOU! If your name does not appear here, please contact your editor to have it added.



The men of St. Bart's enjoyed a night out together at an Italian Restaurant in Alachua during the summer.

A great time was had by all!

EDED Lessons for October PAPE

Oct 1st: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 78:1-4,12-16; Philippians 2:1-13; Matthew 21:23-32

8th: Exodus 20:1-4,7-9,12-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

15th: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6,19-23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

22nd: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

29th: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6,13-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8;

Matthew 22:34-46

"No story sits by itself. Our lives connect like threads on a loom, interwoven in ways we never realize."

~Mitch Albom, author

I want you woven into a tapestry of love, in touch with everything there is to know of God. Then you will have minds confident and at rest, focused on Christ, God's great mystery.

~Colossians 2:2



Hostess List for October



Oct 1 – Marje/ Sharon S

Oct 8 – Oktoberfest Potluck

Oct 15 – Bev & Mike/ Cornelia

Oct 22 - Diana C/ Diane S

Oct 29 - Nancy B



Chalice Bearers - October

Lay Readers - October



10/1 - Stephanie

10/1 - Cherie Harris

10/8 - Annette

10/8 - Alex Matísco

10/15 - Alex

10/15 - Debra Wright

10/22 - Neil

10/22 - Sam Tift

10/29 - Stephanie

10/29 - Alex Matísco



Sunday School Teaching Schedule



Oct. 1st:

Pete

Oct. 8th:

Becky

Jane

OCC. 0 .

Ruthann

Oct. 15th:

Diane

Oct. 22nd:

Cherie Stephanie

Diana

5

Oct. 29th:

Pete

Jane

Fall Blessings !!!

D.O.K. is blessed to have five awesome women joining our order and one transferring! The Service of Admission is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 5th.

Our next meeting is Saturday, October 5th at 9:30.

We will be getting organized for the Thanksgiving Outreach Project.

Details will be coming soon, generous St. Bart's family!

There is a need for Bibles for prison ministry that serves the nearby area counties. A collection box will be on the D.O.K. table in the Parish Hall. They will accept new, used, hardback, and paper back Bibles.

Don't forget to SEE the basket on that same table for eye glasses to be given to the Lions Club. Let all that you do be done in love.

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do,

I ought to do.

What I ought to do,

By the grace of God,

I will do.

For His Sake

Ruthann







Many thanks to Charlie Trowbridge, Cherie and Ladd Harris for stepping up after Hurricane Idalia and cleaning up the church property.



"To love our neighbors as ourselves means to see that we are worth loving, and those around us are too.

~Jonathon Merritt, author

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. ~James 2:8

Dates to Demember:

October 19th – Men's Night Out – 5:00 PM – El Patio Restaurant, 16135 US-441, Alachua, FL 32615, RSVP to: Neil Boyle <u>nsboyle@icloud.com</u>

October 28th – Ladies Night Out -- 5:30 PM At home of Becky Tift, 20976 NW 166th Place, High Springs. Bring a snack to share. RSVP to: rebeccabathen@gmail.com or cfgriffin7@aol.com