

St. Bartholomew's Newsings

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

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-----Vicar Message-----

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

The Easter proclamation that Christ has risen from the dead is all one needs to say when it comes to why we want to be Christians. Jesus made it clear to his disciples that he would rise from the dead and in so doing would set free from the bondage of death those that would believe in him and follow his commandments. The Father is glorified in our faithfulness to and belief in Jesus Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

St. Bartholomew's is blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit. So often I hear how we make everyone that visits feel welcome. Hospitality to the stranger, to the newcomer, is not about getting new members (although I certainly like that idea). It is about glorifying God through the act of being friendly and wanting to hear their story. As we await the second coming of our Lord we are called to serve one another, especially the stranger.

We are a unique small family size parish and as such we can get to know one another in fairly short order. We should make every effort to get to know those that have made St. Bart's their spiritual home. Probably one of the easiest ways to do this is during coffee hour sit at a table of members that are not familiar to you. I know we all like our comfort zone of those close to us but why not expand that comfort zone and make new close acquaintances? Also, no table should ever have just one or two sitting at it especially if they are newcomers. If you see that happening, ask to join them. Probably if we have too many tables with just one or two or none we should eliminate some tables. Of course a much better idea would be to fill the tables up.

We are a fairly close church family but we can still be a lot closer. Conversation often discloses a need that someone has that we can help. Each of us has unique gifts that can come to the rescue or maybe help our church as a whole grow further spiritually. We must not allow ourselves to become inactive or sit back and assume someone else will take care of the work of the church in helping others. Working for Christ is a 24/7 effort and a rewarding one at that. It takes a lot of helping hands to do a great job!

Wednesday 6 pm Eucharist will continue. If you cannot make one of the two Sunday services or if you just like a mid-week Eucharist this is for you. One of the great messages given to us during Holy Week is the importance of participating in the Eucharist regularly. The Eucharistic prayer is so important to our spiritual, mental, and physical health. Also after the service I will be offering training and continuing education programs for members wishing to explore their gifts in the church. More to come on these.

I thank the Lord for each of you in the work you do for St. Bartholomew's. Much love and many blessings to each of you in this Easter Season. fr lance+

☞☞ Lessons for April ☞☞

- April 1st:* Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18
8th: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1—2:2; John 20:19-31
15th: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48
22nd: Acts 4:5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18
29th: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:24-30; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8
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Sunday, March 18th was a special Day of Celebration at St. Bartholomew's: A Visit from Bishop Dorsey Henderson. Stefanie Sauble was received into our congregation and Josh Dowda and Samantha and Christopher Ellison were confirmed. Welcome to our newest members!

National Dandelion Day



Date When Celebrated: April 5

Any plant as versatile and durable as the dandelion, certainly deserves a special day set aside to honor it. We all know of dandelions as weeds in our lawns. To kids, the dandelion is a flower to gather and bring home to mom. But, dandelions are oh so much more than just a weed. Even many gardeners think of it as a weed. But, more knowledgeable gardeners know better. Dandelion leaves are edible, and are savored in soups and salads. It is rich in vitamins A, B, C, and D. Dandelions are used in making wine and for tea, too. Native Americans used it for medicinal purposes. You can celebrate National Dandelion Day in many ways. Eat your lawn.....use this special day to introduce yourself to the joys of eating dandelions. However, it is taboo to pull dandelions or treat them like a weed today.



Children's Activities and Family Fellowship



Sunday School Teaching Schedule for 10am Services:

April 1 st :	No Sunday School – Easter Sunday		
April 8 th :	Samantha Cherie	April 15 th :	Sheryl Betty
April 22 nd :	Samantha Cherie	April 29 th :	Sheryl Cornelia

Upcoming Children & Youth Events:

- ~ Wed. April 4th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Wed. April 11th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Wed. April 18th at 7pm: Youth Group
- ~ Sat. April 21st at 11am: Race for Sight
- ~ Wed. April 25th at 7pm: Youth Group





A generous member of St. Bart's gifted our youth with tickets to one of the UCF vs. UF baseball games. It was a VERY cold evening but they had a lot of fun!

National Stress Awareness Day



Date When Observed: Always April 16th

Is work or school putting on the pressure? Are the kids on your nerves? Is there enough money to pay all of those bills? There are literally thousands of reasons for you to get stressed out.

RELAX!!! Today is National Stress Awareness Day. This is your opportunity to recognize that there is plenty of stress in your life... as if you didn't already know. More importantly, today is an opportunity to learn, and to do something about the stress..... before it drives you batty or worse.

April is also designated as Stress Awareness Month.

Did you know? There was method behind the madness. April 16 was designated as Stress Awareness Day, because it is the day after taxes are due!



April Birthdays

April 2 – David Hansen
 5 – Kathy Young
 6 – FR LANCE
 6 – David Robertson
 8 – Ruthanne Swanson
 14 – Sharon Pelfrey
 15 – Dale Clark

17 – Raiven Young
 18 – Marsha Bancroft
 18 – Diane Lorincz
 23 – Eric Diepersloot
 25 – Gabby Harris
 26 – Brice Halbrook

Anniversaries in April



7 – Pete & Jane Woodward
 7 – Tracie & Chad Munn
 13 – Dale & Joe Clark
 19 – Ruthann & Maynard Swanson
 25 – Lisa & Bill Rhan
 29 – Carie & Eric Diepersloot

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



Chalice Bearers/Acolytes - April

Easter Vigil – Annette/ Sam
 4/1 -- Margaret/ Gabby
 4/8 -- Wes/Sam
 4/15 -- Gregg/ Gabby
 4/22 - Annette/ Sam
 4/29 - Margaret/ Gabby

Lay Readers - April



Easter Vigil – Charles Jones
 Annette Jones
 4/1 - Debra Wright
 Gregg Pelfrey
 4/8 - Samantha Shiver
 Stefanie Sauble
 4/15 - Gregg Pelfrey
 Beth Treese
 4/22 - Annette Jones
 Charles Jones
 4/29 - Beth Treese
 Stefanie Sauble



Keep America Beautiful Month

Keep America Beautiful Month is celebrated each year in April. It celebrates the things we all can do to make our country a more beautiful and better place. Everyone makes a difference in keeping America beautiful. Reduce waste by repurposing and reusing old items. Recycling is another important way we can all reduce waste in our communities. April is a good time to clean up the winter debris in your yard. Plant a tree, some flowers or even a garden. Put a fresh coat of paint on your fence or deck.

A Plan for Spring Planting - - and for Life

Submitted

Spring is when farmers prepare the ground and plant the crops that will provide income and sustain livestock for the whole year. The ground must be properly prepared to establish a rich seedbed; correct amounts of fertilizer must be applied; good viable seed, placed at exactly the right depth and spacing, comes next, followed by herbicides. It's a timely and costly procedure, but if I want a bountiful harvest, there are no corners to cut.

I was feeling the pressure of getting the planting right and snapped at the hired man and the kids. When I told my wife to hurry up and get lunch ready, she replied, "As you sow, so shall you reap."

She was right. For my life to be the type of crop God wants, I must follow the same careful steps I use in my farming:

- *Prepare* the ground by opening my mind up to God.
- *Fertilize* it with Bible reading.
- *Plant* the seeds of qualities like patience, love and generosity.
- *Cultivate* it with lots of prayer and church-going to keep it growing straight and strong.

Do you want your life to yield a bountiful harvest? There are no corners to cut.



Straw Hat Month - April

Straw hats have always had something of a pastoral air to them, from the conical straw hat commonly seen in rice fields to the wide-brimmed straw hats worn by 'hayseed farmers' in the Americas, straw hats say agriculture. What is largely unknown to many is how far back the history of the straw hat stretches. While some things may only get a single day of celebration dedicated to them, so important is the straw hat that it has an entire month dedicated to it!

Straw Hats have appeared in cultures the world over, and have been made from just about every conceivable form of straw or grass as a result. Some of the most common are wheat straw hats, most commonly found in the Italian Peninsula, rush straws, palm leaves (did you know that a Palm Tree has much in common with grasses?) and of course rice straw and bamboo that are used in

Asian Conical hats. It may seem a bit early to consider wearing a straw hat, especially since most people associate them with warm summer wear, but they really can be appropriate for much of the year, especially in milder climates. The unique properties of the straw hat make it a great piece of attire no matter what weather you face. Is it hot and sunny out? The woven straw hat will let heat escape while protecting your head from the pounding rays of a mid-day sun. Is it raining? A properly woven straw hat will let the rain roll right off your head and away from your face and clothes, helping you to stay dry. They may not be great when dealing with truly cold weather like snow, but wrapping a cloth around your head under the straw hat will help trap heat while keeping the snow or cold winter rain off your head.



Schneeglöckchen

A Prayer for April

*Lord, be Thou within me, to strengthen me,
Without me, to keep me;
Above me, to protect me;
Beneath me, to uphold me;
Before me, to direct me;
Behind me, to keep me from straying;
Round about me, to defend me;
Blessed be Thou, O Lord,
Our Father, forever and ever.*

~ Lancelot Andrews (1555-1626)