

# Half Circle



*Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face. ~ Victor Hugo*

**A Monthly Newsletter**

*Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Livermore, CA.*

**September 2010**

## **Message from the Senior Warden**

*Carol Purcell voices the emotions felt by a community in transition. We say farewell to a beloved Rector, Rev Carol Cook and prepare for an Interim Pastor.*

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## Message from the Senior Warden

Dear Friends,

This is an emotional time for the St. Bart's family. I know I am feeling sorrow, anxiety, joy and excitement in about equal measure.

Right this very minute I am actually smiling because my e-mail contained a note from a Vestry member indicating a job done before I requested that it be done and a response from a clergy member assuring us of needed support throughout our period of transition. These are not isolated incidents! It has happened a lot, especially in these last few months.

We all know that our Rev. Carol is deeply loved both within the parish and without. What you may not realize is that the parish community as a whole is loved. We are loved for who we are and what we are doing here. We are wished well. There are many hands reaching out to steady our way.

I also mentioned sorrow and anxiety. They are present in good measure too. We will miss Rev. Carol, personally and spiritually. We will experience anxious moments about many issues, large and small. Moving into new territory is scary. We will make mistakes, false moves, errors in judgment.

What is needed, both by your Vestry representatives and for the health of the community as whole, is continuing support.

We need you to come to church. We need you to volunteer, formally and informally for the many tasks that are required to keep our community functioning. We need you to pray, for us all, that we may correctly discern our path. But most especially, we need you to continue to love one another. That love is what will keep us strong.

Faithfully yours,  
Carol Purcell



## News & Notes

In October, the Vestry will be creating the Profile and Search Committee. This group will gather data, write a profile and conduct the search for a new Rector. It will require a considerable time commitment, perhaps as long as 18 months. If you would like to be considered for that committee, contact any Vestry member. From that pool, the Vestry will select the committee. We hope to begin working on the profile by early November.



Homecoming Sunday on August 29, 2010 launched the three-year Capital Campaign. The congregation heard more about this effort to fund much needed repairs and stewardship of God's place, at the worship services. Contact Carolyn Maiden or check the webpage on [www.saintbartsLivermore.com](http://www.saintbartsLivermore.com) for the latest report on the Capital Campaign.

Sign-up sheets for everything from A to Z (Altar Guild, Acolytes, Sunday School teachers, Ushers, etc) were available in the Parish Hall. Many thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers who offered to give abundantly of their time and talent.



Work parties at St. Bart's are opportunities for fun & fellowship over shared tasks and a meal!

A warm appreciation is extended to the community within our larger St. Bart's community. "Thank You" to Ann & George Butcher, Tom & Alice Williams, Mike Atkin, Dave Ruzicka, Abby, Patrick & Jessica Plemmons (and Grandpa), and Mary Myers & Dave Rettinger for a successful work party on August 21. Much accomplished on a perfect 70 degree weather day! Special thanks to Dave Ruzicka for repairing the irrigation system.

Work parties are planned for Saturday, September 18th to prepare for the Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting and Friday, October 8, 5pm onwards to set-up the Parish Hall for Altar Guild Luncheon. Volunteers are always welcome!



A reminder that any announcements for the Sunday bulletin insert will be accepted at the Church

office no later than 11 am on the Tuesday prior to the service date.



Carol Purcell, Senior Warden was informed during a telephone conference with Bishop Marc and Rev. Cannon Barlowe that they may have an Interim Pastor for the Vestry to interview. The congregation will be updated when new information becomes available. Bishop Marc and Rev. Cannon Barlowe have expressed their eagerness and commitment to help our parish through this transition period.



The Altar Guild members request help from parishioners for the October 9<sup>th</sup> event. They are preparing to receive a maximum of 125 people. The actual number will become available in late September as Diocesan invitees send in their 'RSVP'.

Help is requested for -

- ◇ A supply of scones and/or muffins for the coffee hour (should be at the Church by 8am)
  - ◇ Glass pitchers (to be used for water – 1 per table)
  - ◇ Troubleshoot the sound system in the Parish Hall
  - ◇ Set up on Friday October 8 at 5pm and take down on Saturday October 9 by 3 pm.
  - ◇ Assist Jenny Moy with morning refreshments and serving luncheon main course at the buffet table for the event on October 9, 8 am to 1 pm.
- Contact Cynthia Bird for more information.

### *From Our Readers*

The Full Circle layout and info are great. You are doing a terrific job with this. Thank you.  
~ Allison Stockley, Livermore, CA

Editor's Note: A warm "Thank You" to the many readers who respond to the needs expressed in the monthly newsletters. And to the casual reader, the St. Bartholomew's community invites you to join us at our Sunday worship services. Experience the growing vibrancy of our church and the fullness of God's love in our midst. To receive an electronic copy of the monthly newsletter, click on the link, <http://saintbartsLivermore.com/emailform.html> to have your name included.

## Vestry Notes

### Rector's Report:

Rev. Carol stated she is so proud and confident of how we are becoming. She is very proud of our stable financial position – the Holy Spirit is here with us! She is confident that the office volunteers know what they need to know. She stated that Mattie will stay - she is definitely St. Bart's resident cat. Rev. Carol reported she is very happy and knows that retirement at this time is the best decision for her. She will be keeping us in her prayers through this transition period and beyond.

### Commission Reports:

**Finance** ~ Carolyn Maiden reported the “kick-off” for the Capital Campaign will be on Sunday, August 29, 2010. There will be speakers at each service. In addition, there will be a special page on the website with Capital Campaign information.

**Communication** ~ Mike Atkin reported new calendars (parish and facilities) and schedules (acolyte, altar guild, lay reader and Sunday school) have been added to the website.

**Buildings & Grounds** ~ An appeal to join in and help prepare the buildings and grounds for Fall Diocesan Altar Guild meeting and luncheon on October 9. Mark your calendars for the work party on *September 18*.

**Hospitality** ~ Volunteers are needed to provide refreshments and make coffee after each service. Sign-up sheets are on the wall near the kitchen.

**Education** ~ Abby Plemmons requests additional teacher-volunteers. Check out the “Buzz” section on our website and learn about St. Bart's youth activities. The youth group will be made up of grades 5 and older (ages 10 and up). The youth group will spend this month learning about Saint Bartholomew and the history of St. Bartholomew's church in Livermore.

Abby reported she received a pleasant surprise from Molly Alexander. Molly presented Abby with leftover funds and books from the prior youth group led by Rev. Lyn Morlan. In addition, she presented Abby with boxes of old pictures and records that had been in storage. Abby reported she is very excited to learn so much of St. Bart's history by reading the old Vestry minutes, letters, original newspaper clippings, etc. She plans to have the youth group do some of the “community service” (for the needy families of our city), projects mentioned in the written history of our parish.

**Worship** ~ Jennifer Nelson reported that a program by the children of St. Bart's will be presented at Rev. Carol's appreciation dinner.

We are so blessed that the Holy Spirit is with us – we have a very busy time ahead of us!

~ Mary Myers, *Vestry Minutes, August 18, 2010*

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### *To be in God's Service ~ a commentary*

What does it mean to be in service to God? Many folks would say that it means the bishops, priests, and deacons of the church or the various orders of monks and nuns or those on the mission field and they would be correct. Those who are called to such work are indeed in service to Him and they do it splendidly as Mother Carol has done for us at St. Bart's. I must say that when God chose her for this work, He chose wisely indeed. Carol's work here will forever stand as a monument to what a priest should be. We have been richly blessed to have her among us and I thank God daily for sending her to us.

The excellent work of the clergy, however, is only one form of service to God. All of us are called to His service in some way. For me, it is to be a teller of stories, our stories. Sometimes, I do this via the written word and at other times through the spoken word but I am called at all times to do it well, to the very best of my ability and I dare not fail in this task.

For others, service may be in the form of teaching or healing or carrying out the business of government or defending our way of life or protecting us from those who seek to do harm to others. Each of us can rest assured that whatever form of service we are called to is vital and necessary to maintain and enhance the Kingdom of God. I pray for your success in His service and I thank you for what you do. ~ Brett Morrow



Rev Carol Cook  
 Carol Purcell  
 Ann Butcher  
 Velma Wong Chan

Rector  
 Senior Warden  
 Junior Warden  
 Music Director

## Parish Office

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## Vestry

Alice Williams  
 Ann Butcher, Dave Ruzicka

Carol Purcell  
 Carolyn Maiden  
 Jenny Moy  
 JoAnne Arakel  
 Kip West, Jennifer Nelson  
 Mary Myers  
 Mike Atkin

## Commissions

Outreach  
 Building & Grounds  
 Education  
 Administration  
 Hospitality  
 Event Coordinator  
 Worship  
 Recorder  
 Website

Abby Plemmons  
 Cynthia Bird  
 Dave Rettinger  
 Deepa Abraham

Sunday School  
 Altar Guild  
 Commission Aide  
 Newsletter

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church,  
 678 Enos Way, Livermore, CA 94551.

## Calendar of Events ~ September & October 2010

### Sunday Worship Services

8:00 am & 10.30 am

Sunday, September 5

Sunday, September 12

Sunday, September 19

Sunday, September 26

Sunday, October 3

Holy Eucharist

Rev. Carol Cook preaches her closing sermon.

Rev. Mary Goudreau

Morning Prayer, Eucharist with Reserved Sacraments with Jennifer Nelson & Kip West.

Rev. Fred Fenton

Rev. Charles Ramsden, St. Francis Day service, Blessing of the Animals

### Special Event

Saturday, October 9

Rt. Rev Marc Andrus will officiate,

Rev. Charles Ramsden will be the hosting priest at the Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting.

### Parish Work Days

Saturday, September 11, 9.30 am

St. Bart's Altar Guild Meeting

Saturday, September 18, 9 am

Prepare for the Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting

Friday, October 8, 5pm onwards

Set-up Parish Hall for Altar Guild Luncheon

### Vestry Meetings

Wednesday, Sept 15, 7:00 pm

Monthly meeting, Parish Lounge.

Monday, October 4, 7.00 pm

Rt. Rev Marc Andrus & Rev. Cannon Barlowe attend to assist with the transition.

### Book Club

Mondays at Noon

Book Selection: Good Book by David Plotz

### Choir Practice

Tuesdays at 7:15 pm

Velma Wong Chan directs the adult choir