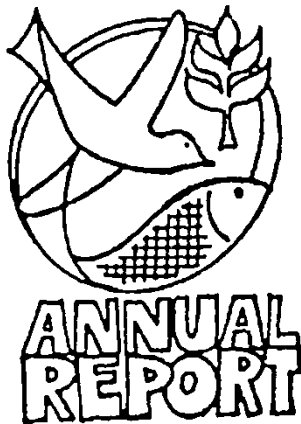


99th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

St. Bartholomew's Church

Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey

JANUARY 26, 2014



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JANUARY 26, 2014

RECTOR AND OFFICERS

The Rev. Daniel W. Kreller *Rector*
Lauren Smith *Warden*
Kathy Gabrielle *Clerk*
Dave Ackerman *Treasurer*

THE VESTRY

John Alberti	Jim Pierson
Wayne Kamidoi	Jayne Wolff
Peter Loder	Lisa Wyession
Joan Lupardo	

STAFF

Ann Woods Parish Administrator
Soon Yeon Chung Organist / Choir Director

RECTOR'S REPORT

“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a town and spend a year there, doing business and making money.’ Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.’ As it is you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.”

James 4: 13-15

The text I quoted above from James could be read two ways. One way is from the glass half empty point of view. That reading would be, don't count on all those plans you make coming to fruition, you don't know what the future will bring. The other way is the glass half full point of view. That reading would be the future will always surprise you so live expectantly. I prefer the second reading for to my mind it encourages making plans, though they may not be realized, and at the same time anticipating the unplanned and embracing it when it occurs. For as James says there is an X factor in all planning for the future. That X factor is God and His will. Our plans will be realized, but only if it is His will, and there are things that He wills for us that we didn't plan on.

One hundred years ago as the world was going to war a small group of Episcopalians that had founded a Mission Association ten years before and sustained it with the assistance of the clergy from Christ Church, Ridgewood, took the bold step to establish the Parish Church of St Bartholomew's, Ho-Ho-Kus. With the world in flux did they envision what they founded would endure a century into a new millennium? I doubt it. I suspect they merely put their trust in God and said, Lord willing, this Parish we are founding will prove to be of service to God and His kingdom. Apparently it has been, for God has prospered and preserved it these many years.

Thirty years ago I began my ministry here as your Rector. Did I have in mind then that my tenure would span three decades? Not at all! That thought never entered my mind. But, apparently it was already in the mind of God and he willed it. Speaking for myself I can only say I am glad he did so. In retrospect I can see the value in a long ministry in one place. It yields a depth and richness that can only happen given time.

One year ago, after doing our best planning, the Vestry proposed a budget for the year with an anticipated deficit of over \$9,000. God had other plans for we ended the year without a deficit. One year ago we began spending the money we had raised the prior year in the Capital Improvement Fund Campaign. As we tackled the list of projects we hoped to complete with these funds it became clear that one of the projects would remain unfunded – the carpeting and painting of the church school. It looked like we would have to cross that off the list. Apparently God had other plans. We had a downpour and because the drain in the stairwell by the church school exit door had been inadvertently covered over by a heavy rubber mat, water came under the doors and damaged the carpet and baseboard moldings. However, our insurance covered the cost of the cleanup, and the cost of replacing the carpet, the baseboard, and painting. So this project too was completed without any expense to us! God must have had a chuckle over getting it done that way. One year ago we began to investigate the possibility of installing solar panels

on the church. We discovered it would be feasible but costly. But during the course of that investigation we were made aware of a program of the state and PSE&G to install more energy efficient lighting and HVAC equipment in commercial buildings, including churches. Unbeknownst to us (and I am sure many others) businesses and churches had been paying a surcharge on their utility bills for some time. These monies went into a fund that would finance 70% of the equipment replacement cost to businesses or churches that qualified for the program. We qualified, signed up for the program, and for around a \$15,000 cost to us, replaced 3 hot air furnaces, 2 air conditioning units, and all of the florescent lighting in the parish hall and church school rooms with the latest energy efficient equipment. If God didn't chuckle over getting all that done this way, I sure did! One other project we hadn't even considered at the beginning of the year, given all the other work we planned to do, seemed too good a deal to pass up when it was offered to us. The painters who had scraped and painted the Rectory 7 ago years sent out a letter to former customers with a 10% discount offer. Work had slowed down for them with the downturn in the economy. So we signed on for repainting the Rectory too. That proved to be fortuitous for they discovered water damage and rot in several places that, if left unattended, would only lead to greater damage. Since Allen DeNier's men were working renovating the church bathrooms when this was discovered, they were able to do this repair work as well. It was a busy year, but at the end of it the building and grounds are in good shape, perhaps the best shape ever.

It has been a good year program wise as well. Peggy Kievit continued to do her excellent work with the church school. Her diligence in preparation and loving demeanor and sound faith assure the children are being impacted positively. She has given the children a good foundation for their faith to endure and grow into their adult lives. One change we made mid-year was to have the children attend the service the first Sunday of each month. This allows for them to fully participate in the worship experience and has the added benefit of allowing Peggy to Lay Read more often. In the same way Peter Loder continues to impact the youth positively as he leads the Youth Group meetings once a month. His diligence and earnestness sets a fine example for them. Soon Yeon Chung as always put 100% effort into her playing and directing. She spends hours in researching music that is compatible for our choir and many more hours in rehearsing. She sets the tone of joy in serving and joy in worshipping at the choir's Thursday night rehearsals. Our voices may not always harmonize but our hearts are in tune with each other when we come together and it is fun! This year we had the added pleasure of Mina Jo's return to the choir and that has blessed us all. I was at a loss as to what to do for Sunday Night series when we began the year. But God had a plan it seems. One day I got an unsolicited e-mail notice about a DVD Series entitled Islam: Threat or Opportunity? I was immediately interested for it seems to me few things are more important for us to understand in this new millennium than Islam and its influence in the world. Today there are 7.2 billion people in the world – 2.4 billion are Christian and 1.7 billion are Muslim. Thus, over half of the world's people are either Christian or Muslim and that percentage is only projected to increase in this century. Those who attended this 6-week series during Lent found it very informative. In the fall of the year we began the Confirmation course using the material I wrote several years ago, The God of Abraham Praise. We decided to try a different approach by making it the Sunday Night Series and encouraging parents of the confirmands to attend as well as other interested adults. I say we decided because I do believe it was God who put that thought in my head and I went along with it. It has proved to be very successful. We first have a meal together and then the teaching.

With 14 young people preparing for confirmation and the parents and others who attend we average nearly 30 persons a session. Confirmation will be held at the Cathedral at the end of May.

Now as we begin 2014 it is impossible to predict what the year will bring. We have made one firm plan, namely, to celebrate our Centennial with a dinner at the end of June. I thank Kathy Gabrielle for investigating locations and selecting and booking the event at Portobello's in Oakland. We do project a deficit for the year. We have no major projects planned since nothing requires urgent attention. We face the same headwinds of an aging congregation and declining church attendance that we have faced for years. In recent polls the percentage of "nons," those identifying themselves as having no religious belief or affiliation, reached a new high of 20% in our country. As the number who have fallen away from belief or affiliation increases, the shift in affiliation away from mainline churches continues. Nationally, the Episcopal Church continues to decline in membership, as does our Diocese. Perhaps few facts confirm this more than the one the Bishop revealed to the clergy at our Clergy Conference this year. He said when he was installed as Bishop 1/4 of the churches in the Diocese could not afford full-time clergy. Now 7 years later that figure is 1/3 and the trend is accelerating. He also stated he is closing 2 churches a year, on average. So, the future looks challenging. But then there is the X factor. God is never challenged by the future, though he may challenge us to embrace new things and new ways he has prepared for us. How is this for a new thing God seems to be doing? Did you know atheists are starting churches? It's true. The movement began in England and has come to America. Those who attend say they miss the mutual support, the singing, and the intergenerational fellowship that can only be found in churches. They read poetry instead of scriptures and do charitable works. I am reminded of Blaise Pascal who said there is a God shaped vacuum in the heart of every person. Or, of Augustine who said our hearts are restless until they find their rest in Thee. People are searching. People want to find and be found. God made us that way.

Finally, I would like to thank Ann Woods for her consistent fine work in the office. Her gracious spirit puts all who work with and interact with her at ease. I thank Dave Ackerman for coming out of "retirement" to assume the duties of the treasurer once more. No one is more diligent about our finances than he. I thank Lisa Wy session, Ghada Harb, and Peggy Kievit for facilitating the Rummage Sale once again. Though the sale happens on one day, the work of gathering and sorting stretches over the year so it requires a considerable effort. I thank John Alberti and Mike Gnerre for organizing the Golf Outing again this year. All who participate have a great time. I thank Janet Kreller and Mike Gnerre who chaired the committee, and Jane Pierson, Kathy Gabrielle, Rita O'Neill, Jayme Wolff, Jackie Fisher, Lisa Wy session, Wayne Kamidoi, Dave Ackerman, and John Alberti who served on the committee that organized another wonderful Bistro this year with the Oktoberfest theme. I thank the Vestry for their good work throughout the year. Finally, I thank Peter Loder who has fulfilled his terms on the Vestry. He has such a heart for this congregation and yearns over it. He will continue on the Finance Committee for which we are grateful. And I thank Wendy Dockray who fulfilled her terms as Warden. Wendy puts great love and effort into all she does: she did the same as Warden. The two things I would especially like to thank her for are suggesting the idea of the Bistro as both a fund and fun raiser. This past Bistro was our 6th. Wendy also conceived of the Capital Improvement Fund Campaign and defined the scope of the work to be done. The Campaign exceeded our hopes and expectations and each project turned out beautifully. For that we have

to thank Joan Lupardo who served as our decorator, Allen DeNier our main contractor, John Alberti who managed the various projects, and Wendy Tarvin who donated the carpet for the hallway. Thank you all!!!

If I were to define my ministry by the various gifts Paul lists in Ephesians 4, I would say I am a pastor and a teacher. Teaching is my public face – what you see on Sunday and other public occasions. It takes continual study and preparation to be a teacher. I am glad to do that because I have a deep desire to learn myself. Being a pastor is a private occupation, hid to all but to those to whom I am ministering at the moment. It is hard to speak about it. It is hard to explain it to anyone when they ask what I do. Below I list the Pastoral Offices I performed this year. To many it might seem like a list of names and dates. To me it is worlds that I have been privileged to travel in.

Dan Kreller

Pastoral Offices

Baptisms

4/7 – Emily Eleanor Brodie

5/19 – Julia Ann Klaus

7/28 – Madeline Barnes Osterhoff

Marriages

5/18 – Ruben Garcia to Amy Lee Konzelmann

6/22 – Jonathan Oak to Erika Rodger

Burials

4/28 - Tsugiko Fujii Howe

5/17 – Elizabeth Joy Daubenberger

7/30 – Peter Karl

12/17 – James H. Latham

WARDEN'S REPORT

This year's Christmas party seemed to reflect the wonderful friendships and community we have here at St. Bartholomew's. It has been a good year! Great things are happening such as: the renovations are complete and were a great success and the final touch of the hallway carpet is wonderful. Thank you to everyone involved in making this happen. Our Sunday school is thriving thanks to Peggy (17 children on a recent Sunday morning); thanks to Peter the youth group is going strong and has been a nice addition for our teens. Lisa has done wonderful work with outreach such as food collection for Harvest Sunday donated to CUMAC and the Angel Tree for Christmas. The Sunday night confirmation series has almost reached completion and thanks to Dan has been enlightening and fulfilling for all who have attended. Thank you to Kathy Gabrielle for planning the St. Bartholomew's 100th anniversary. A special thanks to everyone on the vestry and to Soon for continuing her good work with our music program. I also want to thank Mike Gnerre, Ghada Harb, and Jim Pierson for joining the vestry. Finally, we welcome Dave Ackerman back and commend his dedication and commitment as Treasurer. I look forward to a spiritually rich and fruitful year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Smith

OUTREACH

February - \$500.00 - Given to St. Anthony of Padua- Hackensack - Hurricane Sandy relief

April - Easter Food Drive - \$475.00 given to local families
25 bags of food given to Ramapough Indians
Toiletries, toys and children's clothing delivered to Goshen, NY

May - \$300.00 given to Tim Evans- P.A.R.K.S. - Paterson

July - \$500.00 given to Tim Evans - P.A.R.K.S - Paterson

November - Harvest Sunday - \$2400 given to CUMAC - Paterson
\$400.00 given to local families
34 bags of food plus a turkey delivered to CUMAC

December - 33 children's names taken for Christmas gifts for Ramapough Indians

We will continue our Food Drive for CUMAC the 1st Sunday of every month.
We will continue collecting toiletries and new children's clothing for the families in Goshen.

Thank you for all your support.
Lisa Wyssession

BUILDING & GROUNDS

My apologies for not being present.

I sincerely hope the meeting goes well, and if you have any questions for me, I'll respond upon my return.

2013 was a significant year for St Bart's Church in the way of Building and Grounds accomplishments.

Thanks to the efforts of the generous financial contributions of the congregation, and friends of St. Bart's we were able to accomplish a great deal.

Special thanks to Wendy Dockray and her efforts for establishing the Capital Improvement Fund, and the Finance Committee. We raised approximately 50K plus dollars to perform a variety of improvements at St. Bart's. Other improvements were funded by the capital fund, buildings and grounds restricted funds or from the reserves.

1. Capital Improvement Fund Improvements

- Repaving of the front parking lot

- Renovation of the bathrooms

- Painting of the kitchen, the cabinets and replacing the flooring

- New carpet for the school rooms and painting

- New carpet for the main hallway/corridor and stairs (special thanks to Wendy Jorgensen Tarvin, who donated the carpet)

2. Other improvements not part of the Capital Improvement Fund

- New Boiler for church school rooms

- Painting of the Rectory

- New cross on the roof of the church

3. Improvements made through the Direct Install Program of PSE&G

- Replacement of 3 hot air furnaces

- Replacement of 2 central air conditioning units

- Replacement of all florescent fixtures in the Parish Hall and church school

If I'm forgetting anything else, my apologies!

After being on the Vestry for 4-5 years, I would like to say thanks for the support and efforts both physically and financially to all.

It was satisfying to see all the work get done.

Thanks JOHN

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild is a team of dedicated parishioners in our Church devoting their time to maintaining, decorating and setting up the raised table where the communion is given.

We are comprised of three complete teams that rotate monthly for altar set up; each team is responsible for setting up for each service, including weddings, baptisms or funerals. Currently the rotation is once every 3 weeks.

We meet Saturday mornings and set up for the 8am service Sunday and at that time we also refill the candles as Don Rogers has not been able to continue with his duties due to health reasons. We meet again by 9:30am Sunday to reset for the 10am service. Following the 10am service the altar is cleared and everything is put away.

When a special service is held, the team will talk to Dan and find out his requirements. Following each Sunday service the team on duty is responsible to take home the altar linens wash, iron and return them ready for the next service.

Team members are - Team 1 - Lisa Wyession & Sue Howe
2 - Ghada Harb & Judy Malhotra
3 - Michael Gnerre & Rita O'Neill

Aside from our set up teams we also have a dedicated team that is always in the sacristy ready to clean and clear the altar and add to that special bond we share in the service we provide. Thank you, Virginia Smith, Lennie Garver, Bill and Bix Smethurst.

Please consider helping in Altar Guild and here are some areas to consider:

- Join one of the rotating teams.
- Lead decorating our church at special annual services and ensure flower deliveries.
- Offer your help in replenishing and purchasing supplies needed.
- Take charge of refilling candles.

Virginia Smith takes care of the flower Calendar. Requests for memorial flowers on the altar are handled by Virginia Smith. Please reach out to her and she will advise the office to see that it is in the bulletin.

Such a pleasure to be part of this dedicated Team that is always ready to help. Special Thanks to Rev. Kreller for his shepherding and leadership with the Team.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve...” (Mark 10:45)

Respectfully submitted,
Ghada Harb ~ Altar Guild

MUSIC

Hallelujah! As soon as I got the new calendar for 2013, I took a look at what dates or days Easter, Pentecost, Father's Day and Christmas each were. It was really the first step of my preparation for worship music at that moment. I would now like to look back on 2013 so that we may praise God together. First of all, we are thankful that we were able to praise God all year long in the sanctuary while following the church calendar peacefully in the Lord. There are not only Sunday worship services, but also some special services, such as Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Christmas Eve 4:00/11:00pm and Christmas service. Each is held in the sanctuary with music at different times on different days. Our church service always begins at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning with the organ prelude and hymns, service music, and choir anthem. Service ends with the organ postlude. After service I would reflect on how I did and find that I would not always be satisfied. That's why I would always try to find good music for our service, as well as practice and play well.

We appreciate organist Katie Suel who substituted for playing the organ during the Sunday worship service on September 15th.

The Organ in the sanctuary was repaired before Easter Sunday and still needs further repair. The Grand piano in the sanctuary and the upright piano in the parish hall were tuned in December and both are in good condition.

I would like to give a big applause to the efforts of all the choir members. And it is not enough to thank Soprano Mina Jo. She has been attending our church and singing in the choir since Easter service. She always moves and encourages us by her solo, choir anthem and descant of hymn with her angelic voice and a good musicianship.

We are also so glad that Jackie Fisher and Wendy Dockray got back to praising God as choir members. We presently have nine faithful choir members (6 women, 3 men). However we are trying to recruit more men and women for choir now. Our doors are always opened for new members. Choir rehearsal is held on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm for one hour in the parish hall and on Sunday mornings at 9:30am before service in the sanctuary as usual, except in the summer. Choir rehearsal began on September 12th and singing on September 22nd after having summer vacation. We had 20 new black choral folders by donation, so we do not use several blue choral folders anymore. All of our choir anthem and collection books, however, are saved in the choir room and reused from time to time.

I wish I could praise God with a new song on every Sunday, but we can't do it now. We had special music for Easter, Pentecost and Christmas Eve 4:00/11:00pm only. I hope we can have special music every Sunday soon. Our choir played the Easter cantata from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday in each piece separately. We appreciate Kim Ramsey for taking a solo part of the Palm Sunday anthem and Lauren Smith for singing on Easter Sunday. We enjoyed the Trumpet music played by Nate Berkey and the voice solo by Soprano Mina Jo during the Easter service. I wish I could have celebration music for the day of Pentecost like on Easter and Christmas, but I am sorry that the day falls on the memorial holiday. I hope to do it sooner later.

Rachel Taylor who is proud of our church played the Flute during Holy Eucharist for Pentecost and for the prelude of August, 25th.

Peter Loder attended in choir rehearsal during Advent season for Advent and Christmas music. He played a special clapping for the advent anthem. It is not an easy job, because "clapping" is a musical instrument. He did a great job! I loved his clapping during hymn singing at healing service also.

We appreciate the seasonal choir members (Peter Loder, Jim Pierson, Fred Bergamo and Samuel Jo) for men's chorus, 6 children who joined the adult choir for the Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm and Meredith Gnerre who played the violin with the women's chorus during Eucharist. The six children were excited for singing and taking small gifts with a special card by our minister Dan Kreller at that time. Their family attended it together to have the celebration. I hope to sing again with our parish children next time too. We had a good opportunity to listen to "O Divine Redeemer," sung by Soprano, Mina Jo. We couldn't have special music for Christmas Eve at 11:00pm last year. I met a talented young musician by chance during the summer, so we invited the teen violinist Jennifer Jeon for our Christmas Eve service at 11:00pm. She played "O holy night" and "What child is this" beautifully during offertory and Holy Eucharist with her Mother's piano accompaniment. We can enjoy the special music of Christmas Eve on our church website again.

Our church pianist Isabelle Loder directs hymn singing for about 30 minutes at the healing service on Thursday morning with her piano accompaniment. We can have a wonderful chance singing loudly with many different traditional hymns and contemporary gospel songs requested by person to person voluntarily. Whoever wants to, can come and join the service!

We have a community thanksgiving service in turn. This year we gathered at St. Luke church. I hope to join the choir more next year.

We had a choir party at Jackie Fisher's house on January 9th with a gathering of 17 people. We appreciate Jackie's kindness so much.

I appreciate our spiritual minister Dan Kreller, Pam Miller, Mina Jo, Wendy Dockray, Lisa Wyession, Rita O'Neill, Jackie Fisher, Tony Fletcher, Michael Gnerre, administrator Ann Woods and Dave Ackerman's working and helping for the worship service music again.

I hope and pray for praising God in the New Year (2014) much more than we have last year!

Happy New Year All!

Love,

Soon Yeon Chung, organist/choir director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In the beginning of 2013 we studied the Acts of the Apostles. For the second half of the year, in September, we studied the Miracles of Jesus. Starting in September, the children began to go into church once a month for a Family Service. All the children are invited to attend the Family Service on the first Sunday of each month.

Fall Sunday School started the new year on Sunday, Sept 8th. On Thursday, Sept 12th there was a severe rain storm which flooded the entire church school area. All the planned renovations for the improvement fund had been completed and there was no money left in the fund. So where do we go from here? I guess we'll be having Sunday School in the parish hall. Fortunately that was only the case for a short period of time.

Once it was determined that the existing carpet was no longer safe, Dan immediately called the insurance company. They would pay for new carpeting of equal value. Allen DeNiar offered to repair damage done to the rooms and paint the walls. John Alberti contacted a friend of his in the carpet business. John was given two carpets to choose from based on what was available at the time. We were getting remnants from other large installs. He chose the darker of the two. Our three "Sunday School Heroes" (Dan, Allen and John) proceeded to the dirty work of moving the furniture and ripping up the old carpet. Believe me it was not much fun for them!

Monday, Oct. 14, the new carpeting was delivered and installed. After work I went to take a look. Not knowing what to expect, I couldn't believe my eyes. I was so excited I muttered "this is beautiful" to myself. The men installing the carpeting heard me and informed me that it was Bentley carpeting and was of very high quality. They had just installed some at Princeton University. They could not understand how a church would be able to afford it! I was tempted to talk about miracles but decided to respond with the fact that we were getting remnants from another job.

After the carpet was installed, Allen had the lower walls painted. Dan moved all the furniture back into the rooms. The children returned to a newly renovated Sunday School on Sunday, Oct 20th.

This was a true blessing for St. Bartholomew's church. For me the best part was watching three parishioners use their gifts in a combined effort to create something beautiful for the church they love.

Love,

Peggy Kievit

OTHER VESTRY REPORTS

PETER LODER
VESTRY REPORT FOR 2013

My Vestry duties relate to the following matters:

1. Serve as **liaison** to Ken Espenak, our financial advisor for the **Edward Jones Emergency Capital Fund**. Edward Jones is a full-service investment firm in the financial-services industry. Mr. Espenak pursues a strategy that mitigates risk while still positioning us for some income and growth. The **Finance Committee** consisting of Dave Ackerman, Jim Pierson, Ann Woods, and myself meets with Ken periodically to review account strategy. The **Emergency Capital Fund**, valued at \$9,977.05 on November 30th, 2013 is separate and distinct from the recently created Capital Improvement Project fund to support the St. Bartholomew's 2013 Capital Campaign. The **Emergency Capital Fund** is for urgent and unanticipated situations resulting in extensive damages to current buildings and grounds. It was valued at \$22,160.15 on December 31st 2012. Monies from the **Emergency Capital Fund** supported critically needed improvements in the church's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. The Vestry invites each member of the Parish to contribute, above and beyond the normal pledge, to replenishment of this Fund back to the \$20,000+ level. This can be done by writing a check to St. Bartholomew's Church noting that the contribution is for the Emergency Capital Fund. The check can either be (1) placed in one of the "Improvement Fund" envelopes (found in the "My Offering" box for the months of January, May, and/or September, or (2) put in the Offering Plate during one of the regular church services, with "Emergency Capital Fund" noted on the check's memo line. The Vestry also approved Finance Committee motions to facilitate Vestry oversight of church income and expenditures.
2. **Youth Group**. The St. Bartholomew's Youth Group generally meets on the third Sunday of the month, except in the summer season and December. The Group met January through May, and September through November. The group meets during coffee hour following the 10:00am service until 12:15 noon. All youth ages 11 and above are welcome. The format of the meeting consists of: (1) opening prayer; (2) reading and discussing a selected passage of scripture; (3) activities as time allows; and (4) a snack. The activities are designed to accomplish the following: (1) relate even the simplest activity to passages from the Bible covering such topics as empathy and patience; (2) encourage decision making; (3) risk taking; (4) learning about each other; (5) have fun; (6) show your creativity; (7) have some good-natured competition; and (8) foster cooperation. The Group has on file over 60 activities available for future use. The Youth Group had two special activities in 2013 – (1) hosting a barbeque for the Parish on Sunday, June 30th – special thanks to Jack Passaro and Matthew Thurston - and (2) conducting a coat drive in December. Over 50 coats for men and women and adults and children were collected for CUMAC (Center of United Methodist Aid to the Community) to be distributed to the needy. Special thanks to Sarah Passaro and Hunter Tarvin for their extensive help.
3. **Prayer Card redesign**. The new Prayer Cards let one make more detailed requests should they wish to do so. Individual requests are of course confidential. As a whole,

however, the requests give us an indication of the prayer needs of the Parish. **Prayer requests** focused on the following: (1) peace/happiness: to be happy again, peace of mind, to find peace; (2) resolution of issues; (3) coping with loss; (4) health – patient focused: maintain good health, recovery, healing, dealing with specific health conditions, fear – awaiting diagnosis; (5) health – doctor focused: for successful surgery; (6) remember: a particular individual; (7) in harms way – an individual in the armed forces. The cards leave space for **follow-up requests** via phone and email.

4. **Assisting the homeless.** Below is the most recent policy statement regarding the homeless. It is an outgrowth of extensive discussion and experience over the last several years. The statement is as follows: When it is deemed by The Reverend Daniel Kreller that we have adequate facilities and resources, St. Bartholomew’s Church is prepared to serve homeless persons in the following ways:
 - a. Provide space for overnight stay, not including the basement.
 - b. During the daytime, the guest will be expected to leave the Church for work, job search, or to handle other personal matters.
 - c. The Church is not a residential facility and is not set up to house individuals’ personal items and the like, except for a few items of clothing and minimum toiletries.
 - d. It is up to Reverend Kreller’s discretion to determine the use of kitchen privileges.
 - e. Bathrooms do not serve as washrooms.
 - f. The maximum length of stay is based on Reverend Kreller’s assessment – a case by case basis.
 - g. A guest is welcome to worship in our Church.
 - h. Reverend Kreller will inform the Vestry of homeless persons using our facilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Loder



**JOAN LUPARDO
VESTRY REPORT**

The past year has flown by again, and each year it seems to happen more quickly than the last. It's time again to recap the past year as a Vestry Member and report what has happened in that time span.

Last year we had another wonderful Seder Dinner on March 28th, which was well attended by more than 70 church members, families and friends. We were very fortunate to again have Devin Kreller in the kitchen. I was on a trip to China until four days before the event, so I must say thank you to everyone who put his or her time and efforts into taking over much of the organization of the event. This year it is not expected that Devin will be able to be in town to spin his culinary magic in the kitchen. So, thank you all for your work last year. I will need your help even more so this year. You might mark your calendars now. The date is set for Thursday, April 17th.

I must thank Ann Woods for her work in scheduling the coffee hour hosts and emailing this out. She has basically taken over this job and done it well. I also am grateful to all our coffee hour hosts for the time and generosity they have provided over the years. We are always looking for new volunteers, whether as a regular or stand by. Please email Ann if you would like to be added to our list.

Lastly, I was happy to be a part of the committee working on our Capital Improvements. Along with the "Greening" of the church utilities, I am so pleased the choices of items have worked out so well for the kitchen and bathrooms, carpeting and paint colors. We are almost finished with what we hoped to accomplish. Thanks to Wendy Dockray, Allen De Niar, John Alberti and Dan for making it all work. Thanks to all of you for your generous contributions to the Capital Fund. Thanks to Wendy Tarvin for her help and generosity with the carpeting. I want to mention also one of my sources, Elisabeth Woomer at Blackman Plumbing in Mahwah, who gave time and effort to see that the project was a success. Also, a special thanks to Allen De Niar and his crew for their time and effort. The quality of work within such a tight schedule was amazing, and his patience and good humor throughout the project was priceless.

In closing, more thanks to Dan and my fellow Vestry Members for all the support they have given to me. They will continue to have my love and respect.

My best,

Joan Lupardo

B-LINE NEWSLETTER

As your B-Line Editor and Publisher, I'm happy to continue publishing a newsletter which had its start over 50 years ago.

Over the years the B-Line has gone from a few small mimeographed pages to today's professionally printed publication. During those years several parishioners have improved it, including long-time editor Yvonne Ristich, Kathy Mathews, and recently Janet Kreller who redesigned the cover and masthead.

About five years ago, in an effort to save time and money, we changed from publishing monthly (except July, August and January) to quarterly, which is now supplemented by e-mail announcements. Each issue now runs between 22 and 26 pages, beginning with Dan Kreller's "Reflections" and including reports of our activities - often illustrated with photos - inspiring and humorous articles, upcoming events, birthdays and anniversaries, and a prayer list. I thank those who frequently contribute material, including Dan Kreller, Kathy Gabrielle, Peter Loder, Lisa Wyession, Peggy Kievit, Toby Winiarski and Ann Woods. And I thank Janet Kreller and Rita O'Neill for photographing activities which I wasn't able to attend. We continue to maintain a good relationship with Ridgewood Press, which often has the issue printed within a couple of hours after we give it to them. And where would we be without Janet Kreller, who posts the B-Line on our web site, www.StBartsHHK.com, complete with color photos!

A year ago I said I would study other ways of distributing the B-Line. After some research, I sent a survey to the roughly 100 families whose e-mail addresses we have. I asked them how they'd like to receive each issue: as a PDF attachment to an e-mail, on our web site, or continue with a printed copy. Only about one-third responded, but 80% of them said they'd take it by e-mail or web site. This was more than I expected! But this represents only one-third of the families for whom we have e-mail addresses - and that's only part of our total readership. No matter how often we ask people for their e-mail addresses, we still have only about half of them. The advantages of receiving the B-Line electronically include faster delivery and color photos, and the people can receive e-mail reminders of upcoming events at least once a month. We assure them that we will not share their addresses with anyone, their addresses will not appear on their e-mails, and we will not overburden them with a "joke of the day" or spam or other trivia. We welcome anyone reading this to give us your e-mail address so you can enjoy the benefits of on-line communication from us.

My goal is to reduce the number of mailed copies from about 200 down to 75. Although postage costs will increase because we won't have enough copies for the non-profit bulk rate, printing costs will decrease substantially and our overall cost will be less. I hope to begin this new service with the Summer issue in late May.

I will always appreciate your contributions of material for publication. Please send them to my home address, DaveAck1@aol.com, by the 5th day of February, May, August and November. And I'll also appreciate your comments and suggestions for improvement.

Thank you for your support, and thank you for allowing me to continue serving St. Bartholomew's Church.

Dave Ackerman

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

“Hello Everyone, I hope all is well with you.” 2013 has been a wonderful year. My Monday and Friday schedule has been working out quite well. Many thanks go to Dave Ackerman for assisting me with all my office responsibilities and only asking to share chocolate in return. Now that he is treasurer, I may need some new office angels. Are there any volunteers?

I am grateful to every member of St. Bartholomew’s Church for your love and support. Without you, I would not have this job. I love serving this parish and tending to your needs. May God bless me with many more years at St. Bart’s. A special thank you goes to Dan Kreller for his leadership, guidance, generosity and humility. He is always finding ways to help and never looks to receive recognition for his efforts. He is a good example for me.

In 2013:

- Peter Loder and I completed new prayer cards. You can find them in the pews.
- The bulletin prayer list was cleared each month. Each new request will be kept on the list for one month unless otherwise requested.
- The “serving in the military” prayer list was reviewed. We were unable to find the people who requested the names. Please check the list and help us with this mystery.
- Bob Mazza, Dave Ackerman and I revised the counting sheets. The new sheets are working quite well. Thanks to both Bob and Dave.
- Monthly mass e-mail reminders and death notices were sent. This helped to keep everyone informed.
- Weekly service reminder e-mails were sent with attached bulletins and readings.
- Supermedia’s services were ended since they were no longer need. This saves about \$175 in annual office expenses.
- QuickBooks was upgraded to the 2013 version since the customer support ended for our version.
- Smaller special requests and projects were completed.
- A Federal Payroll Tax credit was filed and received for the 4th year.

This year I plan to:

- Continue with my regular responsibilities.
- Review the church database and issue a new directory.
- Work with Jim Pierson to reduce trash removal expenses.
- Work with Dave Ackerman to de-clutter the church office & storage.

Thank you to whoever donated 33cent stamps to the office. Your gift helped us to save over \$20 in postage expense.

Thank you for all of your support. God bless.

With Sincerest Regards,
Ann Woods