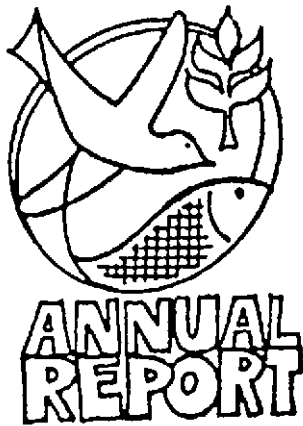


97th ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



St. Bartholomew's Church

Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey

JANUARY 22, 2012

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St. Bartholomew's Church

70 Sheridan Avenue

Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey 07423-1541

201-444-5025

StBartsHHK@aol.com

www.StBartsHHK.com

JANUARY 22, 2012

RECTOR AND OFFICERS

The Rev. Daniel W. Kreller *Rector*

Wendy Dockray..... *Warden*

Lauren Smith..... *Warden*

Kathy Gabrielle *Clerk*

Jodie Johnson *Treasurer*

THE VESTRY

John Alberti

Joan Lupardo

Wayne Kamidoi

Marjorie Taylor

Isabelle Loder

Jayme Wolff

Peter Loder

Lisa Wyssession

STAFF

Ann Woods..... Parish Administrator

Soon Yeon Chung Organist / Choir Director

**96th Annual Parish Meeting
St. Bartholomew's Church
Sunday, January 23rd, 2011**

After a call to order and opening prayer, the meeting began at 11:40 with 37 adults in attendance.

The minutes from the January 2010 meeting were reviewed. They were approved with a motion made by Peggy Kievit, seconded by Toby Winiarski with all in favor.

Dan Kreller introduced the ballot of nominees for the open Vestry positions:

- Warden (2 year term) – Lauren Smith
- Vestry (3 year term) – Marjorie Taylor
- Vestry (3 year term) – Peter Loder
- Vestry (3 year term) – Joan Lupardo
- Vestry (2 year term) – Wayne Kamidoi
- Vestry (1 year term) – Lisa Wysession ** to fill Dave Ackerman's seat
- – John Alberti ** to fill David Chase's seat
- – Kathy Gabrielle ** to fill Courtney Taylor's seat

Convention Delegates (3)

Michael Gnerre
Jackie Fisher
Lisa Wysession

Convention Alternates (3)

Jayme Wolff
Lauren Smith
John Alberti

Convocation Deputies (4)

Lauren Smith
Jayme Wolff
Lisa Wysession
Michael Gnerre

These names were presented & polls remained open starting at 12:05pm. At 12:40 Dan Kreller opened the floor again for additional names; none were presented. Dan asked the parish clerk, Kathy Gabrielle to cast the ballot to elect the new vestry members. All in attendance were in favor.

Warden's Reports:

Wendy Dockray reported that 2010 wasn't the best of years financially for the parish. The loss of about \$70,000 in assets related to a family trust, pension and medical costs pricing high, the loss of income from some beloved longstanding members, and pledging down due to the economy, these were all causes of our financial issues. In response to our fiscal concerns related to the parish building and grounds, Peter Loder is organizing a Capital Fund Campaign to ensure savings for major church improvements.

Wendy happily reported that even though we were down financially we had some success to the inner soul of our parish:

Our third annual Bistro raised over \$7,100, the sale of homemade items by Jackie Fisher and a successful Seder Supper, helped us financially. Soon Yeon Chung led the church through a year of spirited music, Marjorie Taylor led our church with a full calendar of Outreach efforts, and we welcomed Ann Woods as our new Parish Administrator on January 3rd, 2011.

Michael Gnerre reported that much has happened both good and bad from our last parish annual meeting. Our 2010 budget was approved with a deficit and unfortunately this coming year will probably be the same even though a tremendous effort was put forth by the Vestry to end in the black. We had a trying year with our homeless program which forced us to reexamine our efforts in this Outreach

program; resulting in us locking the doors at night for the first time. On a positive note, Michael reported that 2010 brought us success with two major fundraisers, the Bistro and our second annual Rummage Sale.

On a personal note, since Michael is stepping down from the Vestry after this meeting, he expresses his extreme pleasure to serve as Warden for the past 6 years. He gave a special thank you to Dave Ackerman for all of his years of dedicated service to St. Bartholomew's both as our parish administrator and treasurer. He also thanked Wendy for her diligent service to the church and Vestry and lastly to Dan Kreller for his continually quiet and unheralded presence and work in our Parish.

Rector's Report:

Dan Kreller encouraged the parish to read his report. He thanked the Vestry members for their service this past year, Soon Yeon Chung for her work with the choir, and Dave Ackerman for his work both in the office and as our Treasurer. At this point, Wendy Dockray joined Dan at the podium and on behalf of the entire Vestry, presented Dave Ackerman with a new Canon Power Shot SX30 camera and a leather bound Bible to Michael Gnerre for their years of service to the Vestry and Parish.

Dan continued on his reflection of our aging parish population; referring to there being more burials this past year than marriages and no baptisms. He spoke also of the change to the parish homeless program since St. Bartholomew's after 20 years no longer serves as a homeless shelter during the winter months and how we are now closing and locking our doors at night; examples of changes in life and for him an opportunity to fix his heart on God and get centered again.

Building and Grounds:

John Alberti reported that since he joined the Vestry the following projects/works have been completed: Replacement of the freezer compressor for our kitchen refrigerator, replacement of kitchen dishwasher, installation of wrought iron handrail at the steps of the Parish Hall stage, purchase of new molded plastic folding chairs with the donation of the older chairs to St. Philips in Paterson, restoration of the St. Bartholomew's sign on the front lawn and ongoing general maintenance; including a great deal of snow plowing due to our recent storms.

Projected upcoming projects are:

Replacement of carpeting in hallways, replacement of vinyl flooring in kitchen, refurbishing or replacement of stall dividers in both bathrooms and replacement of counters in bathrooms.

Stewardship:

Dave Ackerman reported that as of mid January 2011 we had received a total of 47 pledge cards equaling donation value of \$109,870; compared to last year's 52 pledges equaling \$115,592. On the basis of these statistics, the Vestry has budgeted \$154,500 for 2011 pledge payments; a decrease from the budgeted \$160,000 of 2010.

Dave thanked those that have pledged and reminded those that haven't that it isn't too late.

Outreach:

Marjorie Taylor reported on her busy year of Outreach for the church. The year consisted of a total of \$4,725.00 in cash or gift cards being collected by our parish and then being distributed from March through November 2010 to those in need. Food donations for both our Easter and Thanksgiving collections to the Ramapough Indians, toiletry bags to the migrant workers, 40 pairs of mittens, clothing and books to the House on the Hill in Goshen, 37 children's names for Christmas gift giving, collection of toys and games from the Midland Park HS, and dolls received from a former parish member Joyce Millett all made up for this past year's Outreach efforts.

Altar Guild:

Marjorie Taylor spoke about how this special section of the church is still in need of help. The three teams that make up the Altar Guild have lost some members due to moves therefore replacements are strongly needed. Marjorie thanked her Altar Guild members and Rev. Dan Kreller for his help in whatever she asks of him.

Music:

Soon Yeon Chung firstly expressed her appreciation to her dedicated choir members for this past year's wonderful music. She thanked the Rev. Hyung Park from the Korean church, Mrs. Park and their son Daniel for joining the choir for Christmas Eve service, and to the special musicians we had throughout the year perform on special Sundays: Lisa Wyssession for flute, Rachel Taylor for flute/oboe and Adam Gabrielle for trumpet. Soon reported that our choir robes and belongings, organ and grand piano in church and the piano in the parish hall are all well maintained. She is hopeful for more special music events this coming year.

Other Vestry Positions:**Hospitality:**

Joan Lupardo reported on the success of the Seder Supper and Bistro dinner and how she is currently the person scheduling the Coffee Hour Hosts. She and Lisa Wyssession have talked about creating a cookbook of recipes from parishioners.

Finance and Misc.

Peter Loder spoke of his work as our liaison to Ken Espenak, our financial advisor for the Edward Jones Capital Account and the start of the planning for the growth of the Capital Account. Peter also spoke on the trip to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine he had organized, the book discussion group that is going strong, organizing the help to the PARKS Corp. to benefit the children of Paterson and heading and reforming our homeless program.

Treasurer's Report:

Dave Ackerman introduced the proposed budget for 2011 and inquired if there were any questions or clarifications needed. He earmarked how in 2010 we would have come close to meeting our overall operating budget without the decrease of nearly \$72,000 of our net worth due to one asset, and an error in calculation of the Rector's pension contributions back in 2008, which cost us \$7,100. He mentioned how the Vestry is looking for ways to cut costs and increase income as noted in his Treasurer's Report, but even with these measures his proposed 2011 Budget reflects another deficit; one similar to the 2010 estimate.

There being no major questions or comments from those in attendance, the Treasurer's report was approved by all in favor.

B-Line & Parish Administrator:

Dave Ackerman spoke how during 2010 the B-Line was published quarterly and how with membership down, we are at the minimum number of copies to qualify for bulk mailing. He thanked Janet Kreller for maintaining the St. Bartholomew website.

Dave then spoke of his retirement from being both the Parish Administrator and the Treasurer, stating that these years have been the most gratifying and rewarding experiences in his life. He introduced and formally welcomed our new Parish Administrator – Ann Woods.

There being no further business – the 96th Annual Parish Meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Gabrielle
Clerk*

Rector's Report

David Barret died this past year at the age of 84. His was not a household name. But I knew his name very well. He had done much to enrich my ministry. How? By applying the science of demography to the study of religion. Ordained an Anglican priest in 1955 he was posted to Kenya as a missionary the next year. It was there that his interest in the demographic study of the religious began. The end result of that study, 26 years later, was his *World Christian Encyclopedia* published in 1982. It provided a detailed snapshot of the status of all religious affiliations, not only Christian, for the very first time. *Time* magazine called it "a bench mark in our understanding of the true religious state of our planet." It was published at a time when sociologists were predicting the end of religion and lauding that as the demise of superstition. "Oh so sure and oh so wrong," as one of my friends was fond of saying. Barret demonstrated with cold hard facts, not the wishful thinking of the social scientists, that the world was becoming more religious, not less, and it was becoming more Christian. That was encouraging to me. I felt like I was on the winning team. I needed to feel that because right here and right now where we live it is becoming less Christian. If you are a salesman you don't want to hear your market share is diminishing. Ours is in this particular territory but the company as a whole is thriving. The church worldwide is doing very well. One third of the world's people identify as Christians. Muslims are the next largest group but behind us by nearly 750 million adherents. Nevertheless, going forward by 2100 Barret projects that Christians and Muslims will make up 66% of the world's population. So, in this last year of his life he declared that Christian-Muslim relations should be at the top of missiological priorities in the coming years. Don't we know that after having lived through 9/11 ten years ago and the longest wars our nation has been engaged in in Iraq and Afganistan.

Barret also had a wry sense of humor. On one occasion he addressed a crowd of wealthy donors on the most effective means of evangelism. He presented the idea that martyrdom might be the most effective means. After a stunned silence one of the donors inquired, "Dr. Barret, what is the second most effective means of evangelization?" He was right. The fastest growing church in the Anglican Communion is in the South Sudan. That is a country where perhaps 2 million people have died in civil wars, most of them Christians at the hands of Muslims of North Sudan. South Sudan was just recognized as a nation separated from North Sudan. Yet despite the adversity Christians face there, the church is growing rapidly.

But we aren't facing martyrdom here so we aren't going to grow the church that way. Nor are we going to grow the church by adding new members through birth it appears. This past year was the second year in a row in which I performed no infant baptisms. Yet there isn't a year that goes by without me presiding at a funeral. This past year was no exception as we mourned the death of two long time very active members, Fred Smith and George Garver. As a result we continued the decade long trend of declining average Sunday attendance. Though it is little comfort to know, we aren't the only congregation to be experiencing this. It is true of our Diocese as a whole and even the National Church. And it is true for other denominations as well.

If Dr. Barret had answered the question about the second most effective means of evangelization he would have replied, personal invitation. All the studies show that. And it is not just a little more effective means than publicity or welcoming visitors who come to try out a church. It is vastly more effective. The studies have shown that 80% of the people who join a church do so because of a personal invitation. So, if we aren't engaged in asking our friends and family and neighbors to join us at church, by default we are relying upon the least effective means to grow the church. I know I have said all of this before, but I want to keep the issue in front of you. Growing the church is the responsibility of each one of us. We will be living into our mission when we aren't content to just bring ourselves to church but are only content when we are bringing others with us. One thing I plan to do to help facilitate personal invitation is to follow up the Sunday night series, "Discovering Christ," that we had in the fall with the next programs in the series, "Following Christ" and "Sharing Christ." The last program is a primer in personal invitation.

Despite the worry over attendance, I feel there were several positive things about this past year. One was a confirmation class of 9 young people. This was the largest class in my tenure here. It was a joy to meet with these young people week by week. I had turned 60 at the beginning of last year and there was something about reaching that milestone that prompted me to write down what I believe and understand of our faith. I entitled this work, "The God of Abraham Praise" and used it for the confirmation

instruction. I also published it as an e-book and it is on our church website where it can be accessed for free. It was a challenging endeavor, but worthwhile to me at least.

Another positive was that we ended the year with only a slight deficit. This was a surprise to us all on the Vestry since we had projected a much larger deficit and even at that we were being hopeful. Although you all contributed to our financial well being this year, I would point out that we were greatly helped by a \$4,700 increase in donations from the A.A. group and by an unanticipated donation of \$3,750 by a member of the group. It arrived in the mail on December 30 with this note. "As a member of a group that meets twice a day at St. Bart's, thank you for your kindness in opening the doors to groups like ours. Without help from people like you, people like me wouldn't have the opportunity to learn about a God of our understanding."

Bishop Beckwith visited this past year and that proved to be very positive. It had been several years since his last visit and his presence was a boost to our morale. He was favorably impressed with our congregation and the state of our facilities. He experienced the congregation to be welcoming and he particularly enjoyed his interaction with the congregation at the forum after the service and with the Vestry after that. He was amazed at the number of A.A. meetings that we host weekly and their level of financial support. He had worked as a drug and alcohol counselor early in his ministry and he knows the value of the program. When he walked with me around the property before the service he said we have the most beautiful grounds of any church in the Diocese.

Still another positive is the good spirit that exists among the Vestry members, in the choir, at the Thursday service and Bible study, and on the committees that worked on the rummage sale and Bistro and the golf outing. I give thanks for the way in which all worked well together and showed genuine care and affection for one another. I would like to thank in particular Lisa Wyession and Ghada Harb for overseeing the rummage sale, John Alberti the golf outing, and Jane Pierson the Bistro. And I am very grateful for Peggy Kievit's continued good work with the church school and Soon Young Chung's excellent work as our organist and choir director. In addition Ann Woods has been a superb addition to the staff. She has completed one year with us now. Her accounting knowledge has been a boon and she has been working closely with Jodie Johnson who assumed the role of treasurer this year. Thank you Jodie! I am also grateful for Dave Ackerman who has volunteered much time this past year to instruct Ann in the ins and outs of the administrator's job and has continued in the role of B-line editor and parish photographer.

Lastly, the most positive thing that occurred this last year was that I was able to play 18 holes of golf for the first time in 25 years at the golf outing and not make a complete fool of myself.

Dan Kreller

Pastoral Offices

Marriages

7/9/11 – John Frederick Klaus, Jr. to Lauren Marie Azar
7/23/11 – Stephen John Andrews to Louise Miller Saunders
8/13/11 – Gordon Joseph Canizio to Andrea Maki Howe

Burials

1/4/11 – John W. Broere
1/17/11 – Gloria Redeke Feus
1/21/11 – Charles Frederick Smith
2/19/11 – Abele Oscar Riva
3/7/11 – George Thomas Garver, Jr.
8/22/11 – Jean Gourlay Hanson
11/6/11 – Edward H. Goodnough

Confirmation 5/14/11

Sadie K. Alberti
Amelia Darby Fogg
Sarah Marlowe Passaro
Courtney Schroeder
Robert Frederick Tarvin
Rachel Taylor (5/22/11)
Anne Wells Thurston
Mary Elizabeth Vandevander
Nora Elizabeth Verhoff

WARDEN - Wendy Dockray

There are many responsibilities (and worries) associated with the position of Church Warden. My last year's annual report concluded:

“Looking ahead to 2011, the church's financial challenges remain on the horizon and topics of concern include how to better grow the parish, including attracting and retaining its youthful membership.”

Fortunately, progress was made in both areas over the course of the year. Highlights are as follows.

St. Bartholomew's ended the year with a very small operating deficit-under \$500. This positive outcome can be credited to many factors, including:

- The willingness of our parishioners to pledge and to give generously to the church.
- An increase in the donation from AA groups that use the church on a daily basis. AA contributed approximately \$2,000 a month to the church. Individual donations from AA members were also gratefully received.
- Three fundraising events which together raised approximately \$10,000 for the church. The Bistro at St. Bart's netted over \$6,000 despite a last minute move to a Sunday evening due to the October snowstorm. Headed by Jane Pierson and Mike Gnerre, the Bistro was a beautiful and welcome relief from the terrible weather and power outages. Led by Lisa Wyession, Ghada Harb, Peggy Kievit and Jennifer Laterra, the annual Rummage Sale was also a big success. Adding approximately \$2,000 to the mix was the first annual St. Bartholomew's Golf Outing, coordinated by John Alberti and Mike Gnerre.
- A payroll tax credit of over \$1,600 obtained by our new and wonderful parish administrator, Ann Woods.
- Careful budgeting of expenses.

Looking ahead to 2012, the Church's Finance Committee and the Vestry discussed at length a capital campaign and outlined the elements thereof. The campaign is being further developed and should kick off early in the Spring.

On the issue of growing the parish, a committee was formed and led by Peter Loder. A framework was set for exploring the establishment of a youth ministry and a meeting of potential youth group members has been set for this coming February.

Additional activities and actions which sustained us and help us to grow included:

- Regular Sunday worship services, along with the wonderful healing service and Bible study on Thursday mornings and Sunday evening video series, all led by our devoted pastor, Dan Kreller. We greatly appreciate his teaching, prayers and personal support. A special thank you is extended to Janet Kreller for her delicious contributions to the Sunday evening dinners and for her work on the church's beautiful website.
- The traditional Seder Supper, coordinated by Joan Lupardo and highlighted by Devin Kreller's cuisine. Mike Gnerre spearheaded a tasty Advent breakfast and many parishioners contributed welcome coffee hours.
- Our beloved Church School, led by Peggy Kievit, with the assistance of Lauren Smith and Jayme Wolff.
- A plethora of Outreach initiatives led by Marjorie Taylor, including collecting toiletries for the migrant workers in Goshen, gifts for the children of the Ramapough Indians and others, Harvest Sunday and Easter meals. We also continue to collect household items for St. Philip's Ministries in Paterson and host AA meetings twice a day, five days a week.
- Our small but growing choir (up by three), led by Soon Yeon Chung. Welcome Rita O'Neill, Ellen Flanagan and Tony Fletcher!
- The B line, compiled and edited by Dave Ackerman (featuring numerous photos from the camera given to him upon his retirement from the Parish Administrator's position at the end of 2010).

Thank you to Dan for his leadership and love, to Ann Woods for her able administration of the office and to my fellow Vestry members and parishioners for a great year at the church.

Wendy Dockray

WARDEN - Lauren Smith

This year I have enjoyed helping out with our Sunday School program with Peggy Kievit. As Peggy noted, in an effort to enhance the experience of our children in 2012 we will split the class by age group. Peggy will teach the older children while I will be teaching the younger children. Kathy Kamidoi and Jayme Wolff have volunteered to fill-in when needed and a schedule will be in place. On given weeks we have had more than 10 children in Sunday school. We hope to provide an experience that the children look forward to and do not want to miss! I would like to thank Peggy wholeheartedly for her effort! Some churches in the area have paid staff to work on the children's ministry. In addition to working full-time, Peggy has generously offered her "gift" of time and is doing a wonderful job!

Recently, Peggy, Peter and I attended a Teacher Resource Day sponsored by the archdiocese in Montclair, NJ. For example, I attended a children's ministry class entitled "teaching with Music, Art and Drama". I also participated in vestry education workshops at St. Elizabeth's in September. I am grateful to St. Bartholomew's for this opportunity.

I have enjoyed meeting with Peter Loder to work on the implementation of a Youth Ministry program at St. Bartholomew's that will be directed toward adolescents and teens. This effort needs as much enthusiasm from parents as possible so thank you in advance! I look forward to being available to help with this program as well. Thank you Peter for your vision and perseverance to create something special at St. Bartholomew's.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve on the vestry and wish everyone a happy and healthy 2012!

Yours faithfully,

Lauren Smith

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

I sincerely regret not being with my friends and parishioners this day for the annual meeting. I was somewhat reluctant to take the position on the Vestry, in particular for the Building and Grounds job when asked a year or so ago. However, even though Facility Management is not my strength, I'm very happy that I did and to be on the Vestry. By doing so it has helped me with my journey to grow in my faith, and my love of this church and the congregation.

With the help of Allen De Niar and Peter Loder, we have hopes of raising 50K for a Capital Fund, hopefully, in the year to come to address various projects and needs of the church. Some of those needs are as follows.

1. Paving of Parking lots, particularly the front
2. New carpeting for the hallways
3. New vinyl flooring for the kitchen
4. New women's bathroom vanity and toilet partitioning
5. Replacing the cross on Sanctuary roof
6. New tables for Parish Hall

Some of the things we did this past year include the following.

1. New chairs for the Parish Hall
2. Replaced a few windows and screens
3. New sign in front at the street (thanks to Janet Kreller)
4. New railing at stage stairs
5. Ongoing cleaning of carpeting
6. Some new window treatments
7. Ongoing general maintenance

Hopefully, the financial conditions in the upcoming year will enable us to accomplish some or all of the needs, but overall we should be proud of the condition of St. Bart's and thankful to the people and efforts done prior to this so called Facility Manager.

Thanks for your support,

Love, John Alberti

OUTREACH

"Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving" Psalm 95:2

JANUARY - 37 children's names were taken for Christmas 2010 for the Ramapough Mountain Indians, children, in Mahwah. Including one parish family who took a whole family, mother, father and children, providing many wonderful gifts. As we approached Christmas we received a number of phone calls asking for Christmas help, so our number of children increased.

FEBRUARY - We are collecting toiletries to make up toiletry bags for the migrant workers when they arrive end of March, beginning of April to plant the onion fields in Goshen, New York. We received a box of children's hats and mitts from Ellie Linder's school, who brought them in for Sr. Jean's Migrant Worker's Day Care Center in Goshen. A Thank-you letter was mailed to the school. We also received two bags of new children's sleepers from the Emmanuel Cancer Center, they also will be taken to Sr. Jean. Toby Winiarski has offered to take them. A friend dropped off children's clothing- perfect sizes for Sr. Jean's 75 children.

MARCH - We have been collecting school supplies to share with several groups. We have received quite a lot, we thank each of you for responding to both the toiletries and the school supplies.

Donation to Tim Evans for his Children's P A R K S program.....	\$300.00
Donation to Episcopal Relief & Development.....	\$100.00

We are planning now for our Easter Food collection Palm Sunday, April 17th. A flyer was in the B-Line, and other flyers will be in the Sunday Bulletins. The food will be for the Ramapough Indians.

APRIL - We had a food collection for Easter dinners for the Ramapough Mountain Indians and received 35 bags of food, and \$330.00 with which we purchased Gift Certificates.

Ramapough Indians received.....	\$180.00
Sr. Frances, St. Joseph's Hospital.....	100.00
Two families in need.....	50.00

	\$330.00

The Outreach Committee thanks each of you who were so generous in your giving.

MAY-JUNE - We will continue to collect toiletries. Toby and Sue Winiarski drove to the migrant workers in Goshen. We took toiletry bags, men's clothing, and toys. They were gratefully received.

JULY - A donation was mailed to Sr. Jean, at the House on the Hill, Goshen. She day cares for 75 migrant workers children.....\$250.00

A donation was mailed to Stash Grajewski, Director of the Migrant Workers in Goshen.....\$250.00

AUGUST - OCTOBER

We have been collecting toiletries and school supplies and will be passing them out in January. St. Philip's Ministries continue to pick up all items left in the front Hall.

October we mailed letters to the supermarkets asking for donations for Harvest Sunday.

HARVEST SUNDAY November 20th

We had a very successful food drive - We received 30 food baskets, and \$760.00 from our parishioners and \$100.00 from ShopRite.

ShopRite.....	\$100.00	
Our parishioners.....	\$760.00	

		\$860.00
ShopRite Gift Certificates to - Ramapough Indians	\$150.00	
St. Philip's Ministries.....	200.00	
Needy families.....	175.00	
Rev. Kreller needs for counseling.....	335.00	

		\$860.00

November 27th we had 31 children's names which were offered to the parishioners. 25 names I received from the Ramapough Indian families, and two families telephoned the Church asking for help. There were six children in the two families. All the names were taken and the most generous gifts returned. The gifts were taken to the Ramapough Indians December 19th and very gratefully received. The other two families stopped by and picked up their gifts, with a big THANK YOU. Jayme Wolff drove the gifts to Mahwah, and Mary, the Directress and helpers were there to carry all the gifts in.

Once again Joyce Millett, a former member of the church, who moved to IL, collected through her church a large number of dolls, she said she would be sending me 50-75, and they came, she also sent a box of porcelain dolls, very lovely and they were sold and the money added to the gift certificates. Joyce washes and redresses the dolls, they are like new. One box of dolls was taken to the migrant workers in Goshen, one taken to Sr. Jean, at the House on the Hill, at Goshen, one given to a teacher to give to her needy children.

The Midland Park High School Student Senate made an amazing collection of toys and many children's sport and general items. There was sufficient for the Church of the Good Shepherd in Ringwood to come with a big van and fill it, the Ramapough Indians came and filled a large van, and there was more and St. Philip's Ministries in Paterson took the rest. It was a great gift. A donation was mailed to Tim Evans for his children's P A R K S program.....\$200.00

It has been a very meaningful Outreach again this year, I thank everyone for their kindness and generosity.

January we would appreciate toiletries for men and women and school supplies for the children who are in need, pens, pencils, erasers, rulers, note books and any item children need in school - all grades.

Thank you and I wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

OUTREACH
Marjorie Taylor

MUSIC

I am so happy to write, with peace, the Music Report for 2011 at this time. In the previous church calendar year, all of us praised the Lord our God in the sanctuary, except on the 28th of August, when service was canceled due to the hurricane. I am sorry to organist Katherine Suel who was supposed to play the piano for the service at that time.

I prepared the following music: organ prelude/postlude, piano music, voice solo, instrumental music, hymn playing, meditation piece, choir anthem for Sunday worship services at 10AM and on Ash Wed., Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Christmas Eve services at 4:00PM/11:00PM each. Organist Katherine Suel serviced at 10AM on the Sunday of 15th May nicely.

The piano in the sanctuary was played during the summer in July & August for the entire service instead of the usual organ.

We invited musicians for our special services: Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas Eve services at 4:00PM. Soprano Mi Yong Park worked with our choir and voice solo for Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. Trumpeter Nate Berkey played a trumpet solo with the organ for prelude, postlude, hymn playing, and choir anthem during the Easter Sunday worship service.

Our minister Dan Kreller wanted a very fast solo piece for flute at Pentecost and invited flutist Patty Lazzara since it's not only a matter of music, but also the understanding of Pentecost.

Adam Gabrielle and Rachel Taylor played the trumpet and the flute solo during the Christmas Eve service at 4:00pm. I am very proud of Adam and Rachel, because they have wonderful talent and musicianship. Pam Miller also had a beautiful voice solo.

Our choir consisted of four women (Pam Miller, Wendy Dockray, Jackie Fisher, and Lisa Wyession) and two men (Michael Gnerre and our Minister Dan Kreller) in January. Soprano Mina Jo joined the choir during January & February and encouraged us greatly. We still miss her angelic voice. We welcomed three new members (Ellen Flanagan, Rita O'Neil, and Colin Verhoff) on September and two new members (Peter Loder and Tony Fletcher) during Christmas season. I am very grateful to our choir members for their effort and faithful dedication.

Our choir had a rehearsal every Thursday at 7:30PM in the parish hall and at 9:30AM on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary from the second Thursday of September to the Sunday of Father's day (July & August were excluded).

Lauren Smith had a voice solo for Mother's day. Lisa Wyession (flutist), Meredith Gnerre (violinist), and Rachel Taylor (oboe & flute player) played the instrumental parts of the choir anthem with our choir.

Most of our choir anthem is Two-part Mixed right now. I hope to order the SATB voicing of choir anthem soon and expect new members to join.

There was a Choir party held in Jackie Fisher's house at 6:00PM on January 5, 2012. It was actually our Christmas party, not New Year's. We just held it at the most convenient time for us after Christmas Day. Eleven people gathered to have a great time, as well as to have a short choir rehearsal. I'd like to say thanks to everyone, especially our host Jackie Fisher.

In addition, I took part in a children's sacred music summer camp for a 10-district Episcopal church. It was held at St. Alban's church in Oakland, NJ, for the first time. I had an organ master class with the children.

I had a chance to play the Blues Gospel Piano solo "Amazing Grace " arranged by Jack Schrader during our Sunday service. It was 9/11 on the 10th anniversary exactly. I was very happy to share the music with our congregation.

I went praising our God with the Community hurch choir at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service.

I played in five memorial or funeral services including that of Fred Smith and George Garver, both of whom had been dedicated to our choir for a long time. I also played in three weddings services in 2011.

Personally I love to have a hymn singing and Bible study at Healing service on Thursday morning. I am very grateful to Isabelle Loder for her playing the piano with passion voluntarily.

I am so thankful for our minister Dan Kreller, administrator Ann Woods, and Dave Ackerman for taking pictures.

In 2012 we will be playing new music and will be giving praises to our Lord.

With regards,

Soon Yeon Chung
Organist/Choir Director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This past year has been challenging for the Sunday School. With the number of children we have and the vast age differences it has become increasingly difficult to effectively administer religious education with only one teacher. In order to give the children the best possible education we have decided to split the group into 2 classes. Lauren Smith is now teaching the younger students and I am with the older group. The younger children spend time learning Christian songs, listening or reading religious based stories and working on crafts. The older group has a lesson followed with discussion and related activities. Occasionally the entire group watches a movie.

All children are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings. If you know a child who does not normally attend a church school, please invite them to visit some Sunday. We a hoping to increase the Sunday School population.

Respectfully submitted from,
Peggy Kievit

OTHER VESTRY REPORTS

The bulk of my Vestry duties relate to the following matters:

1. Serve as **liaison** to Ken Espenak, our financial advisor for the **Edward Jones Capital Account**. 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.
2. **Involved in planning for the growth of the Capital Account** so that St. Bartholomew's will be in a better position to meet future buildings and grounds requirements. Finalizing and implementing the plan is a top priority for 2012.
3. Discussion leader for the **Book Discussion Group** that meets on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 – 8:45pm in the Parish Hall. Books covered this year are: *The Pursuit of God* (A.W. Tozer), *30 Days to Understanding the Bible* (Max Anders), *The Imitation of Christ* (Thomas a Kempis), *Crazy Love* (Francis Chan), *World At the Edge: How To Prevent Environmental and Economic Collapse* (Lester Brown), *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith From the American Dream* (David Platt), and *If You Ask Me (and Of Course You Won't)* (Betty White). The Group is currently reading *Between Heaven and Mirth* by James Martin, SJ. The next book will be *A Memoir of My Extraordinary, Ordinary Family and Me* (Condoleezza Rice).
4. **Addressing the needs of the homeless** by making a donation of household cleaning items to the DACKKS Group. DACKKS is an acronym of the founders' initials. The organization was mentioned in a column of the August 23, 2010 issue of the *Bergen Record*, by Harvey Lipman entitled, "Homeless find an affordable place to get 'a leg up'; (the DACKKS) Group uses grants, gifts to buy housing for the needy to rent." In this particular case, donations helped DACKKS to prepare an apartment for a new tenant. DACKKS welcomes volunteers.
5. **Outreach to teens and pre-teens**. A survey entitled "Regarding a Youth Ministry at St. Bartholomew's Church" was mailed to 38 teens and pre-teens. Parents also received a copy. If there is to be a youth program, the teens and pre-teens were asked what types of topics would be of particular interest, what types of discussion formats they would prefer and what activities would be of greatest interest. The survey also had open-ended questions to encourage feedback. Of the seven who returned the survey, the following **topics** were **of particular interest**: (a) making a difference; (b) making things better; (c) funniest experiences; (d) most uplifting experiences; (e) hardest decision(s) to make; (f) most admired person(s) I know; (g) being a peacemaker; (h) a book of the Bible; (h) turning negatives into positives; (i) turning enemies into friends. The **preferred discussion formats** are: books and/or DVD/video covering the topics. **Preferred activities** are: (a) participation in the Church service; (b) social; (c) community service, and (d) fund raising.
6. **Teen and pre-teen follow-up**. Given feedback to date, a youth group meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 5th after the 10:00am service and during coffee hour. The **program** is as follows:
 - a. **Opening prayer**.
 - b. **Introductions**. Getting acquainted.
 - c. **Activity**: How good is our group recall? An object is identified that we usually see several times a day. How well does the group do in recalling all the words written on the object? What implications does this have in terms of our daily living?
 - d. **Snack**. Social time.
 - e. **Activity**: Who stays and who goes? Half of a group of persons must go while the other half stays and remains safe. You pick who goes and who stays. You are one of the persons who must stay or go. Give reasons, for your selections please.
 - f. **What's next?** Would you like to continue with a Youth Group? If so how often should it meet and when and where? Select a topic and an activity for the next meeting. Assign responsibility for preparation for the next meeting.
 - g. **Closing prayer**.

Peter Loder

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Another year has quickly passed and looking back it seems as though it was just yesterday I was writing up my annual report as a Vestry member.

Our Seder Dinner had a sign up of 79 but was attended by well over 80 Church members along with families and friends. The food was once again fabulously cooked by the very gifted chef Devin Kreller and our own parishioners. Thank you all who set up, cooked, prepared the Seder plates and cleaned up. I believe that understanding the symbols and traditions of the Seder is a bridge in understanding our own Christianity, and sharing the Seder table with each other is a lovely way to begin our Easter season. I would love to hear from our parishioners about volunteering to help and/or any suggestions for additions or changes concerning the Seder this year. I don't believe Devin will be able to cook this year, but we have some wonderful home cooks and with some work and planning I'm sure it will be wonderful. We plan to have the Seder on Thursday, April 5th, 2012, so please mark your calendars.

I took on the scheduling of the coffee hour hosts this year and will be sharing it with Jayme Wolff. (With lots of help from Ann Woods.) Instead of mailing the schedules Ann has been emailing them in order to save on postage. I would like to hear any suggestions concerning the coffee hour and will gratefully accept any new names to the hosting list.

Lisa Wyession and I are hoping to get more interest and participation in a church cookbook for St. Bartholomew's. We are still planning on putting it together, so email either of us any recipe you might like to share.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow Vestry members for all their work, help and encouragement they gave in the past year. They have my love and respect, and I am looking forward to 2012.

My best,

Joan Lupardo

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We had our best Silent auction at the bistro this year! Working with Jackie and her special talents we were able to have a wide assortment of items and contributions.

The rummage sale in June was another success. We had great variety of 'stuff' - many came, left happy and seemed to find that thing they really needed. It is a lot of work but we have fun too - mainly because of our committee - Ghada, Peggy and Jen. We are already collecting for our sale this spring so start checking those attics!

I always enjoy helping Marjorie with outreach in anyway I can. We could always do more as a church in this way and if anyone has any ideas or would like to help in any way please let us know.

The proposed St Bart's cookbook is still a figment of Joan and my imagination but we are hopeful especially with all the creative cooks we have. Of course there is the internet but it is nice to have a book you can carry around with you too!

Cheers, Lisa Wyession

B-LINE NEWSLETTER

Although I retired a year ago as Parish Administrator and Treasurer, I agreed to continue as B-Line Editor and Publisher, for several reasons. One, I like the job. Two, I can continue working with my church family. And three, since the Vestry gave me an awesome digital camera as a retirement present, I'd better use it in church!

In 2011, I continued publishing the B-Line four times a year, approximately the first day of March (Spring issue), June (Summer), September (Fall) and December (Winter). During the year Janet Kreller redesigned the cover and masthead to give our newsletter a fresh, clean look. A year's supply of the color cover was funded by an anonymous donor, and I thank both Janet and that donor. I also thank Ridgewood Press which has consistently given us a quality publication, often on short notice. Ridgewood Press also does much of St. Bart's other printing, including our mailing envelopes, Bistro invitations, and this Annual Report.

Most B-Line issues are around 20 pages, and begin with Dan Kreller's thoughtful "Reflections" followed by Kathy Gabrielle's summary of recent Vestry meetings. Then come notices of upcoming events, reports of recent activities, Wendy Dockray's "Meet our Members" profiles, Marjorie Taylor's Outreach report, and articles and anecdotes from our members. The issues conclude with parishioners' birthdays and anniversaries, and a prayer list. I try to include photos of our church activities, but I can't be at every event, and so I thank Janet Kreller for helping out. I also thank Michael Gnerre and Rita O'Neill for sharing their photos of our golf outing, and Rita for covering our Christmas open house.

The B-Line is our primary means of communication with our members. If we need to contact you between issues, we have used postcards. Last fall we experimented with sending announcements by e-mail, which saves us time and money. We plan to continue and expand this method, but it will work better when we make some upgrades to our computer software, and I will help Ann Woods with that. We have e-mail addresses for most of our members, but if we don't have yours, please send it to the office, [**StBartsHHK@aol.com**](mailto:StBartsHHK@aol.com). We do not share e-mail addresses with other persons or organizations, and we do not show the recipients' addresses on these e-mail announcements.

For many years we mailed the B-Line from the Ho-Ho-Kus Post Office and you often received it the next day. But in 2010 new Postal Service procedures required us to use a bulk mail facility in Allendale, and delivery was not as fast. And then in mid-2011 we were shifted to Mahwah, and the two mailings we've done from there have taken at least a week to get to you – and proposed service cutbacks in 2012 may mean more delays. To compensate, I'm moving up our schedule by a few days, and so I am asking for any news, articles, anecdotes, etc. to be sent by the 5th of February, May, August and November. I'm producing the B-Line at home, so please send any contributions – and suggestions and comments – by e-mail to [**DaveAck1@aol.com**](mailto:DaveAck1@aol.com).

You can read the B-Line on our website, [**www.StBartsHHK.com**](http://www.StBartsHHK.com), and see the photos in color. Unlike some other organizations, we don't plan to offer the newsletter by e-mail as an option. We are just about at the minimum number of copies to qualify for a postage discount, and going below that minimum would cost us more in postage than we would save in printing.

Thank you for allowing me to continue serving St. Bartholomew's Church

Dave Ackerman

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

This past year has been a powerful experience for me. I have met many wonderful people and discovered a working environment that I didn't know existed. It has been a gift at this time in my life to join my faith with my professional experience. It has given me a joyous outlook on my employment experience. When I am not here, I think fondly of the time that I will be in the office. I enjoy being here to serve you. Dan Kreller is an amazing man. His calm nature has made my transition back to the working world a very gentle experience. Wendy Dockray has been a great leader, guiding me in every new project attempted this year. Thank you both for your guidance and assistance during my first year.

I would like to thank Dave Ackerman for his patience and thorough training. As I have learned, there are many tasks that occur only one time per year. Just like this annual meeting for example. This year, Dave has donated much of his time, talent and treasure. He gives his time to train me, his talent for proofreading and more, and his treasure of donating office supplies. Also, he is continually adjusting his schedule to meet my availability. He is always there to help when I am running out of time. Like delivering things to the printer, going to the post office and many other office duties. With his stories, he has shared his love for this church and all of you. It has been a gentle introduction to the history of St. Bartholomew's Church. Therefore, I have gotten to know Dave Ackerman quite well and we have become good friends.

There were some changes this year.

- We are now sending the service schedule communications mostly through e-mail.
- We are connected to the internet through cable.
- We are paying some bills by phone.
- We are sending event reminders through e-mail.
- We purchased a new copier.
- We are borrowing a heater to keep the office warm (Thank You Isabelle).
- We filed and received a Federal Payroll Tax Credit.

One project I would like to attempt this year is to clean up the sexton closet by the back door. So far I have spackle and paint. We will also need door trim, floor tiles and helpers. If there are any volunteers, please let me know. Any skilled workers would be appreciated.

I look forward to working for you this year and will hopefully meet more members. Thank you.

With Sincerest Regards,
Ann Woods
(201) 444-5025
stbartshhk@aol.com