

Sundays

8 am Eucharist and Homily
 A quiet, traditional language service, no music.
 9 am Eucharist and Sermon
 A simple, spirit-filled, tuneful celebration.
 10 am Children & Family Chapel
 10 am THE CENTER for youth (ages 13-16)
 10:15 am Sunday School for all ages
 10:15 am The Rector's Forum
 11 am Choral Eucharist and Sermon
 Traditional liturgy with hymns and St. Bartholomew's Choir.
 Child care is provided for the 9 and 11 am Sunday services.
 7 pm Eucharist and Sermon

Monday–Friday

8 am Morning Prayer
 12:05 pm Eucharist
 5:30 pm Evening Prayer

Thursday

6 pm Thursday Evening Eucharist

Saturdays

10 am Eucharist

Visiting/Getting in touch

Church entrance: Park Avenue between 50th and 51st streets
 The church is open for visiting, prayer, and meditation every day from 8 am to 6 pm (Thursday to 7 pm).

Mailing address and church office entrance:
 109 East 50th Street, New York, New York 10022
 Phone: 212-378-0200 Fax: 212-378-0281
 email: central@stbarts.org web site: www.stbarts.org
 To email any member of the staff: lastname@stbarts.org

To phone the clergy directly (area code 212):
 William McD. Tully, Rector: 378-0251; Tom Ehrich, Director of Church Growth and Development: 378-0209; Elizabeth Garnsey, Associate: 378-0285; Bruce W. Forbes, Honorary Associate: 378-0210; J.D. Clarke, Deacon: 378-0229.

On nights and weekends one of our clergy is always available for pastoral emergencies. Dial 212-378-0250 and your call will be automatically forwarded to the on-call priest.

- Questions, sign-ups, event tickets, and general information: St. Bart's Central at 212-378-0222 or central@stbarts.org.
- Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute, 212-935-5023.

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CROSSROADS



From the Rector

Why you should explore “confirmation”

Of all that happened to me last year, nothing was more gratifying or grounding than teaching a “parish-wide confirmation course” to more than 130 of our members. It was wonderful that more than 90 were confirmed or received, but it was our learning together—for the teacher always learns—that was so strengthening for me.

I use that word strengthening because it goes to the root of what we mean by the word, the rite and the custom of “confirmation,” which means, literally, “with strength.”

We decided it was time to re-emphasize confirmation, and when we did we found many of you agreed. I think most of us in that course realized that to live in this world, especially to live alertly and intentionally as a Christian, is to need strength.

You're a tough audience. Few of you swallow the easy words, the glib formulations of religion that one can slip into. That's why I learned as much as I taught in that course. The questions were insistent and sometimes hard enough that I found myself often saying “I don't know.” That's no ploy. Wise spiritual masters often say that that's the question that sets your feet on the journey of faith.

In the last period of his life, Thomas Merton, the monk who was at once a deeply traditional Trappist and a restless spiritual explorer outside the boundaries of the church, wrote *New Seeds of Contemplation*. It was 1962, just on the edge of the world's descent into a new round of violence—assassinations, civil unrest, regional wars, wars of liberation that confounded the generals.

Looking around, and I think trying to ad-

dress the questions increasingly coming to him by ardent followers, he memorably wrote that “the basic Christian answer to hatred, is not the commandment to love, but what must necessarily come before in order to make the commandment bearable and comprehensible.” And what comes before? It is, he said, “a prior commandment to believe. The root of Christian love is not the will to love, but the faith that one is loved.”

That's a huge dive down into the real depths of faith.

“Until this discovery is made, until this liberation has been brought about by the divine mercy, men and women are imprisoned in hate.”

It may not be hate in the first instance that keeps you caged. For many of us, it's less defined, something like a persistent unease that we're missing something in this life.

“Life's Strong Center” is the title I've put on this year's confirmation course, offered again on both Sundays and Wednesdays in Lent.

If you have all you need and know all you need to know, you get a pass. For everyone else, come along. I need you to question and teach me as I have the honor to teach you what I've learned along the way—including those unanswerable questions.

Come along, maybe just to explore and learn. Maybe to ready yourself to commit when the bishop comes April 27. In any case, come for the strength.

—BILL TULLY

See page 2 for more details

DON'T MISS

EVERY SUNDAY

8 am Traditional Eucharist
 9 am Eucharist
 11 am Choral Eucharist and Sermon
 7 pm Eucharist

ALSO EVERY SUNDAY

10 am Children & Family Chapel:
 Families with children ages 2–12 enjoy a brief, upbeat, and fidget-friendly service.

10 am Youth at The C.E.N.T.E.R. in the Vestry Room. Visiting youth in grades 6-12 are welcome.

10:10 am the Rector's Forum with teaching and speakers on a variety of sacred and secular subjects.

10:15 am Sunday School classes for children ages 4 and over: Register in person at St. Bart's Central, using the form in the CY&F brochure.

Sunday details always up to date at: www.stbarts.org/comingthissunday.asp

ST. BART'S CENTRAL is our 7-day-a-week help desk. Come by or call 212-378-0222 or email central@

7 pm Sunday service to resume

Starting small and simply, a community-style Eucharist will begin on the First Sunday in Lent, Feb. 10. We'll gather in the chancel/choir area, and at the Great Thanksgiving, all will be welcome to gather around the high altar in the apse. Our own musicians, with occasional help from singers and instrumentalists, will support this service as it takes shape, grows and emerges into place of deep spirit and welcome. Come as you are, and see what emerges.

Coming Up

E-course for parents begins February 11

You are invited to join other St. Bart's families for an e-course, "Practicing Spirituality with Children," a 40-part course delivered twice a week by e-mail in a single beautifully-formatted page that contains a short passage from a book about children's spirituality or spiritual parenting, or a children's book with a spiritual message, along with a simple "practice" for you and your children to do together. You will also have the opportunity to join in a circle of St. Bart's friends who wish to share experiences and concerns in a closed online conversation group. The fee is \$25. You can join the course at any time (with the opportunity to catch up on past emails). The course will be accessible through www.stbarts.org in mid-February.

February organ and film series

For the first time ever, St. Bartholomew's will host internationally acclaimed organists accompanying classic silent films. Before the advent of "talkies", films were accompanied by organists who were gifted improvisors and used the organ with very colorful effects to create a sound world underscoring the drama of the film. This art form is still alive today and you are invited to hear great artists accompany these legendary films. In observance of the 100th anniversary of Olivier Messiaen's birth, the series will also include a screening of Paul Festa's documentary "Apparition of the Eternal Church," in which 31 cultural icons are interviewed as they listen to Messiaen's powerfully provocative work. The concerts will take place on three consecutive Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm.

The schedule is as follows:
February 13 "King of Kings", Cecil B. DeMille (1927)
David Briggs, Organist Emeritus
Gloucester Cathedral

February 20 "Balloonatic", Buster Keaton (1923); "The Count", Charlie Chaplin (1916)
Dorothy Papadakis, Former Organist,
The Cathedral of St. John the Divine,
New York City

February 27 "Apparition of the Eternal Church", Paul Festa (2006)

Courses through Lent

All-parish confirmation course

Life's Strong Center

Bill Tully will again bring his teaching skills, and his open mind and open heart, to what he loves best—giving people a chance to find God and find community.

The class will be offered in duplicate at 12:30 pm Sundays and 6:30 pm Wednesdays, a flexible formula that worked so well last year. Choose your day week by week. You can also subscribe to the audio by podcast at www.stbarts.org

A "strong center" picks up on the core meaning of Confirmation, a sacramental rite that literally means "with strength." In a profoundly changing world, each of us needs to connect or re-connect with strength to faith and practice. The Christian tradition of Good News, and our rich Anglican heritage of custom and attitude of mind and heart.

Dates: Sundays February 10, 17, 24; March 2, 9. Or, Wednesdays February 13, 20, 27; March 5, 12. A special session, Palm Sunday, March 16, to preview Holy Week. "Reunion" and review sessions Sundays, April 13 and 20 for those to be confirmed at the bishop's visitation, Sunday, April 27.

- What does it mean to be a Christian in today's world?
 - What is the message of the Bible and who gets to define it?
 - Jesus—the heart of the message.
 - Practice, practice, practice: worship and ethics for today.
 - Personal transformation and commitment.
- Full details and course outline at www.stbarts.org

Membership Classes

Sessions for all members. All classes begin at 6 pm Wednesdays in Lent:

February 13—Discover

February 27—Connect

March 5—Join

March 12—Making a Fresh Faith Commitment

Baptismal Preparation

Sessions for all adults preparing for baptism and for parents preparing for their children's baptisms, will be held Wednesdays, February 13, 20, 27 and March 12. Youth who would like to be confirmed should attend confirmation classes on Sundays, February 3 and 10, March 2 and 16, and a final review on April 20.

Book study

For the five Mondays of Lent, beginning February 11, Tom Ehrich will lead a study of his book *Just Wondering, Jesus: Questions People Want to Ask*. Events leading up to this book led him to develop the Church Wellness Project.

This spring at CRI

The Center for Religious Inquiry kicks off its spring semester with a eclectic mix of courses:

• **Bibles Before The Bible** with Daniel Polish; Four Mondays, beginning February 11, at 6:30 pm; Registration fee: \$50

If, as some say, the Bible is the word of God, and if, as others say, every word is true, then how can we reconcile that many other earlier ancient civilizations have sacred texts remarkably similar to the Hebrew Bible?

• **Introduction To Islam** with Hussein Rashid; Four Tuesdays, beginning February 12, at 6:30 pm; Registration fee: \$50

Learn about the principal tenets of Islam, the differences between Sunnis and Shiites, and the ways in which Islam is practiced in the United States and overseas.

• **Understanding Russia Through Russian Orthodoxy** with Dr. Alexei Khamin; Four Thursdays, beginning February 14, at 6:30 pm; Registration fee: \$50

It has been argued that one cannot understand the mysterious soul of Russia without understanding Russian Orthodox spirituality and worldview. The course will explore why the Rus did not convert to Islam, why radical attempts to westernize Russia have succeeded, and how the Bolsheviks exploited Christian symbols.

• **Book & Author event: Brands of Faith: Marketing Religion in a Commercial Age** with Mara Einstein; Wednesday, February 27, at 6:30 pm

For more information, go to www.stbarts.org/religiousinquiry.asp

Lenten Meditation

Children, Youth & Families Director Kathy Bozzuti-Jones shares some ideas for daily meditation.

- Sitting in silence, centering, waiting and inviting God's presence.
- Use of a verse or passage of scripture or poetry.
- Use of a repetitive saying or mantra such as "God is Love" or "Come, Lord Jesus."
- Reflecting on your life's journey.
- Examining the events, discoveries, joys and pains of the day.
- Listening to and making music or making art.
- Focusing on something in creation, in art, an icon, or a symbol.
- Taking in the beauty of creation, as if for the first time.
- Following your breath in and out, until you feel the Spirit's presence.

Teaching children the Gospel through drama

On Our Feet Before God

By Kathy Bozzuti-Jones

The Gospel can be more than just spiritually moving; it can pull you out of your seat. The more animation and audience participation used in teaching the Gospel to children, the better.

Theater people get it.

"The way we offer the Christian story for

children incorporates them and gets them on their feet; they actually experience the move from onlooker to active participant in the story during a lesson," said Toni Rubio, a parishioner at St. Bartholomew's Church and director of The Living Museum Company, a professional actors' troupe that performs interactive cultural history and literature programs in New York City and Westchester schools.

This fall the company brought theater to the church.

St. Bart's Children, Youth & Family Ministries are piloting a dramatized story time for children of all ages twice monthly in the chapel during the 11 a.m. worship service, coinciding with the sermon. Costumed actors come to interpret a Gospel parable or story from the life of Jesus, loosely following the lectionary cycle.

Afterward, the children work with the story in a hands-on way, playing improvised games to recreate the story scene-by-scene, to make it their own. By acting out the story, children internalize the rhythm of the Christian moral life: *With good role modeling and opportunities to practice, one grows in the ability to act on one's faith.*

Interactive possibilities are as numerous as the children are unique. And the improv method is open to modernization: Imagine Nintendo, Transformers or Bratz dolls as gifts of the Magi or as the robber's spoils in the story of the Good Samaritan.

St. Bart's has used actors before. During the summer Artists-in-Residence program, Living Museum actors playing saints and modern-day social activists, such as St. Francis and Winnie Mandela, interacted with children.

Last spring, actors played disciples who were sure they felt the presence of Jesus after his death in The Road to Emmaus for the annual Easter Walk. The actors were moved to tears during the performance, which added to the Easter rejoicing. After this performance, I felt it was the right time to pilot a drama program.



Jesus relieves Thomas of his doubts. Easter Walk, 2007. The Living Museum Company at St. Bartholomew's Church, Great Terrace, Park Avenue.

We tell the stories of God's people to help us understand ourselves as individuals and as members of a community of believers; to help us find meaning in life. Dramatization especially helps younger children understand the stories. They are told to be good, holy and loving. But what does it mean to be good and holy? To love your neighbor

as Jesus loved? Through drama we connect words to action.

"Drama is tactile and visceral. When you are aware of the breath, the voice, and what the body can express even without words, you come to appreciate that your living experience is, itself, a gift of God," Rubio said.

Action speaks louder than words.

This article first appeared in the Sept/Oct 2007 issue of The Episcopal New Yorker and is reprinted here with permission.

Educational research suggests hands-on learning enhances both memory and understanding by engaging the body, much in the same way exercise enhances muscle memory.

Six of the elements we use are:

- Exercises (sensory, imaginative, pantomimic)
- Vocal warm-ups
- Mini-play
- Discussion/review: Who are the characters? What is this drama about? Where are you in the story?
- Participatory improvisation
- Sharing: What did you learn about yourself today? About the mystery we call 'God' today?

The evening will include performances of works by Messiaen with Violinist, Paul Festa and Organists, Paolo Bordignon and William K. Trafka.

Tickets for each concert are \$10 and can be reserved by calling (212) 378-0248 or by going online to www.stbarts.org and will be available the evening of the performances.

Overcoming the Fear of Public Speaking

St. Bartholomew's Career Assistance Center presents "Overcoming the Fear of Public Speaking," 6:30-8 pm, Wednesday, February 13. Are you talented, confident, and great at what you do—but terrified to speak in public, present to a group, or give a report to your boss? St. Bart's parishioner Karen Schadow, a highly-acclaimed voice and presentation skills coach, and president of The Voice of Success, will help you achieve the confidence, control, and connections to your audience that can turn nerves into positive energy! Cost: \$20. For more information, contact St. Bart's Central.

After the Honeymoon

It's not uncommon that just a few years into marriage, the runaway train of romantic love begins to slow down... Couples married from three to six years are invited to a workshop offered by St. Bart's and the Psychotherapy and Spirituality Institute and led by the Rev. Alan Chisholm. You will gain insights for deepening your communication and sharing with greater honesty your hurts and delights, disappointments and appreciation. Topics for the two-day course will include "How to be close and not lose yourself: balancing 'I' with 'We.'" Friday, February 15, 6-8pm and Saturday February 16, 9 am-1pm. Fee: \$150 per couple. Registration at St. Bart's Central is required by February 10. The workshop is not appropriate for couples whose relationship is in distress. Please contact the Rev. Alan Chisholm, (212) 935-5023 or chisholm@stbarts.org, for more information.

From the parish register

Weddings

Jaeun Kim and Injune Kim (January 5)

Funerals

C. Sims Farr