

CROSSROADS



DON'T MISS

EVERY SUNDAY

8 am Traditional Eucharist

9 am Eucharist

11 am Choral Eucharist and Sermon

ALSO EVERY SUNDAY

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

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@stbarts.org

From the Rector

“By our love”

It's a new year, and I am filled with hope. St. Bart's, which in some ways had a tough 2007, is a place seized by God and put to good use. And, like any people in God's hands, you can expect great and surprising things from us.

Last year, we said goodbye to valued colleagues and friends, but we also continued to welcome newcomers. Particularly amazing was the strong growth in families with children.

Last year, we began the public phase of our capital campaign for building restoration and preservation and still conducted an annual fund drive that appears to have exceeded the previous year.

We met the challenge of rising costs of maintenance and mission by asking our dedicated staff to do more with less. That can't go on forever, but the faithfulness of our lay and clergy leaders was tested again and found solid.

In the midst of change and limited resources

- We had the largest confirmation class (90) in our modern history, the second largest in diocesan memory.
- We served more in our soup kitchen, shelter and food pantry than ever before
- We kept our doors open every day, and we are seeing a discernible uptick in the number of visits for prayer, quiet and refreshment
- We entered into a new café operation agreement that has brought about a handsome renovation of the Great Hall and the construction of our first commercial kitchen—changes that will bring real benefits going forward
- While we continue and deepen our own Christian education programs, we still have the only interfaith education-based outreach in a New York parish
- Our music program just keeps getting better

On our immediate agenda is the rebuilding of our senior staff, based on a fresh look at what we need to be doing. The tools and strategies that brought us from a shaky existence to growing strength are not the same ones we'll need to go where God is now calling us, a mature

congregation ready to defy stereotypes.

Which stereotypes? The one that says that we can't be large and provide intimacy, community and caring at the same time. Or the one that says that we can be radically welcoming and still be rock solid at our Christian core. Or the one that says that reason, generosity and a thinking faith are not authentic Christianity.

I was astonished recently to hear a Christian leader of known political involvements blast his opponents for wanting a “nanny state.” Then he listed all those ways he thought—from his perspective—we need to enforce a certain morality, by civil law, in America.

“They'll know we are Christians by our love,” the old song says. The heart of Christianity is the transformative journey of faith that works for good from the quiet center outward. St. Bart's, challenges and all, gladly enters a new year, counts the cost, says its prayers, and welcomes the 2008 adventure God has given us.

—BILL TULLY

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 3 at 10 am in the Nave

Report on 2007

Recognitions and Thanksgivings

The Rector's 2008 “I have a dream” talk

Election of Wardens and Vestry by paper ballot. Polls open at 8 am and remain open until 1 pm. Candidates' photos and bios will appear in our weekly eNews.

If you need an absentee ballot, you can download one at www.stbarts.org or call St. Bart's Central at (212) 378-0222.

For Warden: James Marion, M.D.

For Vestry: Anne Rabbino, Peter Kendall for first three-year terms; Carole Bailey, Katherine McHale, Diane Posnak, and Han-Hsien Tuan for re-election.

In the News

Campaign update

At the end of 2007, THE CAMPAIGN FOR ST. BART'S gained much press and praise in *The New York Times* for its initial work to raise funds to restore our landmark church. If you haven't had the opportunity to read these articles they are still available online at www.nytimes.com or www.stbarts.org/mediarelations.asp.

To date, we've raised nearly \$17 million from fewer than 200 people. In addition to the tremendous corporate support we received, we've also been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to restore our beloved dome.

The majority of support has come from our devoted parishioners who believe strongly in our mission and our need to restore our spiritual home. In 2008, a dedicated team of volunteers will ask every parishioner to consider a pledge to support this extraordinary effort. The participation of the entire congregation is essential to the success of our efforts, so we ask you to welcome the call to volunteer and to give with an open and welcoming heart.

St. Bart's in *The Times*

In December, New Yorkers and the nation heard in triplicate about the good things happening at St. Bart's. On Tuesday, December 18, the church's capital campaign was the subject of a story in *The New York Times*. Three days later, Bill Tully was profiled in a Public Lives feature in the *Times*. The next day, St. Bart's Boy and Girl Choristers were guests on the weekend edition of NBC's "The Today Show." To read the *Times* stories, and other news articles and reviews about St. Bart's, go to www.stbarts.org/mediarelations.asp.

Annual Fund Update

Working quietly last fall, an advance team of callers secured 95 pledges for a total of \$1.2 million to get us started on the year. That advance phase total is up 5% from a year ago.

On January 10, the full 2008 Annual Fund team began training and preparations for the full program.

In this year's program, titled "People Meeting People," we will focus on small dinners being held in members' homes. The aim will be fellowship, deeper ties among members, sharing the vision of where we see St. Bart's going in the months and years ahead,

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Communications at a Crossroads

By Tom Ehrich

Yes, I remember manual typewriters.

When I joined *The Wall Street Journal*, they were blazing a high-tech trail by using electric typewriters and teletype machines (!).

When I bought my first computer in 1985, I used it to write articles for our parish newsletter, which was mailed using, if you can imagine such a thing, postage stamps.

It was during that year, however, that I realized churches needed to be computerized. With computers, we can do so much more, for less money, needing less staff, and with far greater impact.

We started with computerizing parish membership and financial data. Then we used word processing to improve our printed Sunday bulletin and mailed newsletter.

Now, thanks to the Internet, an exciting opportunity is available to us. We can move nearly all of our communications to the Web. Parishioners and staff use e-mail for nearly all of our church communications now, from setting appointments to sending duty rosters.

With the use of e-mail, we can reduce the cost of sending a monthly newsletter from \$2,170 for the postal version to \$15. We can shorten

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Welcoming the Stranger—Not as Easy as it Looks

By Julie Nelson

Imagine yourself standing alone in a crowded room. Everyone in the room seems to know one another and all are chatting and socializing as they sip coffee and sample chocolate muffins. And there you are, standing obviously alone, as people pass by without noticing or acknowledging you. People look at you awkwardly and then continue conversations with their friends. Your hopes soar when a woman approaches you, only to fall again when you realize she was coming your way to deposit her empty coffee cup in the nearby trash can. You gather your belongings and head towards the door, feeling alone and ignored after having committed two hours of your time to this event and these people.

This happened to me recently as I visited a prominent and growing church here in Manhattan. I arrived early, hoping to meet a few people before the service either in the lobby or in the pew; however, no one but the usher distributing programs so much as glanced my way. After the service, I clumsily made my way to coffee hour. In a room filled with several hundred people, no one in the room engaged with me at all. It was obvious

Adult Education

All classes start at 6 pm

Wednesdays in January:

Membership Classes (sessions for new and prospective members)

January 9—Discover

Discover the meaning of what we do here

January 23—Connect

Connect your faith journey to what is happening at St. Bart's

January 30—Join

Making the decision to join this congregation and what membership means.

Wednesdays in Lent:

Membership Classes (sessions for all members)

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, Wednesdays, February 13, 20, 27 and March 12.

that everyone there had strong bonds of friendship to one another, yet no one extended so much as a greeting or a welcome to me.

As one of your seminarian interns, I've been visiting large churches to learn how they attract and retain members. I'm sad to report that in every church I have attended, this scene was repeated almost exactly. No matter the size, the denomination, or the demographic of the congregation, as the stranger I have been routinely ignored by the parishioners in attendance. Only once, when I voluntarily identified myself as a visitor, did someone in the congregation offer to help me find a seat and then extend some amount of hospitality to me. (Radical welcome, it's easier said than done.)

Julie Nelson is a senior at General Theological Seminary.



For the new year, a tale of a new start

By Mori Goto

I was born and raised in Tokyo, Japan. From birth I had a connection to the Episcopal Church, as I was born in St. Luke's International Hospital, established by an Episcopal missionary to Japan.

My first encounter with Christianity occurred in Seiko Nursery School, run by Nippon Seiko Kai (the Anglican Church in Japan) where I learned my first hymns and Bible stories. Hymn 66, "Come, thou long expected Jesus," was my favorite in those days. I also learned such things as "Walk as a child of the light" (Hikarinokorashiku arukinasai) at the school and, as a 5-year-old boy, I really liked the concept that Jesus loves us because deep inside my heart I felt no one loved me.

I asked to be baptized in the Anglican church, but my parents never honored my request, citing their lack of exposure to Christianity and the fact that I am a direct descendent on my mother's side from a family that had a well-established Buddhist ministry since 1450's. Simply put, I was prohibited from being different as a Japanese person. This experience created a void in my heart that took a long time to be filled again.

My childhood was very difficult. As the oldest son of an old family that had an extensive business, I was always under pressure to perform and to be a perfect boy. Under the duress, I became asthmatic and severe attacks even threatened my life on occasion. I lived under very rigid constraints growing up. As a result, I even accepted an

arranged marriage to satisfy my social and family obligations. My wife and I came to New York 25 years ago and we had a daughter.

I would say I was a Buddhist, but it did not



answer any day-to-day questions of how to live or what to look for in my life. Eventually my wife and I divorced. With an empty heart that I had carried since I was 5, I was unable to feel my own feelings.

Then an amazing thing happened. I met a wonderful and beautiful American woman who was a very faithful Christian and grew up in a family

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Sister Claire Joy joins Community of the Holy Spirit

By Elizabeth Garnsey

One of the great joys of being the church is that we get to be present for the big moments in people's lives, whether it's a marriage, the birth of a child, or the final celebration of a life fully lived.

On December 8, St. Bart's hosted one of the more rare celebrations in the life of one of our own, the Profession of Life Vows of Sister Claire Joy, Community of the Holy Spirit (CHS). In lay terms, it's the event where a novice goes all the way to becoming a full-fledged nun, taking vows of obedience, chastity and poverty and committing the rest of her life to prayer and service within the context of a monastic community.

Sr. Claire Joy, formerly known as Claudia Snipes, began to discern a call to holy orders many years ago when she was a member of St. Bartholomew's Church. As a lay person here, she sang with the St. Bart's Singers and the Schola Cantorum, participated in the Artists' Guild as a painter and photographer, and gave most of her time to the Community Ministry,



Photo by Beth Ralston

Sister Claire Joy signs her vows before Bishop Roskam

feeding the homeless and facilitating the overnight shelter.

Bishop Catherine S. Roskam presided over the

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and listening to members' questions and concerns.

Staff clergy will attend each dinner, along with members of the Vestry.

Annual Fund co-chairs Kathy Breiten and Alex Norton also will communicate directly with members by e-mail, as will Tom Ehrich, Director Church Growth & Development.

The overall aims are to increase giving from the \$3.5 million of 2007, to broaden the number of pledging members, and to strengthen the bonds that connect us.

Watch for your invitation to dinner; and please plan to attend, even if you have already made your pledge for 2008.

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.

Progressive MLK Observance scheduled for January 20

St. Bartholomew's Church, the New York Metropolitan Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolence, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun and the Islamic Cultural Center of New York will sponsor a very special 10th Annual New York Interfaith King Sunday Observance for Religious and Racial Harmony on Sunday, January 20, 2008.

Beginning at 2 pm at the Islamic Cultural Center of New York, the observance will progress to B'nai Jeshurun and end at St. Bart's, where former Manhattan Borough President the Honorable C. Virginia Fields will be the featured speaker.

Several choirs from the sponsoring

organizations, including St. Bart's Boy & Girl Choristers, will perform at the final Interfaith Service, which begins at 4 pm at St. Bart's.

For details, contact St. Bart's Central or visit www.stbarts.org.

Times best-selling author launches book at St. Bart's

At 7 pm, January 21st, Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners, a movement for Christian spiritual renewal and social justice, will come to St. Bart's to launch a 12-city book tour for "The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America." In this timely new work, Wallis underscores how politics has failed to solve the biggest issues of our time, including extreme poverty, environmental degradation, terrorism and the endless cycle of violence fueling racism, human trafficking, inadequate health care and America's lagging quality of education. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear one of the most prophetic voices of our time in person.

Life's Strong Center—All-parish confirmation course Lent 2008

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.

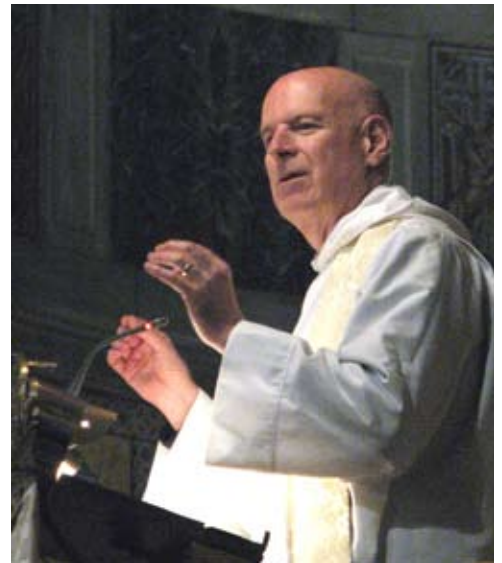
Dates: Sundays February 10, 17, 24; March 2, 9. Or, Wednesdays February 13, 20, 27; March 5, 12. A special session, Palm Sunday, March 16, to preview Holy Week. "Reunion" and review sessions Sundays, April 13 and 20 for those to be confirmed at the bishop's visitation, Sunday, April 27.

- What does it mean to be a Christian in today's world?
- What is the message of the Bible

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Christmas at St. Bart's

Christmas 2007 was a time of great joy at St. Bart's. Some scenes from the season include (clockwise, beginning at right) Bill Tully preaching at the 8 pm Christmas Eve service; St. Bart's Boy & Girl Choristers singing on the Weekend Today December 22; a volunteer wrapping presents for the L.I.F.E. Center Christmas Miracles project; the procession at the 6 pm Christmas Eve service; and the Star of the East in the children's December 15 Nativity Play "It's a Happening Thing"



Communications

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production time from 49 hours to 1.5 hours, and delivery time from 3-5 days to virtually instantaneous.

By sending you an electronic Crossroads, our new E-News Weekly Update, and special e-mail newsletters such as my Church Growth Report, we can employ better graphics, full color, and links to the church Web site.

This, therefore, will be one of the last printed

Crossroads that we send to every member. Later this spring, most members will receive an electronic version.

However—and please understand this—if you would like to continue receiving a mailed, printed version of Crossroads, contact Lynn Goswick, Director of Communications, at (212) 378-0239, and she will make sure your name is on the postal-version list.

Tom Ehrich is Director of Church Growth and Development. Contact him at ehrich@stbarts.org.

A new start

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that went to Lutheran church. We fell in love and despite our both having demanding careers, we developed a substantial relationship filled with respect and love. One night about a year ago, she sent me an e-mail while she was away in a business trip. In it she said, “Mori, there must be a reason why God put us in each other’s lives.”

I was almost frozen upon reading that sentence. Then I started to ask myself, “Why?” Almost a month went by and I developed a desire to just go to a church, sit down, meditate and think about it. On Christmas Eve 2006, after spending a wonderful time with my daughter, I walked from the building where my daughter lived, and remembered St. Bart’s where I had been for a wonderful pipe organ concert. It felt very familiar to me as an Episcopal church.

I walked to St. Bart’s hoping that I would be allowed to just sit in the church. By the time I got there, I saw a tall pastor with big smile standing outside and greeting people walking in. I decided to ask him if it was ok to come in. I even mentioned I was not a Christian. He replied by saying; “Of course! Please come in! Everyone is welcome here. We are about to start Eucharist. Please make yourself at home.” That was the Rev. Bill Tully, hard at work exercising his radical welcome to a total stranger who came from far away. He caught a fish!

I sat through the Christmas Eve service with other people, a bit hesitant in the back of the nave. As the service proceeded and as I listened to the sermon and prayers of the people I suddenly felt a strong feeling. At first I was unable to tell what it was, but soon I realized it was the same feeling I had when I was a little boy. It was a happy and satisfying feeling that Jesus lived among us as a human being and he loves us. Once I felt this again, it took no time before I started to feel that the void

Claire Joy declares her vows

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liturgy on December 8, which was at once festive and solemn. It served both to affirm the call on Sr. Claire Joy’s life and to bring it to fruition, as she declared before God, the bishop, her CHS Sisters and the wider church community that she would “promise and vow to abide in the Community to her life’s end”.

The preacher, the Rev. John Denaro, rector of St. Mark’s-in-the-Bowery, captured the Sr. Claire Joy we know and love. He highlighted her joie-de-vivre, her vivacious sense of humor, and her “panache,” that rare vitality and appetite for life that she has always demonstrated in her art, her writing, and her love for people. He noted that Sr. Claire Joy has written in her blog about her own “persistent lagging confidence in God and oc-

casional cynicism,” and yet, here she was making her life vows. In spite of doubts, in spite of “the restlessness that haunts human life,” Denaro said, “God’s compelling love has led her to embrace this other Way,” a life wholly devoted to Christian discipleship and to prayer.

We’re so grateful for the Community of the Holy Spirit and the work of prayer the sisters do on behalf of the whole Church and the world. And we’re so proud of Sr. Claire Joy; proud to call her our own sister and to be witnesses to a life so fully lived, a life that shines so brightly as an example of someone who is devoted not to an abstract ideal of discipleship, but to a real life, grounded and rooted in the love of God and the service of all God’s people. Bless you, Sr. Claire Joy.

I am so grateful for all the people who helped me to come this far— all the clergy, staff and the members of St. Barts, all of my friends who came to witness my baptism and, last but not least, my girlfriend Lisa. I made a giant step in my life and now the journey really has just begun.

The day of my baptism came. It was a beautiful Sunday morning. A lot of friends came to celebrate for me. During the service, my girlfriend, who was my sponsor, started to cry because she was very happy that I made it. After I was baptized, I finally felt that I had arrived, and that happy feeling completely filled the void that had been in my heart for more than 43 years. This was one of the most important days in my life. Since then I have noticed that I’ve really opened up. I am regaining the feeling that I lost 43 years ago, because I have become a part of a large family that spans history and the world.

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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

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, 9am-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

Breanne N. de Maria Avila and Michael T. Byrne (December 29)

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.

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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