



# Reflections

*A bimonthly publication from St. Bartholomew Catholic Faith Community*

## Starting the Summer Off Right!

Although the picnic was held indoors because of rain, it didn't dampen the spirit of those who attended the 3rd Annual Mass and Picnic on June 7. It proved to be a wonderful way to kick off the summer, sharing food, friendship and fun!



Despite the damp weather outside, Sam and Dominic Sanchez are all smiles at the picnic.



(From left) Mary Conklin, Steve and Linda Muras and Barb Paschke catch up with each other before the summer begins.



A variety of great dishes were enjoyed by all!



Don and Sheila Adams and sons, Jacob, Zachary, and Mitchell.



Grilling fun (from left) Craig Sattervall, Mike Conklin, Maggie Didier, and Kyle Didier.

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## The Heart of the Matter

by Christine Ducharme

On Thursday, August 13, 2009, St. Bartholomew Church will launch *The Heart of the Matter*\*, an ongoing seminar for Seniors (55+). The purpose of the seminar is to provide engaging speakers who will bring a wide range of experience (both professional and lived) with a fresh perspective about topics that are central to our lives. Each speaker will offer a variety of important and stimulating views that will invite new ways of thinking, fresh ways of understanding and good conversation about areas of importance in our lives.

St. Bartholomew looks forward to providing an opportunity for seniors that will be original, inspiring and one that will nourish

faith and spiritual growth. Invite your friends to join us as we listen to engaging speakers sort out puzzling questions and address issues that are central to our lives to help us discover “the heart of the matter.”

**Please join us August 13, from 10-11 a.m. for the first *Heart of the Matter* when Fr. Michael inaugurates this new endeavor.**

We will meet in the St. Francis and Clare Room (the meeting room next to the parish offices in the lower level). Coffee and rolls will be provided. If you have any questions or would like to RSVP to this seminar, contact Christine Ducharme, 952/473-6601 or [cducharme@st-barts.org](mailto:cducharme@st-barts.org).

*\*The Heart of the Matter*: Also known as The Crux of the Matter, the American Heritage Dictionary defines the idiom as: “The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, ‘In this trial the bloodstains represent the crux of the matter.’ Although *crux* is Latin for cross, in English, it means ‘difficulty or puzzle’ and it is from the latter that this expression is thought to be derived. The variant employs ‘heart’ in the sense of a vital part (as it is in the body). The first term dates from the late 1800s, the variant from the early 1500s.”

## Parish Strategic Plan Approved, Ministries Begin Action

by Jim Vogl

After several months of effort the St. Bart’s Strategic Planning process is complete. The final steps in this process included the evaluation of the plan by the Pastoral Council at meetings in May and June. In addition, the Council considered the feedback provided by parishioners regarding the plan and proposed mission statement. While only a small number of respondents provided feedback it was generally supportive in its tone, indicating that no further changes needed to be made to the plan or mission statement.

After careful consideration the Pastoral Council made a recommendation to Fr. Michael to accept the Strategic Plan and move forward with its implementation. The Council will facilitate the plan’s implementation in important ways. Those council members assigned as ministry liaisons will work with their respective ministries to incorporate the Strategic Plan into their work. Likewise, the entire Council will continue to engage our planning partners, TeamWorks International and Catholic Finance Corporation, to see that the plan is actively executed and appropriately funded.

A process like this can only succeed through the hard work of many people. The Strategic Planning Committee itself was instrumental in making this plan a reality. This group of dedicated parishioners provided the creativity and insight that was necessary to develop a Strategic Plan that will help our community remain healthy and vibrant. I would like to recognize the members one more time for their efforts:

### Strategic Planning Committee

Jim Vogl (Chair)  
Mike Conklin  
Dan Delmore  
Kyle Didier  
Martha Franco  
Lee Glover  
Jim Gooley  
Craig Hertenberg  
Catherine Kedzif  
Steve Kennedy  
Teresa Litfin-Wertz  
Terry Maag  
David Marquis  
Joe McCarthy  
Dave Obermiller

Katie O’Keeffe  
Mike Peschel  
John Renckens  
Sam Sanchez  
Steve Vekich  
Gary Yanish  
Charlie Becker  
Marion Clark  
Richard Clarke  
Jim DeShane  
Christine Ducharme  
Steve Hanson  
Mike McGinty  
Fr. Michael Reding  
Kathy Salman  
Cindy Schriever

I would also like to thank the Pastoral Council and the Parish staff who supported this effort. The result is a plan of which we can all be proud.

# The Journey of a Banyan “School’s Cool” Backpack

by Joanie Essenburg



**The backpack, in this journey, represents a tangible donation that is followed to show the impact that donors make in the lives of Banyan youth and families.**

Each year at the Banyan, students receive new backpacks filled with school supplies from the Banyan “School’s Cool” program. Along with the backpack is the expectation that the students’ families will partner with Banyan to invest in their children’s education. The backpack, in this journey, represents a tangible donation that is followed to show the impact that donors make in the lives of Banyan youth and families. We will follow the journey of Simia and her backpack.

## 1. The Youth Are Identified

Simia and others are identified by Banyan staff as qualifying for the “School’s Cool” program. Simply put, all registered youth from the Banyan are able to receive backpacks and school supplies through the program.

## 2. A Donor Gives

A donor gives a financial contribution towards, or personally shops for, a uniform, backpack and specific school supplies that a student will need for the school year.

## 3. Volunteers Sort and Distribute

Simia’s backpack is dropped off at St. Bartholomew, or is shopped for by a “School’s Cool” volunteer. Her backpack patiently waits until the day that Simia receives it on distribution day. When Simia arrives at the Banyan on distribution day, she receives her backpack, writes a thank you note, and the backpack adventure continues!

## 4. Simia Takes the Backpack to School

From the first day to the last day of school, the backpack travels to school with Simia, faithfully carrying all the books, pencils, and teacher notes that Simia needs each day. Behind the scenes, the Banyan staff checks to be sure that Simia is in a successful

school setting and is reaching grade-appropriate milestones.

## 5. After School Simia Goes to the Banyan

At the Banyan, the backpack hangs on a hook in the hall. Simia reaches in and gets out her homework to complete at the Banyan (along with all the other fun things that she does at Banyan). Banyan staff make sure that Simia is attending school each day and check on her progress.



Denise Didier explains the School’s Cool sponsorship program during Fellowship.

## 6. Backpack Makes It Home after a Long Day

When the backpack arrives home with Simia, it rests in the corner until Simia is ready to start the day again. Perhaps a parent checks the backpack for notes from the day. Some days a Banyan staff member sees the backpack on a home visit as they help families connect to resources.

## 7. At the School Year’s End - the Backpack Becomes a Summer Pack for Cool-Off Days

The Banyan offers summer programs for community youth. Simia uses her backpack to pack her towel and swimsuit for water days, or perhaps walking shoes for the zoo and other field trips. Banyan kids are busy kids in the summer, staying out of trouble and learning all summer long!

## 8. Summer Camp

At the end of the summer, Simia packs her backpack for summer camp with the Banyan. It is stuffed very, very full and is quite worn by this time. Sometimes the zippers are known to break during this last great adventure! Thankfully, Simia knows that a new backpack will be available to her to start a new school year. It will reenergize and renew the commitment she and her family make each year to her education.

## Surrounded by Support

It is significant to note not only the use of the backpack but the way that Simia continually is “hanging around” the Banyan Community. The fact is, the Banyan is a support system for youth and families of the East Phillips neighborhood.

The backpack is a physical representation of the many ways that Banyan donors surround youth and families with the tools that they need to be successful. Each donation to the Banyan (whether or not it is a backpack) supports youth and families; it makes a difference in the lives of the Banyan Community on a daily basis.

P.S. It should be noted that Banyan high school and college kids still carry Banyan Backpacks! Backpacks have been sighted at DeLaSalle High School, work places, as well as college campuses... Augsburg College, Century College, College of St. Catherine, College of St. Scholastica, Dillard University, and the University of Minnesota, to name a few.

## Get Involved

To sponsor a child,  
or to make a donation,  
please contact  
Londa Bilski,  
763-476-6649,  
londabilski@comcast.net  
by August 15.

# The Greening of St. Bart's

by Pat Adkins

St. Bart's is going green — environmentally that is. In keeping with Catholic social teaching on the stewardship of creation, which is one of the 10 key principles of Catholic social teaching, the Green Team was formed last fall. Its members immediately began the process of assessing St. Bart's current practices and identifying opportunities for improvement.

Improving recycling practices was an obvious first step. Currently, recycling is practiced, somewhat erratically, for paper and aluminum cans. Starting July 1, St. Bart's began implementing an enhanced program for the parish and school. Besides paper and aluminum cans, we will now recycle plastic, glass and organic material (food, paper towels, plants, etc.).

The team got competitive bids from local garbage and recycling haulers and found a supplier for bio-degradable bags for the organic waste. If you haven't already noticed the new containers, please watch for them the next time you stop for coffee after a weekend liturgy, visit the school, or attend a meeting at the parish.

## Success is Up to Us

The success of the program really depends on all of us pitching in and making sure the right materials go in the right containers. Signs and volunteers will help you determine what goes where. That little



Look for the signs of St. Bart's going green.

extra effort on your part will make a big difference to both the world we live in today and the health of the planet we leave to our children and grandchildren. It's also very much in keeping with Catholic beliefs and traditions.

From the writings of Genesis, in which God proclaims all creation is good, to St. Francis who was known for his ability to live in harmony with nature, respect for the world we inhabit is ingrained in our tradition. In our own time, how we treat the environment has been incorporated

into an official Catholic examination of conscience, and Pope Benedict has linked care of the environment with caring for the dignity of the human person. He's come out so strongly on environmental concerns that he's even been called "the green pope" (*Catholic Spirit* article, April 17, 2008).

Ultimately, going green is a process, not an event. There will be other milestones on this green journey and more opportunities to give our world a bit of much-needed TLC.

## To Learn More...

To learn more about Catholic beliefs and the environment, go to: [www.thecatholicspirit.com](http://www.thecatholicspirit.com) and put "environment" in the search field.

## To Get Involved...

To join the St. Bart's Green Team or learn more about it, contact Jennifer Shaltz, 763/559-7928 or [jshaltz@comcast.net](mailto:jshaltz@comcast.net). For questions related to recycling in our school, contact Deb Sposito, 952/476-7366, [dbssposito@gmail.com](mailto:dbssposito@gmail.com).

## Meet New Parish Staff

Welcome to Katie Zazverskey who is the new bulletin editor and administrative assistant at St. Bartholomew. She shares a little bit about herself so you can get to know her.

I grew up in St. Bart's parish and attended St. Bart's School. From there I went on to Wayzata High School, where I studied and played on the school volleyball team. I graduated from the University of St. Thomas with honors with a degree in Leadership and Management. While at St. Thomas I also played on the school

volleyball team (Go Tommies!). I also coach volleyball and have been coaching at the same club for 5 years.

If you drop by the Parish Offices, you will find me in the front office with Terri Kedzuf. I started my job at St. Bart's in May. I was working in St. Bart's school as a para for the sixth grade before I got this job in the parish office. My job is to create the bulletin, schedule baptisms, answer phones and help out in any other way I can. If you are in the area, stop in and say hi!



New parish staff member Katie Zazverskey and her family enjoy a trip to Maui in 2008. (from left) Peter, Katie, Mary, Maggie and John Zazverskey.

## Quiet Summer Reflection

### Just Taking Time

*Hello, My Lord Jesus,  
so good to be near.*

*To be here, now in a quiet place  
is to be at peace.*

*Like a soft slumber of a newborn child.  
Magnificent moments of silence,  
Time drifting gently away.*

*Help me, Dear Lord God,*

*To capture You  
In the palm of my soul  
In between human cracks  
Of my heart.*

*Allow me the honor of inviting You  
Inside to stay.*

*Walk with me now,  
And the tomorrow of now  
For whatever life  
You see fit to extend.*

*Renew my spirit, and the people around,  
Humble me with grace  
Allow me to become more fully,  
An extension of Your will,  
Not mine*

*Steve Muras*



## What's in Your Heart?

It is our belief that most gifts for endowment funds to the church usually come out of the estates of families. We often find that many people make cash gifts to the church today because they want to see their church carry out current ministries and programs. Endowment giving is usually something different. Families tend to give out of their accumulated assets when they are making decisions about the distribution of those assets when they are no longer needed.

Many families hang on to assets such as homes, land, retirement funds, art, insurance, etc. to assure the long-term stability of their family. There comes a time when final distribution is required. This is the time for the wise stewardship of the distribution of God's gifts. In addition to meeting family needs, we find that many people often have a church and other groups that have had deep meaning to them. It is at this point in life that a family will take the time to look deep into their heart to identify what has had strong meaning to their life and include their church in these plans.

It is not uncommon for a family to identify two or three charitable or religious institutions that have helped to make them who they are. When this occurs, the concept of including these charities in their distribution plan becomes an exciting and meaningful experience. These families are saying that their family is first and most important, but their church and others are also worthy of a gift.

Any family with strong feelings for their church can provide a meaningful future gift to their Endowment Fund. It could be as simple as providing for a percentage or fixed dollar amount in a will, if the

individual has a will. We have seen families provide for a charitable distribution of "whatever is left" after specific needs are covered. Some families will find that including their church as a percent beneficiary or contingent beneficiary in an insurance policy or retirement fund will also work.

As families include their church in their plans, no matter the size of the gift, they will provide for significant giving to their church and other local groups.

The motivation for this type of future giving is really very different from giving to meet immediate annual needs. The individual giving from assets is giving with a more passionate approach. We are taking time to find out what is imbedded in our heart. It has been said "out of the heart are the issues of life."

When we include charities in our estate plans we are sharing with our families, friends and community who we really are as individuals. We are sharing what is important to us. We are leaving a legacy so that those that follow will know us and what our lives, in this world, were all about. In addition, we are making a gift to local organizations so that the experiences we enjoyed will be preserved for those that follow to enjoy.

We believe that stewardship is more than taking care of God's gifts while we have them. Stewardship also includes having wise plans for the distributions of God's gifts when we are done with them. What is in your heart?

For more information on the St. Bartholomew Educational Endowment, contact Cindy Schriever, [cschriever@st-barts.org](mailto:cschriever@st-barts.org), 952/473-6601.

## Don Adams, Sr. Memorial - Dollars for Scholars Golf Tournament

**Held in the spring rather than the fall,  
the May 31st event was another great success!**

**A**s in past years, the real winners of this year's tournament are the students at St. Bartholomew School. The net income for the May 31outing was more than \$13,000.

This tournament, which benefits the St. Bartholomew School Scholarship Fund, provides tuition dollars to parish families who want their children to have a Catholic-based education but face financial challenges.

Thank you to the following sponsors and financial contributors:

Audrey Jarosh, Bob & Sue Burns, David & Jodene Marquis, Terry Garvert, Ed & Toni

Egan, Dennis & Londa Bilski, Roger Wherry, Mark & Sara Welch, Paul & Helen Klapprich, Cynthia Nygren, Larry & Linda Adams, Don & Sheila Adams, Paul Adams, Scott & Ellen Sayer, Scott Bissen & Michelle Morey, Andrew Kiernan, ASI Sign Systems, Anchor Bank, Gearty Delmore Funeral Home, PK Property Services, and Fazendin Realty. As sponsors and financial contributors, your support demonstrates that there are few causes as worthy as education.

Also, special thanks to the many golfers who came out for a day of community-building, fun, food and prizes. Over the

years, we have heard from parents of students who could not afford tuition. They thanked us because of your support, and in return, we thank you on their behalf. You are a blessing and your generosity has had a real impact on many lives. Your commitment to educating our future leaders today goes a long way toward making scholarships a reality again for the school year 2009/2010.

**Please consider making a contribution to the scholarship fund. Checks can be mailed to the Parish Office, attn: Cindy Schriever.**

**Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 -10:00 p.m.**



***In conjunction with James J. Hill days,  
we are hosting our 4th annual community festival***

***∞ The Gathering ∞***

***There will be lots of food, beer, music, raffle,  
games with prizes - including bingo, and more.***

***Join in the fun, and bring your friends!***



## Meet New Principal Lynn Volkenant

by Kathy Salman

**I look forward to building relationships with students, teachers and families and supporting teachers in best practice in their classrooms.**

**M**et Lynn Volkenant, who is St. Bartholomew School's new principal as of July 1. She comes to our community from Saint Matthew School in St. Paul where she served as assistant principal. Because Saint Matthew's administrative structure doesn't include a principal but rather a director of Education and Formation, Lynn has experienced much of the responsibility of a principal.

Lynn brings a wealth of experience in education, having spent the last 18 years in Catholic education. Please take a few minutes to get to know a bit about Lynn and welcome her to our St. Bartholomew community.

**Tell us a little bit about your background and qualifications. What are some of your other noteworthy experiences?**

- B.A., College of St. Catherine in Elementary Education & Honors English
- MAEd., College of St. Catherine in Students at Risk
- ED.S, University of St. Thomas in Administrative Leadership
- MN K-6 Teaching License
- MN K-12 Administrative License

I have taught all grade levels, Pre-K through 8, and Early Childhood Special Education. I have 31 years in education, the last 18 in Catholic education. I also studied liturgical dance and movement at Luther Seminary and Carleton College in Northfield. Most recently I sang, danced and played ethnic drums with "Take Wing," a global Christian performing group.



Lynn Volkenant,  
St. Bartholomew School's Principal

**What attracts you to being a principal? What drew you to St. Bart's School?**

Some educators become principals because they are tired of the challenges of the classroom. For me it was the opposite; I have such a passion for the work of the classroom and the energy that comes with engaging children in the learning process. I enjoy collaborating with teachers in order to best serve students and their families. I was drawn to St. Bartholomew School because of the steady focus on the spiritual development of young people and strong academics.

**What do you see as key strengths of St. Bartholomew School?**

The school is fortunate to have such dedicated families who are willing to help their children meet with success and to assist in the various ministries of the parish. I am impressed that everyone on staff works together to fulfill our mission and live the Gospel message.

**What are some areas that excite you most about St. Bartholomew School?**

Experienced and positive teachers, family support, up-to-date technology, beautiful facilities, and the use of the Discipline with Purpose program, which promotes the skills of self discipline in students.

**What do you see as one or two of the main areas you hope to focus on this school year and beyond?**

I look forward to building relationships with students, teachers and families and supporting teachers in best practice in their classrooms. I am excited to become a part of this vibrant community and for the opportunity to put my energy toward helping others become life-long learners while remaining one myself.

**Do you have a philosophy for children's education?**

Every child can learn! It is the work of educators to find each student's best way of learning and provide them with the support they need to grow in mind, body and soul.

**Please share a bit about your family, hobbies or interests.**

My husband Michael and I have five grown sons, ages 25-31. We are all musicians, dancers, actors and writers and the boys have successfully followed one or more of those career paths as young adults. The true meaning of the word "noisy" is when seven people are practicing seven different pieces of music on seven different instruments, at the same time, under the same roof. Needless to say, there was a lot of commotion in our home! In my spare time I enjoy reading, dancing, quilt-making and tending to my large perennial garden.

# Upcoming Events

## August

- Thursday, Aug. 13, 10 - 11 a.m.  
"The Heart of the Matter"  
New, ongoing seminar for seniors  
See page 2 for details.

## September

- Friday, Sept. 11  
The Gathering  
See page 6 for details.
- Tuesday, Sept. 22  
Women's Bible Study Begins

Look for more events and more details in upcoming bulletins and on our website.

# Member Update

## Baptisms

Paisley Marie Miller  
Anna Grace Rohrich  
Molly Kathleen Menning  
Mary Jane Whitaker

## Marriages

Christopher Gerald Berryman  
& Ashley Ann Kampen  
Geoffrey David Bray  
& Jessica Ann Lucia  
Bryan Joseph Emery  
& Meredith Rae McFadyen  
Damien Steven Mickschl  
& Julie Kay Hunter  
Thomas James Christian  
& Christen Marie Weigel  
Jacobs Wayne Hammond  
& Lara Murat Parker  
Charles Scot Holzerland  
& Kelly Anna Dowling

## Deaths

John Melchisedech  
Alberta Gerold

## New Members

Mary & Ned Bruce  
Barbara & Donald Herbeck  
Jessica Pottinga & Andrew Volkenant  
R. Matthew Carle  
Susie Rosalis & Gabe Rosalis  
Kathy & Randy Mayer  
Karen & Randy O'Brien  
Amy & Terrance Carr

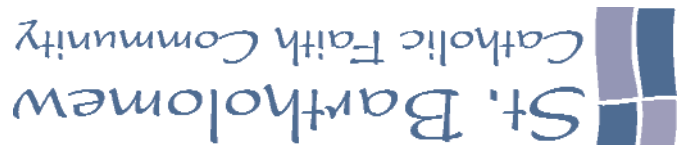
## What's on Our Website?

For the latest information about St. Bart's events and much more, visit our website at [www.st-barts.org](http://www.st-barts.org).

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