

BART'S HERALD

Saint Bartholomew Church 45 Ludlow Road, Manchester, CT 06040

Lent 2007

THE TRIDUUM

HOLY THURSDAY – GOOD FRIDAY – EASTER VIGIL

By Henry Poirier

After Lent ends in just a few weeks, we will celebrate the Triduum (from the Latin for “three days”). Lent will end, and the first day of the Triduum will begin at dusk on Holy Thursday with the celebration of the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This first day of the Triduum ends at dusk on Good Friday as the second day begins and extends through to dusk on Holy Saturday. At that time, the third day of the Triduum, Easter, finally arrives with the Easter Vigil Mass and ends at dusk on Easter Sunday. Easter is the climax of The Triduum, the Lenten season and indeed the entire Church calendar. Simply put, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday celebrate the passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. But there is much more to it than that. Each day is rich in meaning and symbolism, much of it going back to ancient times. For example, each of the three days begins and ends at dusk, a little odd to us who are geared to days beginning when we wake up. But, it makes perfect sense when seen through the lens of our Judeo-Christian heritage. To this day, Jews begin their holy days at dusk and so do we at the Easter Triduum and on every weekend (think of the Vigil Mass of Sunday being celebrated on Saturday evening).

As the Lenten season winds down to the final hours on Holy Thursday, we join our fellow Catholics in private prayer for there is no *daytime* Mass to attend anywhere in the world. When the celebrant processes into the church for the Mass of the Lord’s Supper at dusk, he carries the holy oils that will be used for rites and rituals for the year. From the Scripture readings we hear again of the institution of the Holy Eucharist “Do this in remembrance of me”. We are reminded of the life of service to others that Christ calls us to by the washing of the feet – “As I have done, so you must do”. There is no procession after Mass, as the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in a nearby chapel and the sanctuary is cleared. Although Good Friday is not a part of Lent (Lent ended the previous evening), the fast and abstinence rules of Ash Wednesday apply. But, there is a difference: the rules of Lent are penitential in spirit, while the rules of Good Friday are anticipatory – something big is about to happen! During the Good Friday service, the Passion of the Cross is read, and we venerate the Cross and receive Holy Eucharist. We leave the Church in silence.

The Easter Vigil Mass at dusk on Holy Saturday starts the most important day in the Catholic Church year. We celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, an essential event in our salvation. The celebrant enters a darkened church that becomes bright as we light candles to indicate our salvation through the

PASTOR’S CORNER

By Father Tom Sievel

Cherry blossoms in December, snowdrops in January, shirtsleeves on January 7! Yes, it is cold now and despite the mild winter, most of us long for the warmth of spring and the long days of summer.

Looking ahead to summer, I would like to announce that St. Bart’s will be one of the nine gardens featured this year on the Perennial Planters Garden Club Tour on Saturday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - *rain or shine!* Since the Tour is held only every other year and since the number of gardens selected is limited to nine in the greater Manchester area, it is quite a privilege to be selected. The theme of the Tour will be “Through the Garden Gate” and will offer guests the ability to meet the gardeners and ask questions. Tickets will be available through the Perennial Planters Garden Club and at various retail establishments. More on this later.

I would be thrilled to have some help with the many gardens at St. Bart’s. We do employ a very part-time Master Gardener to help with the work, but I need some assistance in the spring and early summer to get everything in tip-top shape. Please call me at the parish office if you would be able to lend a hand. Also, I would welcome any monetary donations to help with the cost of mulch, fertilizers, etc. Our church budget for landscape is modest and gets shrunk every year, so your support, especially this year, would be welcome. Checks can be payable to “St. Bartholomew Church” and marked “gardens”.

Mark your calendars for our first-ever Easter Retreat with St. Bridget parish: Sunday, April 22 to Tuesday, April 24 at St. Bridget. The topic is a wonderful one for spring and Easter, “Resurrection Now”. More details will follow.

Father Tom

resurrected Christ. The scripture readings tell of God’s interaction with humankind from creation to the resurrection. A number of events take place that do not occur at any other Mass: the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are administered to those seeking full membership in the Catholic faith. It is a Mass of triumph and splendor – a fitting exclamation mark to the Easter Triduum. Plan on joining us at the celebrations of the Triduum!

DEACON BILL BARTLETT

Assigned to St. Bart's after five years at St. Mary's in East Hartford

By Bob Albert

Editor's Note: The Fall 2001 issue of Bart's Herald featured Deacon Bill Bartlett, who had just been ordained that previous June to the Permanent Diaconate. After completing a five-year appointment at St. Mary's parish in East Hartford, Deacon Bill has been assigned to St. Bartholomew's – his home parish – where he ministers with Deacon Ed Giard under the direction of our pastor, Father Tom Sievel. Bart's Herald brings you this update on Deacon Bill's experiences and his duties at St. Bart's.

The First Five Years

After being ordained June 23, 2001 by Archbishop Daniel Cronin at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford, CT, Deacon Bill was appointed to St. Mary's Parish in East Hartford under the direction of Father Martin Schlosky, pastor of St. Bart's from 1978 to 1990. At St. Mary's, Bill's duties included leading the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program, conducting the Baptismal preparation program, performing the sacrament of Baptism and preaching – which he especially enjoyed – once a month. One of his most endearing remembrances at St. Mary's occurred shortly after he had presented the homily at one of his first Masses. As Bill was greeting the parishioners after Mass, an elderly parishioner just about floored him when she announced that he nearly gave her a heart attack during the homily – when Bill mentioned that he had a *wife*. Bill recovered quickly and assured the woman that deacons can be married! As Bill's five-year appointment began to expire, he asked to be considered for assignment at a different parish so that he could grow in his ministry, never dreaming that he would be presented with the option for assignment to St. Bart's. Just as in the priesthood, the bishop decides where deacons are assigned.

Coming to St. Bart's

In July 2006 Deacon Bill began his appointment to St. Bart's under Father

Tom. At St. Bart's he performs many of the same duties that he was responsible for at St. Mary's but has also assumed additional ones. He preaches once a month; conducts Baptismal preparation; confers the sacrament of Baptism every third month on a rotating schedule with Deacon Ed Giard and Father Tom; conducts the monthly Friday adoration service every other month; and works with the Religious Ed and Youth Ministry programs (Bill was a former Confirmation teacher at St. Bart's). Bill wishes to encourage all to attend the adoration service on the third Friday of each month with the R.O.C.K. (Revival of Catholic Kids) music group. Beginning at 7:15 p.m., one can enjoy the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament while listening to inspirational music.

Family Life

Although Bill freely admits that going through the diaconate program (the five years of academic study is the equivalent of a masters program and upon becoming a deacon continuing education is required) places many pressures on family life, it is well worth the effort and sacrifice. As Bill says, "You get more out of it. Grace will give you so much more than you put into it." When Bill began to consider the journey to become a deacon – well prior to entering the Diaconate program, – oldest child – Jennifer – was in the eighth grade, while Kimberly was in the sixth grade and his son, Bill, was in the third grade. As many of us know, these can be challenging years for family life. But, Bill states that he and his wife, Denise, taught the children that "we must share our gifts with others" and so they have. Now, Jennifer has graduated from Central Connecticut State College and lives with her husband, Ian Witschy, in East Hartford. She teaches fifth grade in Newington, and she and Ian teach in

the Confirmation program here at St. Bart's. Second daughter Kim also graduated from Central Connecticut State College and is pursuing her Masters in Social Work degree at Southern Connecticut State College. You probably have seen and heard Kim as a cantor at Mass. The youngest Bartlett, Bill, is in his first year at Manchester Community Technical College in the Criminal Justice program. Following in the footsteps of his sisters, he served as an active member of St. Bart's Youth Ministry program. While studying to become a police officer, Bill – a licensed EMT – assists in the Windsor Volunteer Ambulance program. As most of you know, Denise Bartlett, wife of the Deacon, has been the Director of Religious Education at St. Bart's for nine years. In working with Religious Ed at St. Bart's, Bill is appreciative of the dedication and hard work of the Religious Ed staff. He says, "This makes my job more of a joy because of the motivated and cooperative efforts of the Religious Ed staff and teachers."

Role of the Deacon in the Church

With the shortage of priests now and presumably in the future, deacons will become even more essential to parish life. And, the demand grows for more

continued on page 3

Deacon Bill Bartlett
continued from page 2

qualified men to enter the Diaconate to alleviate this shortage. Yes, the Diaconate program not only is demanding academically, but, also on the family. But, yet, the deacon performs a valuable ministry in the Catholic Church today and in the future. To become a deacon Bill encourages a man to "Be active in lay ministry. Become a lector, a Eucharistic Minister, a Religious Ed teacher, or work with youth ministry so that you'll know how you like working with others in the church, and so others can assess your commitment to ministering to others."

You Never Know...

Bill relates an incident at a party he recently attended with Denise. A Religious Ed teacher said that she couldn't marry her husband if he had chose the profession he had planned, where upon, he had then changed careers. When Bill met Denise, he had planned to study for the priesthood. Denise pointed out that obviously she couldn't marry a priest. And so, Bill made a change. *You never know...*

Comments from Bill

"St. Bart's is blessed to have Father Tom as our pastor. From my association with other parishes, Father Tom is an excellent pastor who is very supportive of the Diaconate program. I'm very happy here at St. Bart's and doing what I do as a deacon. After all, how could you not be happy in carrying out the Lord's work." *Amen!*

**"He (Jesus) said to them,
Go into the whole world
and proclaim the gospel
to every creature."**

Mark 16:15

ST. BARTHOLOMEW AND ST. BRIDGET TO CO-CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES!

By John Garoppolo

In 2008 St. Bartholomew's parish will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of St. Bridget's parish. The parishes were founded 100 years apart, almost to the day. St. Bart's parish was founded in 1958 to accommodate the population growth in St. James and St. Bridget's parishes, with most of the parishioners coming from St. Bridget's. St. Bart's first pastor was Rev. Philip J. Hussey whose task was to build a church, a school and a convent. Construction of the parish buildings began in June 1961, and dedication ceremonies were held in May 1962 with Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien laying the church cornerstone. Until the building was completed, Sunday Masses were celebrated in the Buckley School auditorium on Vernon Street while daily Masses were held in the chapel, a converted garage in the first rectory at 741 East Middle Turnpike, across from the present church. Interestingly, Jane Donovan, who is now Jane Peacock and director of music at St. Bart's, was the first to be baptized in that chapel.

Because the 150th anniversary of St. Bridget's coincides with ours, some events will be joint projects with the first a retreat planned for April after Easter. Using the Easter message of joy, happiness, and feeling good about your relationship with God as its theme, the retreat will be under the direction of Mrs. McKenna, a nationally recognized retreat leader. Father Tom Sievel and Father Steve Sledesky, pastor of St. Bridget's, are also discussing a religious pilgrimage to Italy's holy sites of Rome, Assisi, and possibly Sorrento.

The year-long anniversary celebration will begin with the annual family picnic in the fall and conclude with a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Mansell in October 2008, fifty years to the day that St. Bart's first Mass was celebrated in Buckley School. The following Sunday, the Archbishop will celebrate Mass at St. Bridget's. Possible events are still in the early planning stages by the 50th Anniversary Committee, which consists of Bill Daley, Ed Giard, Diane and Paul Gluhosky, Bob and Linda Kostek, Dee Kurowski, Charlotte Manning, Marge Minor, Brendan Moriarty, Joe and Loretta Pazdan, Jane Peacock, Maureen Prokipchak, Lucy Sweeney, and Patti Wawzyniecki. Look for more details in coming months.

Editor's note: John asks you to support the vision of the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation with a special "thank you" from two of his guide dogs - St. Fenix (a little bit of heaven) and Flair, a sweetheart.

Happy 50th!



THE SWEENEYS Serving Church and Community

By Henry Poirier

Lucy and Joe Sweeney cannot claim to be a founding family of St. Bartholomew, having joined the parish in 1969 – eleven years after its beginning in 1958. However, few families can match their thirty-seven plus years of faithful service to the parish. In addition to their devotion to St. Bart's, they have pursued careers, served the community in various ways and raised three children.

Lucy, a Manchester native, grew up on Chestnut Street in St. James Parish. She and her younger sister, Kathy of Simsbury, are the daughters of the late Reta and Tom Shea. Reta taught in Manchester schools, including our local Green School (now the Manchester Senior Center). Tom, a graduate of the University of Notre Dame was employed at Hamilton Standard. In his later years as a resident at Crestfield, Tom and the late Father Hussey (St. Bart's first pastor) became friends. Lucy, who attended St. James School and Holy Trinity High School in Hartford, earned her undergraduate degree from Eastern Connecticut State University in Elementary Education with a minor in English. Her graduate degree, from Central Connecticut State University, is in Reading/Language Arts. She began her teaching career in Manchester and continued until shortly after her first-born, Michael, arrived. For seventeen years Lucy tended to her growing family but continued to teach as a substitute at Buckley School. Eventually, she returned to teaching full time as a Reading/Language Arts Consultant at the Highland Park School. She has been involved in local and professional organizations serving on their boards and as committee chairs. She is past president of the CT Association for Reading Research and served in the Buckley PTA and the Manchester Land Conservation Trust for many years. Lucy has held Reading/Language Arts Consultant positions in Orange and Andover from

which she retired in July of 2006. Although officially retired, Lucy still finds herself in demand and has recently been substituting in Andover.

Joe claims New London as his hometown, and after completing elementary and high school there, attended Holy Cross College, graduating in 1959. He went on to Georgetown Law School and graduated and passed the Bar in 1962.

Joe was chosen to Clerk for Chief Justice Raymond Baldwin of the Connecticut State Supreme Court. After a tour of duty with the Army, he began his career in the practice of law with a firm in Norwich. Later, Joe joined the law firm of Halloran & Sage in Hartford in the summer of 1966, an association that has lasted to this day.

The year 1966 proved to be fateful for the Sweeneys. Both were members of the Catholic Graduates Club and became friends at a ski weekend in March at Sugarbush, Vermont. By September they were engaged and were married in April of 1967. Two years later, with one-year-old Michael in tow, they moved to their Kennedy Road home where they still live today. They joined St. Bartholomew parish as soon as they moved into their new home and became active in parish life. Joe became President of the first Parish Council under Father Martin Scholsky. Both Joe and Lucy are long time members of the Council of Ministries and continue as members of the Council today. Lucy served on the Board of the Ladies Guild and is currently a Lector and a Minister of the Holy Eucharist. Joe has been a Lector for many years. When the Catholic Community of Manchester was formed, Joe was asked to be one of the two representatives from St. Bart's, a role that continues.

In 1977, Joe ran for a seat as a Manchester town director, where he served one term. But, it was a

tumultuous one. The agenda at that time included a referendum on a major improvement in the Town water system and the HUD question. It was a time consuming undertaking. Joe did not seek re-election, figuring his first priority was to his growing family and a budding career. He has been Chairman of the Town Human Relations Commission for the last fifteen years.

The three Sweeney children, all boys, have led remarkably similar lives. They were all active in the parish as Altar Servers and Lectors and for the most part all attended local schools. They attended different colleges, though, with Michael at Gettysburg, Andrew at St. Michael's and Patrick at Holy Cross. All followed different careers for varying lengths of time after college but eventually ended up in law school - Michael at Quinnipiac, Andrew at New York School of Law and Patrick at Boston College Law School. Much to Lucy and Joe's delight, all the offspring are within a two-hour drive. This is particularly important because Michael with his wife, Dawn, have two children, Shane and Jillian. As any grandparent would

continued on page 5

MEET THE AMBROSETTI FAMILY

THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER ALSO PLAYS TOGETHER

By Debi Ashmead

The Ambrosetti family remembers joining St. Bart's when they moved to this area from Ellington in 1992. Charlie and Liz Ambrosetti have three children: JT (Joey), Katie and Chelsea. JT, their oldest, was in kindergarten when they joined St. Bart's. Currently, Charlie and Liz teach eighth grade Religious Ed for the religious education program and run the junior youth group as well as participating in the Eucharistic Ministry program. Katie is a peer minister and part of the youth choir. Chelsea is working on the winter retreat, and Joey is going to college living out the good Christian values he grew up with.

Charlie became active in the youth ministry through a volunteer fair that was being held in Father Hussey Hall. He looks back and laughs at how Vicky Rispoli, Director of Youth Ministry,

grabbed him after he showed some initial interest in the youth ministry program - and there was no turning back from there. About five years ago, Vicky and Father Tom Sievel approached Charlie about forming a junior youth group to help bridge a gap for the youth at St. Bart's. Our young people are generally in the Religious Education program from K-8 then go on to the Confirmation program during grades nine and ten. The Youth Ministry Program focused on high school students, so there was a need to have a program geared more towards middle school kids. Charlie was very happy and honored to be able to give back in yet another way. Chelsea and Katie remember how excited they were for this opportunity because they were both in middle school and would be able to participate immediately. For both girls the opportunity to be in Junior Youth Group was a chance for them to be more involved with the church like older brother, Joey. The Group program meets once a month, where middle school students get a chance to socialize, have fun with their friends, do various service projects and pray in the tabernacle area. The number of kids that attend each month shows just how successful it is.

When asked what the Ambrosetti family members have been involved with in the past, they all chimed in together with various answers: "mission trips, World Youth Day in Toronto, MACC Shelter Christmas Dinner, youth choir, Eucharistic ministry, retreats, peer minister program, religious education, chaperoning, Christmas in April, Vacation Bible Camp and, yes, cooking anything from pancakes and cookies to spaghetti." The question should have been, "What haven't you been involved with at St. Bart's?" It is heartwarming to listen to the Ambrosetti family count their

blessings. They talk about anything and everything just sitting around the dinner table laughing together. They consider their friends as family and love the comfort level of their friends, who walk into the house and, perhaps, open the fridge or make a sandwich because they are extended members of their family. Charlie talks about the perfect Saturday evening - curled up on the couch with his wife Liz to watch a movie. Before the end of the movie, his kids will also be curled up watching the movie along with many of their friends. He comments, "There's plenty to think about, nothing to worry about because everything that is important in life is just fine."

Their faith formation has been an instrumental part of their growth as a family. Their faith has helped them through many life struggles and helped them realize they have everything they need. Charlie recounts how starting his own business helped him realize how "Jesus provides for us". He is very proud of how their faith has grown with their family. For example, recalling Katie praying the rosary with her grandmother was a proud moment for Charlie and Liz, and they acknowledge over and over how their prayers are answered everyday.

*Joe and Lucy Sweeney
Continued from page 4*

agree, being close to grandchildren is a joyous challenge! Michael is a partner in a Madison, CT law firm, while Andrew practices law in New York City. Patrick, recently married to Carlynn, also a lawyer, practices in Hartford and New York City.

After a nearly forty-three year career practicing law for Joe and a lifetime of teaching for Lucy, it would seem a good time to kick back and do the traveling they have always enjoyed and to start some serious doting on the grandchildren. However, letting go of the careers they both love is difficult for them. Joe has told his colleagues at Halloran & Sage that he will stay on through 2007. Then what? Stay tuned!



“We Are Many Parts” - THE ADULT CHOIR OF ST. BART’S

By Harry Robinson



**“We are many parts, we are all one body;
and the gifts we have we are given to
share.”**

These lines reflect an important aspect of our choir and make us think about what the choir is and signifies in St. Bart’s parish life. Music is one of the parts of the Mass that contributes to the whole liturgy. And it is the liturgy that brings all of the parts together and creates that beautiful tension between the artistic and worship needs of the parish. Jane Peacock, a consummate musician, is the director of the choir. Jane thinks of the choir as the face and voice of the liturgy, leading the assembly in prayer and song. The choir truly is visually majestic in its white and burgundy robes and is especially prominent when it leads processions on some holy days. On Corpus Christi the choir sings our way to the labyrinth and to the four corners of the church grounds. On Pentecost the choir enters the church holding red streamers and on Palm Sunday waving palms. In May the choir takes us outside for the crowning of Mary. This year the choir even led us outside, singing, to the newly created Stations of the Cross. These rituals arouse our attention even to the point where children wonder will the angels come next!

Though we see this visual aspect, we usually think of the choir in terms of sound, and it is exciting to remember that one sound may be composed of many parts. Jane has a metaphor for the choir in this regard: “The choir is a great organ and each choir member is an organ pipe, each contributing to the one sound.” Jane knows that some of the artistry of the choir’s singing comes in having particular voices (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) singing parts. Yet the different parts emerge as one sound, one body – and it is beautiful. Even the most splendid choral music, however, must be seen as a way of enhancing worship, not competing with it. The hymns and choir songs are not chosen by whim. Jane’s attention to the scripture readings, her knowledge of music, and her love of what she does guide her in making choices. Whatever she chooses must meet three standards set by the Vatican II Documents of

Liturgy: 1) musical – is it good quality? 2) liturgical – is it appropriate for worship? and 3) pastoral – is it appropriate for this particular gathering? When the congregation joins the choir in singing, then all the parts contribute to the liturgy, which in itself is a part of the Body of Christ.

At heart, though, the choir is people. At this time the choir is composed of twenty-seven regular singers, but additional singers join the choir for special holy days, like Christmas and Easter. Sometimes cantors sing with the choir and sometimes instrumentalists join in. When asked about memorable moments and satisfactions involving the choir, both Jane and the choir members were enthusiastic in their replies. Jane said, “All the Masses are spiritually satisfying.” She spoke of peak experiences, one of which continues to occur during Holy Week. The bells of the church are silenced from the Gloria on Holy Thursday until the Gloria at the Easter Vigil Mass. Musical instruments are eliminated during this time, and the choir may sing without accompaniment. Then, at the Easter vigil, the silence is broken, the bells ring, the instruments play, and the choir sings. The music becomes a glorious shout of joy in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is elevated in the moment, a true mixture of art and worship. Jane also says, somewhat enigmatically, that she gains satisfaction from the realization that “the things that limit you become the things you love.”

Choir members, as well, expressed what was satisfying to them: “It’s like another family”; “I enjoy every get-together, rehearsal, and all Masses”; “Singing brings a special

meaning to the readings.”; “I feel like I’m practicing for Heaven.”; “Where can you sing more beautiful words and melodies than in church?”; “A time for me to show my faith to God and church.”; “Being in the choir is uplifting, challenging, and relaxing. Our director is organized, non-threatening, and affirming.” and “I love having music in my life. As the song says, ‘How can I keep from singing?’”

Of course, Jane Peacock is not new to music. Her father sings bass in the choir, and her mother, Jane says good-humoredly, is a Lutheran, so she grew up singing. Her sisters and brothers are singers, and three of them are organists, while her husband plays the French horn. Jane loves the humility of the singers and their camaraderie, people who love to sing and to serve the parish. She is always interested in having new people join the choir. While the choir sings to high standards, one does not have to be a great singer to join. Loving to sing is the only requirement. *All are welcome.*





There have been some staff changes recently for *Bart's Herald*. We'd like to bring you up to date on them and have you meet our recent staff additions:

Ed Rowe, a member of St. Bart's for twenty-three years, lives in Manchester with his sons, Matt and Tim – both of whom are students at Eastern Connecticut State University. Ed authored his first article about "Donut Sunday" in the November 2005 issue of *Bart's Herald*. An Organizational and Skill Development Consultant at the UConn School of Social Work, he is a lector, volunteers to serve meals at the Samaritan Shelter, assists in the Haitian Health Foundation mission and sells Equal Exchange coffee after Mass. Ed is involved with the American Cancer Society "Relay for Life" and "Road to Recovery" projects. Reflecting on St. Bart's, Ed says, "The community has become an important part of my personal and spiritual development, particularly over the past six years".

A parishioner for twenty-eight years, **John T. Garoppolo** penned his first article in the March 2006 issue when he interviewed Father Tom Sievel on his role as a Spiritual Director. John and his wife, Patricia, residents of Manchester, have four children (David, Mark, Ruth Spellman and step-daughter, Cathy Kodes), four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A retired teacher, he was raised as a Lutheran, converting to Catholicism in 1978. Blind since 1990, John began using a guide dog in 1992, which – in his words: "...has given me a greater appreciation of God's gifts to me." He feels that St. Bart's is a very friendly and warm parish led by Father Tom whom he greatly admires.

This issue introduces two parishioners who have stepped forward to be part of the *Bart's Herald* staff:

Debi Ashmead lives with her husband, Vaughn, children, Katie (12) and John Austin (7), in Vernon. A parishioner of St. Bart's for six years, she grew up in Dayton, Ohio, where her mother, sister and brother reside. Manager of Core Procurement for Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, she loves to walk, read and play board games with the kids. At St. Bart's, she's helped out with social activities for the children, the Religious Ed program, vacation bible camp (which she led for several years) and the Elizabeth Ministry. Debi speaks highly of the St. Bart's parish community: "St. Bart's has been a great community experience for myself and my kids. We moved here from Florida in 2000 due to my job relocation. We did not know anyone or have family or friends here, so it was a great start to get involved in the community. I felt right at home at St. Bart's as it was a very embracing, friendly, welcoming parish."

Harry Robinson – a St. Bart's parishioner for thirty-eight years – lives with his wife, Madeleine, in

Manchester. Retired from teaching high school, Harry refers to himself as a "semi-retired" teacher at Manchester Community College and a volunteer tutor at the Trust House in Hartford. The couple's five children are Rob (deceased), Sarah Robinson Bienvenue, Thomas, Elise, and Laura Robinson Hanlan, and their grandchildren are Elisabeth and Jack Bienvenue. At St. Bart's Harry is a former Boy Scout Committee Member and was co-team-chair for its last fund-raising project. His many interests include family rituals, celebrations and get-togethers, keeping the doors open for family and friends, camping, traveling, photography, reading, computer technology and any job-related activity. Harry describes St. Bart's as "A good place to be."

Bart's Herald also gives thanks to **Kathy Boiano** and **Kay Freymuth** for their contributions to previous issues of our newsletter.

Karen Trespacz, a frequent contributor to *Bart's Herald*, is now pursuing religious life in Virginia. She has applied for the Live-In program at a Benedictine monastery (for women) and started staying there on January 12th. We'll be hearing from Karen in the future as her journey continues.

Bart's Herald acknowledges the many contributions of **Vernon "Vern" Hauschild** to this newsletter. Vern passed away on October 7, 2006. He was active in many ministries at St. Bart's and became one of its first lectors. His feature articles on many parishioners and their families provided enjoyment and inspiration to many. His obituary stated, "...Vernon wanted simply to be remembered as a nice man." *And, he certainly will be!*

Editor's note: You too can become a member of the Bart's Herald team. Why not give Bob Albert a call to find out how you can contribute.

← Adult Choir

Members are led by **Jane Peacock, Music Minister.** Sopranos are: **Joan Beadles, Mary Charles, Rolande Duprey, Pat Holmes, Yvonne Johnson, Dee Kurowski, Charlotte Manning, Kathle en McNamara, Celeste Roach and Pauline Wilson.** Altos are: **Martie Adams, Donna Battistone, Nancy Bojarski, Rose LaChapelle, Ann Nevelos, Madeleine Robinson and Lucille Smith.** Tenors are: **Dick Cichowski, John Iamonaco, Joe Lauzon and Leo Luciani,** while basses are: **Bill Cullina, Tom Donovan, Bernie Kean, John McNamara, Bill Regan, and Ron Rivas.**

**MANCHESTER AREA
CONFERENCE OF CHURCHES
(MACC)**

Highlights from 2006

By Loretta Pazdan

Case Management/Client Services

Client services provided **more** advocacies to families and spent **less** money. Thirty-nine families remained in their housing, and 208 individuals stayed warm while connected to utility service!

**Church Mouse Thrift Shoppe (46 Purnell Place,
Manchester**

The Shoppe provided:

- Free clothing to 490 adults and 124 children
- 4,110 clothing items

Walk Against Hunger

Save— **Sunday, May 6, 2007**

Join the St. Bart's team to "Tie Up Hunger!"

Volunteers Program

Over seventy-five volunteers are needed each week to help MACC serve the community. Volunteers help in all areas of service; for example, serving supper at the Samaritan Shelter for the Homeless, distributing food at the Food Pantry or sorting clothes at the Church Mouse Thrift Shoppe. If you want to help, MACC has a volunteer position for you. Please contact the Director of Volunteers (Jacki Campion) at MACC. She'll be sure to put your talents to good use!

Here are just a few Volunteer highlights for the past year:

- **Day of Caring** – for three years in a row United Technologies Research Center has chosen to partner with MACC.
- **Abilene (Texas) Christian University** students, giving up their spring break, spent four and a half days handling the overnight shift at the Samaritan Shelter, working at the Church Mouse Thrift Shoppe, serving and distributing food, and performing various office tasks.

GREAT WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO MACC! <http://www.goodsearch.com> is a search engine that donates money to charities. Since MACC is listed as one of the charities, just select MACC as the charity recipient the first time that you use the website. Each time that you use "goodsearch", MACC benefits from your searches, especially if you, your relatives and your friends use it. *The more searches, the more MACC earns.* Give it a try! What have you got to lose?

1. Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com>
2. Select "Manchester Area Conference of Churches" as your charity (first time only).
3. Bookmark it or make it a "Favorite" and use it as you would any search engine.