

The APOSTLE

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church ... A Christian Community of open minds, open hearts, and open arms.

May 2020

A SEASON

A gentle reminder. Easter is a season – not just a single day. That seems important right now.

A day implies that it is a singular event and it is now over. But a season indicates a longer time for something to unfold.

After the resurrection on that singular day, it was essential for Jesus to spend important time with his peeps. It was time for him to help them understand what had happened and therefore what it would mean for them — especially what would be required of them eventually. Even though he had been teaching them for years about what would happen to him, it took the actual event for them to be fully “woked up”.

So he needed time for his community to believe this resurrected form really was Jesus, catch their breath and then understand its consequences for their future.

A season of time. So, Jesus spent time away with his team. Time to show, teach and help understand. Time to prepare them to be his voice and presence after he finally did leave.

Which got me to thinking.

This is our Easter season, too. We are already sequestered away practicing “Compassionate Distancing” to keep ourselves — but also others — safe. It actually could be intriguing for us to spend time with Jesus, to muse about resurrection and to prepare for the day we can step back more fully into the world and once again be even more active on behalf of God.

Being kept away for the most part may give each of us some time to think about resurrection and what it means and why it matters — or even if we believe it.

Being kept away for the most part might give us time to contemplate what our God did for us on that singular day and why it matters a lot right now and in the future. Being kept away for the most part might also give us the chance to muse about what will happen when we can safely come out from locked doors — and what God might need us to do.

Resurrection is the foundation of our faith. It is the essence of what makes our faith perspective distinct. So how we see, understand, and embrace the God of this capacity is actually pretty important. Because Easter is a season, it helps us to know that understanding evolves. And as it evolves, so can our clarity and commitment to being “beacons of God’s transforming light” in the world.

There will come a time when we will re-enter the world more fully. But right now we have a season which we can use to prepare for that re-entry. How will our faith help to shape the path we take — for ourselves personally but also for us as a faith community?

Which is getting me to think — and wonder — and hope — and pray. Join me.

— Flo Ledyard, Rector

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A Cautionary Word

We still just don't know. We just don't know when we will be able to safely regather physically as a faith community. So we will be prepared for all our normal activities even if we cannot have all our normal activities.

But we also will continue to find different ways of being a robust faith community.

This Apostle will be filled with wonderful news and outlines of plans — as usual. With grace, hope and some amazing technical skill we will be able to avail ourselves of great “stuff.”

Until we can safely gather together physically for worship, we “zoom” into worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. We hope you will be with us! Here's how:

Click on this link to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/7641738777?pwd=d05KWmJPZ0ZZaHlmUlRk2NiOFp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 764 173 8777

Password: 703085

or call in at 301-715-8592.

Please visit the St. Bartholomew's Church website (<http://www.stbs-md.org/>) for more information.

All of this comes with a steady word of caution that we will remain wise, thoughtful, and appropriate as we care for one another and our neighbors.

Ergo stay tuned to email announcements about all manner of things. Or check with the office. Stay prayerfully attuned.

— Flo Ledyard, Rector

Pastoral Considerations

In this unnerving time with so many adjustments, please know the following:

Hopefully each of you have begun to receive a phone call once a week from a fellow parishioner. It is meant to be a way to stay connected and to just check in so we can continue to support each other and embody our caring community —

and please take the initiative to connect with others in the parish on your own as well.

Staying touch means so much.

(If you are not receiving a phone call, please let us know. We may not have your accurate information.)

AND if you have any concerns at all, please touch base with any of our amazing clergy —

but especially Flo, our Rector:

Home number — 410-667-0068

Cell — 410-375-5575

Email — fledyard35@gmail.com

She even texts!

Many thanks to all who helped make our Holy Week and Easter "Virtual" Worship happen:

for those who planned, prepared and rehearsed;
for those who served during our worship services, including the "Virtual St. Bartholomew Choir and Brass" and our Tech Vergers;
for those who invited someone to celebrate with us.



Even though we were not able physically gather for worship, thanks to Zoom technology, distance was not a barrier, so we were able to welcome friends and family members from near and far to join with us.

Thank you!

Spring Follows Winter Once More

Shared by Janet Aldrich

Well, true enough, we did not have much of a winter this year, and the Easter celebration will be in our hearts and in the direct company of those with whom we live or can connect to via the Internet! Still, we sing Alleluia—in this time of compassionate distancing—to any opportunity in this sore world to lie "in tall grass" and smell earth just below the level of our consciousness where God bursts forth, even if it sometimes feels only in spurts. A blessed, peaceful Easter to you all.

Lying here in the tall grass
Where it's so soft
Is this what it is to go home?
Into the earth
Of worms and black smells
With a larch tree gathering sunlight
In the spring afternoon

And the gates of Paradise open just enough
To let out
A flock of geese.

~~ by Tom Hennen



A Virtual Choir is Born

by Debbie McClellan

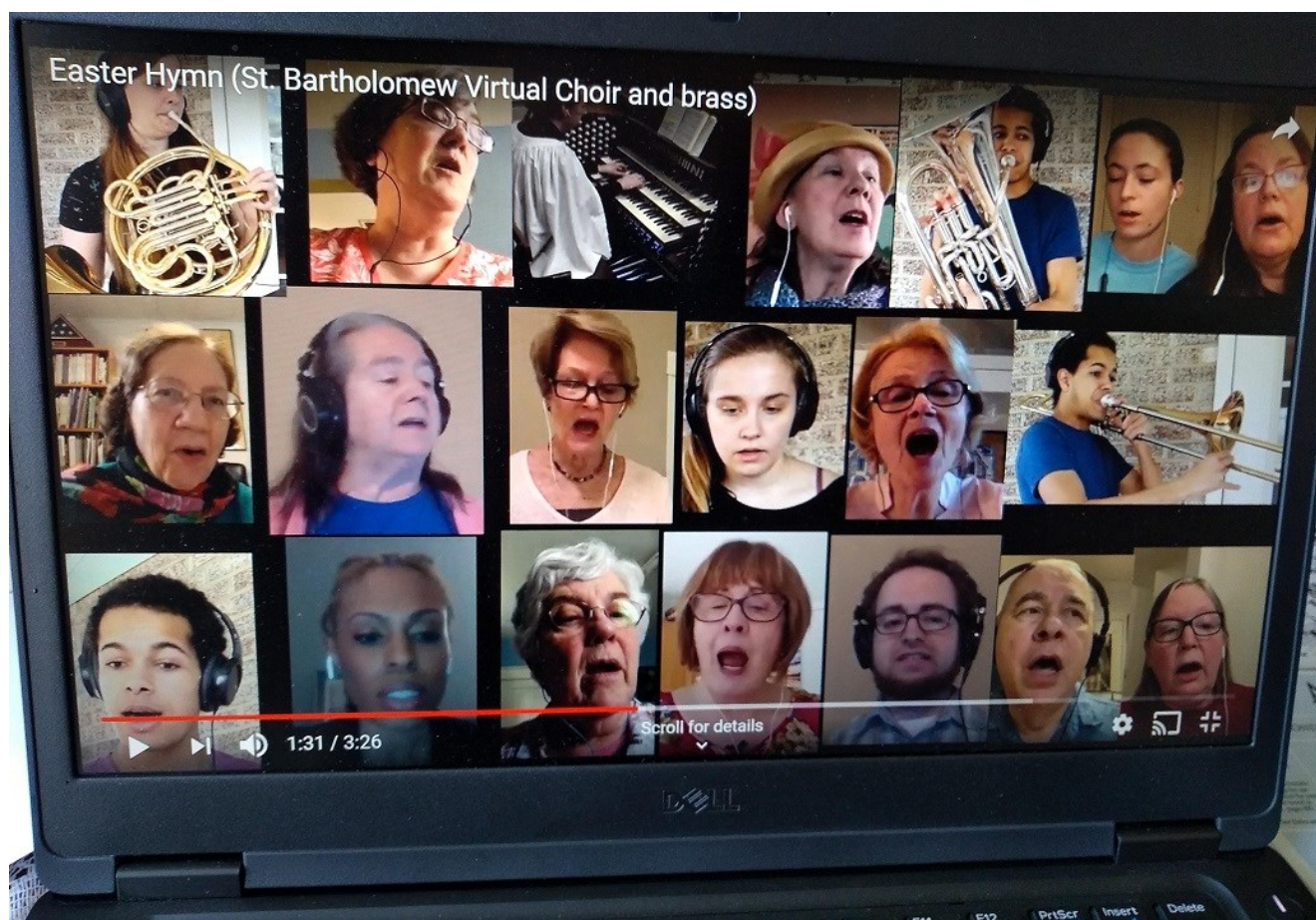
It sounded pretty easy (for the singers, at least) when Ted Davis first suggested to the choir that we sing a “virtual hymn” as part of our Zoom broadcasts for Good Friday and Easter Day. The process seemed relatively straightforward: Make a video of yourself singing along with a video of Ted playing and singing the chosen hymn, then send it to Ted, and he would combine it with everyone else’s video to make a composite “choir” version. A little choir karaoke.

So this shy, technologically challenged, obsessional perfectionist set about making a video. Let me say up front that I’m not in the habit of videotaping myself singing; some choir members are much more accustomed to video recording and do it with great competence and aplomb, but for me—and undoubtedly some others—it presented a series of interesting, and spiritually instructive, challenges.

Challenge #1 for me was finding the right equipment and using it properly. Let’s see...I can play Ted’s video on my desktop computer and record on my iphone. But, oh yeah, I have to wear headphones [memo: find headphones that work] while listening to Ted, tape the enlarged copy of the music to my screen so I can see it as I watch Ted on the computer and also look directly into the camera on my phone. And I need to sing the right notes, open my mouth wide [failed miserably at that!], shape the vowels the proper way, and erase all the Bal’morese, hon.

Oh, and I’d better make sure I don’t stumble over any of the words, and I need to know my part well enough so that I can sing it correctly while Ted is playing in the background but singing another part. And I’d better not wear the hot pink scarf for the Good Friday

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A Virtual Choir is Born (*continued*)

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hymn (even though I'm recording on Tuesday), or the black sweater combo for the Easter hymn. And I've got to do something about my "headphone hair"!

At least for me, singing by myself felt very different than singing in person as part of a group: Gone were many of the visual and aural cues that a choral singer usually relies upon—the subtle movements of someone else's head, the conductor's correcting gestures, the reassurance and support of all the other voices making music with you. Ted gave us a lot of support in his video, even with both hands occupied at the piano, but there's a limit to how much even he could convey with eyebrows and a nodding head.

He did reassure us by pointing out that no one he knows, whether amateur or professional, likes watching videos of themselves making music. His advice: make the recording, and then send it off without listening to/looking at it (you won't be surprised that I couldn't do that!). From a spiritual perspective, audiotaping was a tremendously humbling—and salutary—experience for someone who has traditionally felt pretty confident about my ability to sing at least passably. But by the third or fourth "take," it was actually fun!

Then there was the matter of delivering my videos to Ted—the files were too big to email. Instead, Ted created a Dropbox account to receive our submissions. I had a bit of an advantage here, in that I'd used Dropbox occasionally, but I was still flying by the seat of my pants. Somehow, luckily, the files got through to him in time.

Finally, it was up to Maestro Ted to work his magic—to put everything together and make something beautiful out of our individual offerings. You can see his technical skill, musicality, and spirituality revealed—with the help of an editing program called DaVinci—in the final YouTube products at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-V2aqvtCPM> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7W2BJAcVmc&feature=youtu.be>.

Looking back on the experience, what strikes me most about this project is how heavily it depended on our having faith: faith in Ted, who yet again encouraged us to try something new and wonderful; faith that even our feeble individual offerings could contribute to our corporate worship at St. B's, giving glory to God and maybe even helping someone else to worship a bit more fully; faith in our fellow singers and their skill; and faith that God, in the power of the Resurrection, could work through Ted to transform our individual, imperfect offerings into one unified, joyous sound. Alleluia!

— *Debbie is a member of the St. Bartholomew Choir*

P.S. Obviously, we're not the only church with virtual offerings for Easter. If you missed it on Easter Sunday, you can still watch St. B's choir members Diane Mountain, Michael Mountain, and Leigh Snowden, along with more than 600 other musicians perform as part of the Episcopal Church's Virtual Choir and Orchestra for the National Cathedral's broadcast service: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JAyi64eagTI>.

A Vestry Update

by Corinne Bowmaker

The current pandemic has brought many changes to our life at St. B's and the Vestry is no exception. The Vestry quickly switched gears and jumped on Zoom for Vestry meetings in March. They've had 3 meetings on Zoom and it is serving us well. They've been able to get lots of work done, discussions and decisions and staying in touch with each other. In addition to our normal meeting norms, the Vestry added a set of Zoom norms. For example, "Don't type during the meeting on your computer, it can be heard and is distracting" and "Don't chat with each other in the chat room — it acts as a side conversation."

Due to the coronavirus crisis, the Annual Meeting that would have been held on April 26, 2020 will be postponed until the fall. There is no way to hold a meeting in person or one on Zoom where everyone would be able to participate in questions and discussion and voting. One thing that happens at the Annual Meeting is that four Vestry members step down as their 3-year terms end and there is a parish vote on a new slate of Vestry nominees. These new Vestry members immediately step into their new roles if voted in at the meeting. Because the meeting is now postponed, the four Vestry members whose term would have ended on April 26 will stay on until the fall. This is fortuitous because it gives us continuity through this challenging time and keeps our senior-most members with us through the most impacted period. Happily they all agreed to stay on until the fall. We are most grateful.

Along with the delay in the Annual Meeting, the Vestry Retreat that takes place in May at Claggett is also postponed until the fall. Claggett is closed. We'll reschedule the retreat when the Vestry has the new members on board. Since Claggett doesn't have any available weekends in the fall 2020, it'll be scheduled elsewhere or at St. B's.

The Vestry has been very active since the pandemic began to impact St. B's. Along with their regular meetings, an additional special meeting was held in early April. They looked at the impact that the pandemic may have on our parish family, on possible sickness, job or work hours lost, and the possible effect on pledges and our ability to operate. We looked at the potential impact on the budget prepared by our Finance Committee Chairman, Michael Haynie — what costs may go down and which may increase. They also discussed the CARES Act loans to small business, nonprofits and churches, deciding to apply in order to cover any increased deficit in our income this year.

The Vestry started up a pastoral care phone tree to call all of our parishioners once a week to check in and uncover any needs. At this time, there are 22 people making phone calls. If you have not received a call yet and would like to, please let Corinne Bowmaker, the Senior Warden, know... zencorinne@hotmail.com. We are also checking to be sure people can attend the Zoom worship on Sundays.

The Vestry is working hard to keep St. B's looking and moving forward, being pro-active whenever possible... to keep St. B's operating and functioning even though worship and meetings are done in a new way. Though some ministries and activities are not currently active, they plan for the day when they all may be resumed and are working to put the parish in the best position to do this. They're also looking for ways to help our neighbors in the community along with 40 West and Hope Harbor during this time.

We may face a year of rolling openings and resumed quarantine throughout the country as conditions change. The Vestry is working to plan for this kind of eventuality and making contingency plans so that we can be ready for whatever comes.

— Corinne is Senior Warden

Vestry Highlights

At their April 21, 2020 meeting (via Zoom), the Vestry:

- Reviewed the accommodations we have made to respond to the Pandemic.
- Approved the Quarterly Treasurer's Report.
- Received an update on Paycheck Protection Program, CARES Act, application.
- Resolved to continue paying all our staff.
- Determined that the resolution to continue with current the Vestry until the Annual meeting is rescheduled is null and void in accordance with the bylaws.

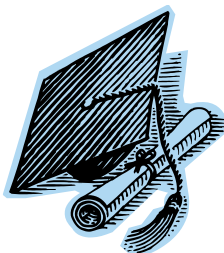
The next meeting, scheduled May 19 will take place in the Parish House — or via Zoom, if necessary.

If we're able to gather in the Parish House,
a light supper will be served at 6:15 pm and the meeting begins at 6:30 pm.

All Vestry meetings are open, and all members and friends are welcome to attend.

Seeking Graduates!

Do you know of any **high school or college graduates** in the St. B's community? We would like to learn about them so that we can celebrate and acknowledge their accomplishments.



We look forward to including your information in the Summer edition of *The Apostle*. Please include the name of the graduate, the name of his or her school, date of graduation, and upcoming plans — by Friday, May 15.

Welcoming at Zoom Church!

by Bryan MacKay

At St. Bartholomew's, we try to warmly welcome everyone — visitors, guests, and members. But Zoom Church presented some challenges to business as usual. Fortunately, several parishioners have stepped up to continue welcoming everyone in this new format.

Did you know that our Zoom room is open one hour before the Sunday service and 30 minutes after? It's an opportunity to connect, see the beautiful faces of friends, and even share a few words of greeting. There's audio, video, and "chat" — chat being the option to type in text. And our Zoom room has greeters!

Deirdre McElroy considers her Zoom time to be the "highlight of her week." Not only does she love seeing familiar faces, but she especially values the chance to visit with shut-ins who haven't made it to physical church lately, and with a fair number of folks who moved elsewhere around the country. We have also had a number of guests who were specifically invited by members (remember the "Invite a Friend"

campaign?) who may reside elsewhere or who are just curious about Zoom church. Deirdre values Zoom church "coffee hour" because it is more "expansive and inclusive," and "enables us to be together as a community."

Wendy Farthing is another Zoom church host. She loves "seeing people's faces and hearing their voices", and "being able to help folks who have been isolated." She knows her welcoming work has been a blessing to her, and hopes it is to others as well.

Being a host is more than just greeting. Hosts help with technical glitches, guide folks to resources like the bulletin, and respond to chat comments. Hosts also keep attendance statistics and try to identify who is behind those phone numbers!

So thanks to all our Zoom church hosts (as of this writing): Deirdre McElroy, Wendy Farthing, Bonnie Kutch, The Rev. Thelma Smullen, Nicete Moodie, and Dana Rose. We appreciate your faithfulness!

— Bryan is Chair of the Newcomers' Committee

Keeping Connected with Our Youth

by Steven Jouhson

Greetings Everyone!!

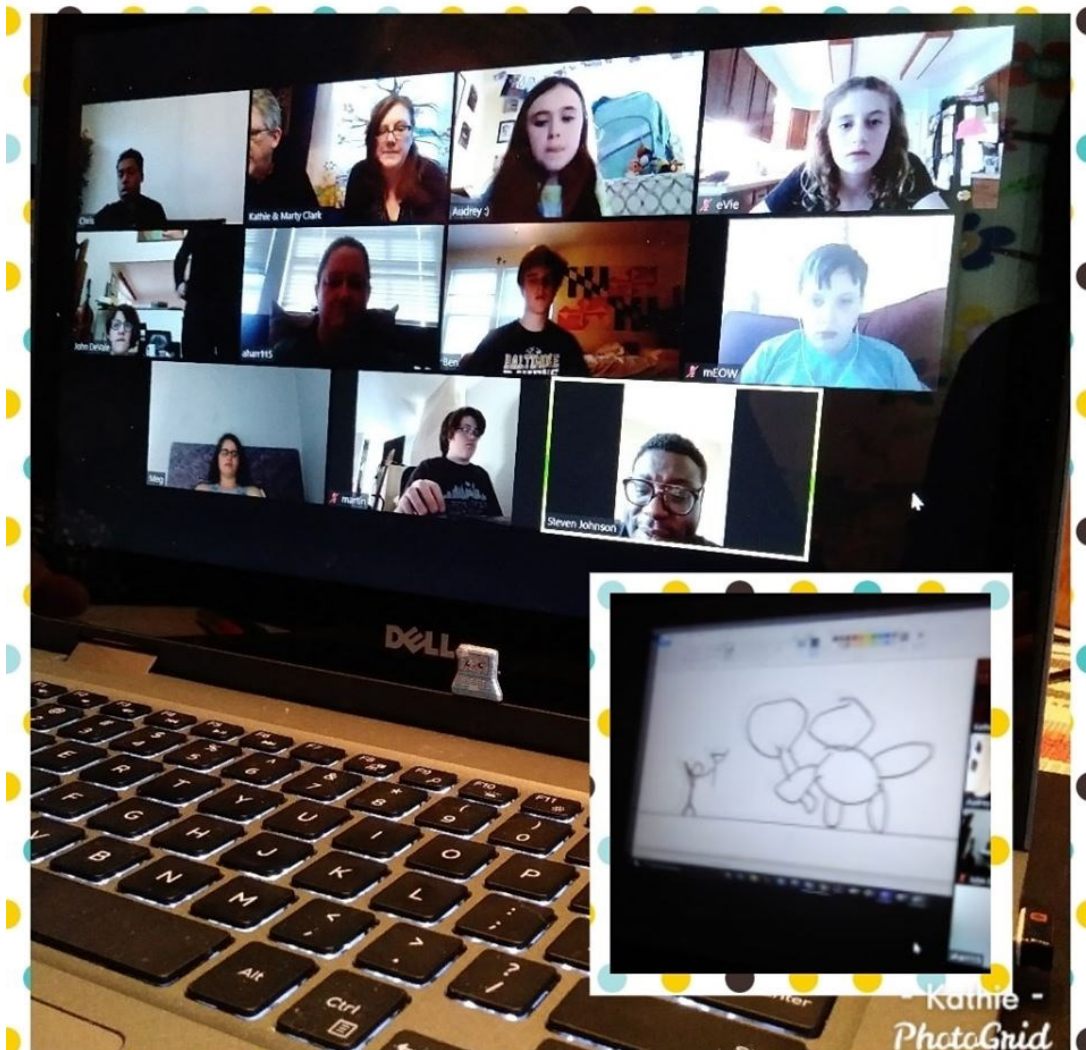
"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." -John 16:33

It is with this great news, that I greet you. Knowing that Christ has overcome the grave, for our lives, we can truly rest assured; that he can provide peace for our land, nation, and world at this very polarizing and trying moment in our history. I'm sure that everyone is finding new ways to live and do life, whether it's a Zoom chat, Google Hangouts, or handwritten notes; the process, I'm sure has been fun!! As a 9th grade teacher, we've had to adopt virtual learning spaces,

which has its challenges and triumphs!! Seeing students and being able to connect is a part of those triumphs, which is why I am super grateful for my St. B's D-Group leaders and the never-ending support of our St. B's church family. The diligence, love, and dedication of our youth leaders Kathie and Marty Clark and Amanda Harris, is the reason why we have been able to constantly stay connected to the youth at St. B's. Over this past #StayAtHome month, we have held our D-Group meetings via Zoom and have discussed topics such as :

- ◆ How do I know God is real?

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Keeping Connected with Our Youth (*continued*)

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- ◆ The Genesis story and the Big Bang; where do they intersect?
- ◆ We have even got in on the social media inspired “Flip the switch challenge.” This challenge is when two people stand in front of a mirror, one in the foreground, one in the background, and the person in the back dances and moves around while the person in front holds the phone. Then the lights go out, and when they come back on, the people have reversed and are wearing the other’s outfit, props etc. The person in the back is now dancing, and so they have now....FLIPPED IT!!
- ◆ The youth have also written notes to first responders, thanking them for their selfless service to our city and state during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Also, remembering the reality that mental health is important, we always make an attempt to gauge our youth’s state of mind and ensure them that we are always here to talk, but most importantly, LISTEN.

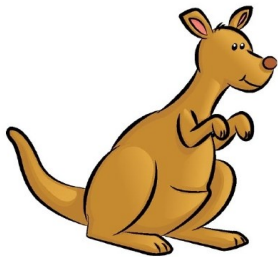
Lastly, we all know how important it is to share a meal together — “A family that eats together defeats together.” Each week, when we are actually on-site in the St. B’s Youth House, we have family-style, around the table dinner. The parents of the young people take a turn weekly providing delicious vittles for us all to indulge in. Since we have been at home, we have not strayed from the eating together model. Before we end our virtual meetings, we choose what our next meal theme would be. Each youth and leader will emulate the chosen meal in their own homes. We’ve had chicken and waffles, sandwiches, and “pot luck” as dinner themes.

In closing: May the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent, one from another, Amen!!

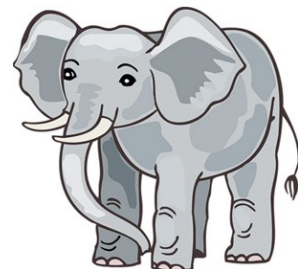
Best Wishes,
Steven T. Johnson

— Steven is St. B’s Coordinator of Youth Education

Exciting News for Children’s Word!



Starting in May, Children’s Word is going to be zooming each week. Ms. Jo Anne & Ms. Ebony are excited to visit with and teach our Elephant and Kangaroo classes. Stay tuned for details.



Happy Spring!

by Celeste Thurston

If you have any green space around your living area, weeding or planting can be a great stress relief.

If you have flowers you can cut, bring some inside to remind yourself it's Spring.

If you don't have green space, can you add a Pot to a door step or an inside sunny window? Herbs are easy to grow, as are marigolds and zinnias. Most grocery stores and hardware stores have those available, or you can order online from catalogs like Select Seeds, Burpee's or Botanical Interests.

If you love to weed but have a small yard, St. B's may be closed for church, but our landscape is there and flourishing.

I would recommend the buddy system since our campus is very large and our parking lot is empty.

But it is very simple to create distance and have an oasis to weed. I would like to suggest an old idea raised by the church garden team many years ago. We called it "adopt a plot."

If you divide our campus into plots to adopt and weed, it becomes more manageable and gives you the ability to reign in Mother Nature a bit and create natural distance.

So the front of the Church there are 2 sides of the main door, both with garden space.

Along the 2 sides of the church are larger plantings that need pruning.

The Bishop's shade garden is a good respite in sunnier weather and the ivy needs to be kept in check.

The front bank will take at least a team of six and needs some heavy pruning. (Photo of front bank below, courtesy of Brigit Molony.) Note the POISON IVY ALERT for this area!

The Parish House has a large perimeter with plantings. I would suggest a team of at least 4 could work that area and Hey! — if you each take a side, natural distance is built-in.

There are at least 40 small trees that were intentionally planted as a tree nursery. Those need to be weeded at the trunk and then mulched. We will do our best to create a map of where those are, but a team of 5 or 6 could take this on with a wheel barrow or truck to cart the mulch from a pile we have at the back of our lot.

If you contact Celeste (jazzedupct@comcast.net) or John White (JFWhite58@gmail.com), we can help you find an area to work on, based on skill and agility.

We are considering having workdays where we would assign an area to you and give you instructions, if you are a beginner, on what is a weed and what is a plant.

We will show you how to identify poison ivy (which does love our campus) to keep us all safe. Our plan there is to have a bold spray paint color. If you see it, we spray it. Then someone less-prone to a reaction can pull it out with the bag-over-the-arm method.

So keep an eye out for a workday calendar from Celeste and John, and get out for a walk and admire the beauty of the earth, truly God's Creation.

— Celeste is Co-chair of the Landscape Committee



Financial Position as of March 31, 2020

— Financial information is provided by John Schroeder, Treasurer

Financial Position as of 3/31/20

	3/20 Actual	3/20 Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Current Weekly Pledged Offerings	\$36,587.24	\$41,583.33	\$111,486.79	\$124,750.03
Prior Years Pledges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,805.00	\$0.00
Open Plate Offerings and Children's Offerings	\$31,023.45	\$2,416.67	\$35,575.36	\$7,249.97
Special Envelope Offerings (Good Friday, Easter, Christ-	\$830.00	\$291.67	\$970.00	\$874.97
Altar Guild Income	\$215.00	\$525.00	\$898.00	\$1,575.00
Community Use Donations (NA, and AA donations)	\$25.00	\$166.67	\$590.00	\$499.97
Special Projects Income	\$0.00	\$1,333.33	\$0.00	\$4,000.03
House Sale Income	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$2,250.00
Endowment Fund Disbursement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest & Div	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$68,680.69	\$47,066.67	\$162,325.15	\$141,199.97

Ministry Expenses

Diocesan Pledge	\$6,720.99	\$6,248.33	\$18,744.99	\$18,745.03
KIVA MicroLoans	\$358.78	\$329.47	\$1,211.14	\$988.37
Communication Ministry	\$0.00	\$129.67	\$0.00	\$388.97
Daughters of the King	\$0.00	\$20.83	\$0.00	\$62.53
Education Ministry	(\$5.00)	\$583.33	\$411.00	\$1,750.03
Youth Pilgrimage	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
Library	\$0.00	\$8.33	\$0.00	\$25.03
Parish Life (Fellowship) Ministry	\$347.19	\$250.00	\$531.50	\$750.00
Landscape	\$0.00	\$83.33	\$0.00	\$250.03
Music Ministry	\$766.36	\$597.92	\$966.36	\$1,793.72
Newcomers Ministry	\$0.00	\$41.67	\$63.72	\$124.97
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$217.50	\$262.67	\$1,213.80	\$787.97
Sunday School Teacher Salaries	\$400.00	\$433.33	\$1,200.00	\$1,300.03
Youth Activities Coordinator	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property Ministry	\$4,060.14	\$2,916.67	\$7,015.64	\$8,749.97
Safety & Security Committee	\$0.00	\$20.83	\$0.00	\$62.53
Special Projects Expense	\$0.00	\$166.67	\$0.00	\$499.97
Special Projects-Net	\$0.00	\$1,083.33	\$0.00	\$3,250.03
Stewardship Ministry	(\$35.00)	\$87.50	(\$234.14)	\$262.50
Worship Ministry	\$0.00	\$41.67	\$0.00	\$124.97
Vestry	\$28.64	\$133.33	\$28.64	\$400.03

Financial Position as of March 31, 2020 *(continued)*

Operating Expenses				
Accounting (includes Bank Fees and audit expenses)	\$163.14	\$208.33	\$580.48	\$625.03
Altar Guild Expenses	\$195.00	\$525.00	\$1,007.48	\$1,575.00
Conferences	\$0.00	\$95.83	\$0.00	\$287.53
Insurance (Property/D&O)	\$6,356.50	\$2,075.00	\$13,171.25	\$6,225.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$8.33	\$0.00	\$25.03
Office Expenses	\$1,114.40	\$1,437.50	\$2,943.65	\$4,312.50
Clergy Discretionary & Hospitality	\$0.00	\$333.33	\$1,750.00	\$1,000.03
Supply Clergy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Taxes (Property)	\$0.00	\$236.25	\$0.00	\$708.75
Telephones and Utilities	\$4,844.11	\$3,742.18	\$15,442.93	\$11,226.38
Salaries, Benefits, Payroll Taxes, Workers Comp	\$28,772.89	\$28,750.57	\$84,254.25	\$86,251.73
Total	\$54,555.64	\$51,101.20	\$151,052.69	\$153,303.66
Net Income w/o Depreciation	\$14,125.05	(\$4,034.53)	\$11,272.46	(\$12,103.69)
Depreciation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Income with Depreciation	\$14,125.05	(\$4,034.53)	\$11,272.46	(\$12,103.69)

Notes on Income and Expenses:

- Pledged Offerings YTD appear **(\$13,263.24)** less than budgeted YTD -pending resolution of open plate income.
- Total income was **\$21,614.02** more than budgeted for the month of March.
- We are showing a net gain of **\$14,125.05** for the month of March and a net gain for the year of **\$11,272.46**.
- Altar Guild Income YTD was less than Altar Guild Expenses by **(\$109.48)**.
YTD expenses include flowers, wafers, wine, candles.
- Education Ministry includes Godly Play, Youth & Faith Forum expenses and Tracts.
- Parish Life Expenses include Hospitality supplies.
- Music Expenses include substitute organists, sheet music, organ repair and guest musicians.
- Pastoral Care Expenses include child care salaries & expenses for our Parish Nursing Program.
- Property Expenses YTD Includes R&M of the church, parish house and grounds and cost of maintenance contracts and security contracts.
- Stewardship YTD total reflects income from initial offering for envelopes.
- Accounting Expenses include payroll preparation expenses, audit expenses and bank fees.
- Insurance (Property/D&O) YTD reflects the sum of our quarterly payments for our policies.
- Office Expenses reflects the cost of copier rental, supplies, postage and computer support.

An Update from the Finance Committee

by Michael Haynie

The finance committee would like to update the congregation on the financial health/status of our church and of the actions we have recommended to our vestry in the past weeks as a direct result of the pandemic which has firmly gripped our world.

The committee met earlier this month to look at the financial status of the church through March 2020:

- Year to date (through the end of March), the church is in good financial shape and actually ahead of our budgetary revenue projections. (Please see the treasurers report in this Apostle for the details of our financial statement.)
- Based on the pandemic and the inability for us to worship in person, as well as the potential financial impact of the pandemic on our congregants, we have begun to revise our Vestry approved budget projections on revenue. We have also looked at the church expenses, understanding there are many expenses because of the way we are worshiping which may or should be reduced.
- The committee also looked at external resources being offered as a result of the pandemic and if any would be applicable to our church.

The Finance Committee, based on those items above, made the following recommendations to our Vestry:

- To continue employing and paying all of our church personnel (we have eight employees of the church).
- To immediately cut non -essential spending by church committees since we were worshipping in a different manner and not at the physical space of the church.

- All church building utilities be carefully monitored and turned off when and where appropriate.
- The Church apply for the SBA (Small Business Administration) **Paycheck Protection Program** through our bank PNC.
- We revisit in late May/early June 2020 our financial status to see the condition of our income and the status of any funding programs we may have applied for.

The Vestry subsequently approved each of our recommendations in its special meeting on April 7th, 2020. Our treasurer, John Schroeder, with the assistance of our Bookkeeper, Kathy Schultheis, and Finance Committee member, Robin Murray, were successful in completing our application for the PPP. We are in the position of waiting for additional program funding from the federal government which should have occurred by the time you read this article.

On another note, it has been wonderful to see so many of you virtually!! I would also like to take this time to ask if you are in a position to honor your pledge or contribute to open plate, please do so. You can mail your pledge or gift into the church address or go up on our website and use the online giving link at <https://www.acionlinegiving.com/2924>. Signup instructions may be found at <http://www.stbs-md.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/onlinegivinginstructions20151204r2.pdf>.

It will be imperative we have a good understanding of where we are financially in June so thoughtful decisions can be made of how we go forward. I would also suggest anyone experiencing hardships in keeping

An Update from the Finance Committee *(continued)*

(Continued from page 14)

their pledge commitment speak with our Assistant Treasurer, John DeVale. John is the only one who collects the information you gave regarding your pledge. We understand these times are more difficult for some, and our prayers love and support is unending regardless. John can be reached at devale@computer.org.

Thanks to each of you. Stay safe, and God, the ruler of all, will see us through these times.

Psalm 91:1-4 (from “Prayers for Hard Times”
@aloveworthlivingfor)

*Father, we come to you worn and weary from the hard times we have walked through recently. ...
Father, you are mighty. We know our circumstances are no match for Your great power. Thank You that You are our safe place. Amen*

— Mike is Chair of the Finance Committee

Virtual Learning Sessions Are Coming

by Sheila Camm

Hope Harbor is in the process of scheduling two virtual learning sessions during May that will be held on Saturday afternoons.

1. Wellness Session
How to balance self-care, work, and care for others during COVID-19 and beyond.
2. Cooking Demonstration
Come into the kitchen of a home cook and learn to prepare a simple but delicious recipe from prep to dine.

Watch for details in the weekly “What’s Happening.”

— Sheila is Hope Harbor’s Family Outreach Worker

Saying “Thank You!”

by David Mountain and Kim Flash

While we are certainly in trying times, we still have so much to be thankful for. The Zoom services have been a welcome opportunity to socially connect and worship in a new way. Our gratitude to the creativity and dedication of our clergy, our “Tech Vergers” Patrick Mellin and Michael Mountain, the wondrous musical talents of Ted Davis and on site and virtual choir members, Maggie’s bulletin prep, and our sexton Fred Bolling (and many others).

In the spirit of appreciating the people who are helping us through this stay-at-home-and-be-safe period, Outreach suggests you do so in a tangible way – by sending them a Thank You! Here’s a partial list for you to consider (kids, how many more can you add?).

- ✓ Health care – Doctors, nurses, assistants, pharmacists, social workers
- ✓ First responders – Police, fire, EMT, 911 call centers
- ✓ Food – Grocers, farmers, truckers, carry-out restaurants
- ✓ Public sector – Trash and recycling pickup, water, sewer, electrical utilities, postal delivery, teachers
- ✓ Others – Retail or food delivery, internet providers

You probably know multiple people who are part of this critical community. Not sure what to say in your letter? How about

THANK YOU so much for the essential service you are providing during this troubling time. I am grateful for your dedication and hard work, making sure our community has what it needs. As a member of Saint Bartholomew’s Episcopal Church in Baltimore, I want you to know we are praying for your health and safety every day of this crisis.



Short and simple. Send it to someone you know, or to your local essential service providers. Maybe one (or all) of the following:

- Baltimore Southwest Police Precinct; 424 Font Hill Ave, Baltimore, MD 21223
- Giant Food and pharmacy; 4624 Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229
- One Straw Farm; 19718 Kirkwood Shop Rd, White Hall, MD 21161
- US Post Office; 340 S Loudon Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229
- Saint Agnes Medical Center; 3455 Wilkens Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229

We hope people will write one letter a week (maybe before or after the 10:00 am Zoom service). Add a gift card, some coffee, or even a puzzle book to help them out. Let’s fill our communities with our love.

— David and Kim are Co-Chairs of the Outreach Committee

What's new at 40 West A & R? Oh, just everything!

by Peggy McMillan

Since shutting for the last two weeks of March, 40 West, its volunteers, and the board put together a new system of food delivery amid the pandemic. (You heard about that, right?) We now have a drive-through system to hand out food that prevents physical contact and maintains the six-foot social distancing requirement.

We have pre-screened volunteers through Maryland Food Bank who help with the outside food delivery so our regular volunteers aren't on the front line at this time. We have signs and flow charts, gloves and masks, and traffic cones. And it seems to be working, so far.

We still provide food to individuals without cars, but now that we've started the drive-through system the number of pedestrians has significantly decreased.

Our goal is to provide outside food pick-ups weekly, but we're not there yet. In April we hope to have 3 food drive-throughs: 4/2, 4/16, and 4/28.

Many regular 40 West volunteers are wary of volunteering. This is understandable: our youngest volunteer is 65! Consequently, the Maryland Food Bank volunteers have been invaluable. Many parishioners and volunteers have helped. One volunteer sewed masks for us! Another volunteer directed traffic. We help where we can and pray we all remain healthy doing God's work as we look for God in the midst of it all.

— Peggy is Director of the 40 West
Assistance and Referral Center





Maintaining Connections with Hope Harbor Partners

by Sheila Camm

As you might imagine, face-to-face meetings are impossible at this time, but we have found ways to reach out to our Hope Harbor partners.

We check in by phone, email, and FaceTime when possible. At the beginning of each week, the partners get a check-in text with good news and tips on living in this new situation.

One of the most important things right now is making sure everyone has the things they need. The partners have been linked to food access sites throughout the city. Plans are being made to link families to resources that will drop food at their homes.

They have also been linked social emotional supports for their children that are available through Baltimore City Schools.

— Sheila is Hope Harbor's Family Outreach Worker

Virtual Fundraiser to Benefit Hope Harbor

by Anna Williams

Friends:

Hope Harbor had to postpone our tea because of COVID-19. We now plan to hold it on Saturday, September 26, so SAVE THE DATE!

Because the work continues we are sponsoring a virtual fundraiser while we are all practicing social distancing. Please consider making a donation — we appreciate any amount.

Please click on the link below to make your donation. Thank you.

Stay well and blessed.

<https://www.mightycause.com/event/Ua52qfhopeharbor>

— Anna is Hope Program Director



*Your prayers are requested for members and friends
of St. B's ...*



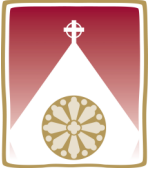
Lucy Marshall; Doris Haughey; Vince Marsiglia;; Donna Cartwright; Janet Churchill; David Schneider; Shirley Nathan Pulliam; Wyvetta Dupree; Tony Creek; Mike Knudsen; Lib Shipley; Irene Hardy; Lillian Thomas; Theresa Sexton; Celia Vismale; Patrick Mellin; Ray Zeigler; Larry Brown; Sandra DeSilva; Tim Wolf; Tiger Watts; Peter Griffin; Jon Davis; David Cheuvront; Young Sam; Michelle Haynie Madison; Kate Henshall; Mary Warfield; Susan Lundin; 40 West Assistance and Referral Center Clients; Hope Harbor partner families; Heidi; Theresa Thomas; Meg and Shaun; Kathy and Andy; Angel; John and Jean; Allen; James Cooper; Kathie Goblirsch; Sherry McCollum; Steven Coffman; Pushpa Sokhey; Lance Perry; Anna Miller; Sue Goodall; Jimmy, Terry, and Ashley Beauford; Hyun Brackens, Elizabeth Jefferson; William Edmonds; Lynn Calhoun; Amanda Ash Freeland; Cheryl Murdock; Kyle Yoder; Warren Pulliam; Bernie Feely; Camille Madison Robinson; Brianna; Aminata Kabia; Alma Cooper and Dianné Keeling; Clay Shiflet; Jackie and Romaine Phillips; Ashby Thompson; Riley Goddard and her family; Clarice Patterson; those affected by the coronavirus; those in our midst who are un- or under-employed & the homeless; AND any others we name at this time.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

**The deadline for the Summer issue of
The Apostle is Friday, May 15.**

Please e-mail articles to mcaldwell@stbs-md.org.

To submit typewritten or handwritten material,
place it in Maggie Caldwell's mailbox outside of the Church Office.
All articles must include a contact name and email or phone number.
Publication of *The Apostle* is on the last Sunday of the month.



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

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☞ Worship & Christian Formation ☜

Sunday Worship & Formation

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

Sunday Christian Formation

Faith Forum for Adults and Older Youth: 9:15—10:15 am in the Parish House

(During Faith Forum, the Cribbery will be open for children up through grade 5.)

Children's Word for Children Age 3 (by 09/01) — Grade 1: during the 10:30 am service; meet in the Chapel.

Children's Word for Children Grades 2—5: during the 10:30 am service; meet in the Parish House.

Youth Group for Grades 6—12: Meet in the Youth House on Sundays from 5:00—6:30 pm.

During Sunday Worship, **childcare** is available for children up to age 5 in the Parish House
from 10:00 am-12:15 pm.

Weekday Worship & Formation

Noonday Prayer is said every weekday and Saturdays at 12 noon in the Chapel.

An interfaith **Christian meditation** group meets Mondays in the Chapel at 7:30 pm.

For more information about our worship or programs, please contact us at 410-945-7263 or
office@stbs-md.org or visit www.stbs-md.org.