

I SAID WAIT!

My dog Brook is a pushy broad sometimes. Especially when she is in a hurry to go somewhere. For example, when we go in or out of the house — she has to be the first one through the doorway. Or when we arrive at her daycare, she cannot stand not being the first one out of the car. And tells me accordingly!

I think it is because she is so excited to be going places she loves or doing things she likes — but I also think it is because she is energetic and curious about what's next.

As I said, though, she can be quite pushy about it. So, I am constantly mumbling at various decibels: I said WAIT!

Which got me to thinking about Advent.

Advent is the season of the church year where we wait. We wait for the coming of Jesus — both his first arrival at Christmas and his second coming at the end of time. We spend 4 church weeks anticipating the arrival of our Savior. And we are expected, as we wait, to begin to prepare for his arrivals.

So we put up an Advent wreath to light a progression of candles as we mark the time. We begin to decorate for Christmas — hopefully something new each succeeding week. And hopefully, we are spending time spiritually thinking about what it will be like when Jesus actually does show up.

We are in Advent right now. I hope it is not too hard to be curious and excited about what might be next. And it is easy to want to push ahead and get to Christmas as soon as possible. Especially this year. To have some relief from the worries and stress of the world right now.

But I Say — WAIT.

It is important to wait. Waiting is a wonderful spiritual discipline. But I know it is hard when we want to move forward — excited about what we might see, find or especially reclaim.

So why wait? How do we wait?

To wait is different than being quarantined. Spiritual waiting is the opportunity to sit back, take a deep breath and savor the anticipation of what awaits us. Waiting enjoys the chance to muse about what will be next. And waiting allows us to be prepared.

So why do we want Jesus to actually show up?

What will that be like — or what has that been like before and will it ever happen again?

How will we receive Jesus? With joy because it is so cool to have him show up? Or anger because what took you so long!

What might our prayers be like if we are intentionally waiting and not just bidding time?

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So I say WAIT good souls. Allow this Advent to be a time of anticipation and excitement. Do not let the world take that away from you. Waiting for the arrival of Jesus is worth the time and energy because here is the wonderful deal: he will show up! So be prepared.

And spiritually — be a pushy broad! It is worth the energy and curiosity.

— Flo Ledyard, Rector

🌀 Worship

Zooming Together for Worship at St. B's

Please join us on Zoom each Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Here's how:

This is the link

<https://zoom.us/j/7641738777?pwd=d05KWmJPZ0ZZaHlmUlpRK2NiOFp6UT09>.

or you can go to your own Zoom page and use this info:

The Meeting ID: 764 173 8777

The password: 703085

or you can call in using this number: (646)558-8656.

AND, you can come as early as 9:00 am to have some fun at our Coffee Hour.

“Take Out @ St. B's”

On Saturday, December 19, from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, we will once again be serving “Take Out @ St. B's.” If you would like to be able to have Eucharist during Christmas worship, please feel free to stop by the Church, and, at the red back door, someone will be there to greet you and give you the communion kits you need, as well as a piece of paper explaining how to care for them.



“A Moment of Peace and Quiet”

A digital devotion available on our website.

St. B's welcomes your special offering for **Christmas flowers** for either Memorials (given in thanks for those who have come before) or Thanksgivings for the gifts of this life.

Please email names — and indicate whether “In Memory of” or “In Thanksgiving for” — to Maggie (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org) by Sunday, December 13.

Contributions may be mailed to the office or given online at <https://www.acionlinegiving.com/2924>.



Christmas Eve 2020 — A Pageant Like No Other!

by Kathleen Schotto

As with so much in the world since February 2020, the Christmas season will be unlike anything we have ever seen or experienced. Despite the need to gather virtually, the Worship Committee, Rev. Flo, and myself (back for a third year) have a desire to create a space for the children to present the Christmas pageant.

We are in the process of determining exactly what this will look like, but are praying and hoping that it will be an impactful and fun experience. It may require some work on the front end for those with kids who want to participate — but the best part is that it will mean you can do it at a time that works for your family AND even if you typically travel for the holiday (and plan to do so this year) your children can still participate!!!!

Be on the lookout for an email from me (Kathleen Schotto; kmschotto@yahoo.com) for more information. If you know that your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, etc. want to participate, feel free to reach out and let me know in advance.



— Kathleen is a Middler Year Seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary

Christmas Worship at St. B's on Zoom



Thursday, December 24

Christmas Eve Family Service
and Children's Pageant at 4:00 pm

Choral Preludes and Carols at 10:45 pm;
Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist at 11:00 pm

Friday, December 25

Christmas Eucharist at 10:30 am

Sunday, December 29

Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10:00 am

Poem

How Dark the Beginning

Shared by Janet Aldrich

"It's always darkest before the dawn," resonates loudly and clearly in this poem. Our world is literally and figuratively in a dance of light with darkness, darkness with light, right now, each leading in turn. We don't know what we will see or feel when we wake up and when we go to sleep. The Church invites Advent in to help us learn to lean into both, how to look inward as well as outward for signs of light in the darkness. We can be our own watchmen and watchwomen, inviting one another to be alert for signs of Jesus as the Light of the World, for us to probe our own inner darkness for the Light within ourselves. As the poem says, "Danger wouldn't dare to show up now." I love this poem!

All we ever talk of is light—
let there be light, there was light then,
good light—but what I consider
dawn is darker than all that.

So many hours between the day
receding and what we recognize
as morning, the sun cresting
like a wave that won't break
over us—as if light were protective,
as if no hearts were flayed,
no bodies broken on a day
like today. In any film,

the sunrise tells us everything
will be all right. Danger wouldn't

dare show up now, dragging
its shadow across the screen.

We talk so much of light, please
let me speak on behalf

of the good dark. Let us
talk more of how dark

the beginning of a day is.

~~ Maggie Smith

The solemnity
and beauty of *Virtual*
Choral evensong

Sunday, December 13
4:30 p.m.

join us via YouTube Live



Led by members and
friends of the
St. Bartholomew Choir

St. Bartholomew's
Episcopal Church
Baltimore, Maryland

Check the church web page (www.stbs-md.com) for log-in information

Vestry Members Hold Retreat on Zoom

by Gordon Piché

Considering we had to Zoom the retreat, I found it very informative for a new person on the St B's Vestry. Flo did a magnificent job leading us all through the schedule for the day.

I basically compared the St. B's Retreat to the many retreats I attended at Claggett as a member of the St. Margaret's Vestry.

Starting the retreat with introductions was terrific and really made me feel a member of the St. B's Vestry. Many of the members I had not really met before, but now feel comfortable as a member of the team.

The rest of the retreat was along the lines of many of the St. Margaret's retreats so I had no trouble participating. I'm looking forward to working with Bonnie Kutch as a member of the Pledge Task Force Committee.

Prayers Ascending!

— Gordon is a member of St. B's Vestry

Vestry Meetings

Since the Vestry is currently meeting on Zoom, they have decided to divide their single monthly meeting into two shorter meetings. The Vestry now normally meets on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm.

Highlights from meetings on November 17 and 24 will be published in the January *Apostle*.

The next set of regular meetings, scheduled on December 15 and 22, will take place via Zoom, both beginning at 6:30 pm.

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



2021 Women's Retreat led by Katharine Armentrout and Flo Ledyard

Saturday, January 30 from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm

TIKKUN OLAM

The Hebrew phrase **tikkun olam** literally means to do something with the world that will not only fix any damage, but also improve upon it, preparing it to enter the ultimate state for which it was created.

Which implies that the world God created is in need of repair.

Hard to argue with that!

So what is in need of repair?

How would we know it was repaired?

What will it take from me/from us?

This year the Women's Retreat will wrestle with these questions and what tikkun olam means and requires of us.

All in one day on Zoom! Pretty awesome, I dare say. But also important and critical to us as people of faith in a pretty wonky world.

So put the day of January 30th, 2021 aside. Come and join Katharine Armentrout and Flo Ledyard from 9:30 in the morning until 3:30 in the afternoon as we grapple. It will be interesting, intriguing but also uplifting. Not a bad combo.

If you are interested, might be helpful to know in advance so we can set up Zoom accordingly. You can email Maggie Caldwell at mcaldwell@stbs-md.org and she will gather "the list."

And it is a great time to invite anyone else you think might enjoy this topic and conversation — cuz wherever they are, they can join as well!

In the meantime, we will send out a link as always.

Stay tuned! More later.

— Flo

Sankofa Circles: Small Group Reflection for Advent

by Diane Mountain

Consider joining a Sankofa Circle as part of your spiritual preparation during the Advent season. At St. Bartholomew's, we use the term "Sankofa Circles" to describe small groups that meet during the week for discussion of the previous Sunday's sermon, fellowship, and prayer. We have several groups meeting — via Zoom for safety! — and participants are always free to try a different group or join in for the first time.

The Sankofa bird is a West African symbol that describes forward movement while remembering, honoring, and carrying the past with us. The early Christians met in small groups to share fellowship, talk about their faith, and support each other. Through the Sankofa ministry, we can get a glimpse of what that might have been like.



Groups are meeting on Monday evening, Tuesday noon, Wednesday evening, and Thursday evening. If you're interested but these times do not work for your schedule, please contact Maggie (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org or 410-945-7263). We can explore setting up a new group if there is sufficient interest.

During these times when our physical movements are restricted in many ways, Sankofa gatherings can give us space to stretch our souls and try new ways of connecting within our parish community -- wherever our physical selves may be.

— Diane is a member of the Sankofa Circle Planning Committee

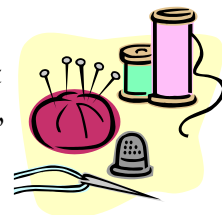
Prayer Shawls and Sewing Bees

by Jean Storrs

The Prayer Shawls craft shawls and prayer squares to give to parishioners and 40 West clients in need of comfort. The shawls are a tangible hug folks can keep with them all the time—a tangible reminder of our love and care for them, and God's love and care for them. Knitters and crocheters of any age and ability are welcome.



St. B's Sewing Bees gather for crafting and fellowship. Any sort of handwork is encouraged—knitting, quilting, cross-stitch, scrapbooking, etc.



The Prayer Shawls and Sewing Bees meet together via Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

For more information about the Prayer Shawls and St. B's Sewing Bees, please contact Jean Storrs at 443-798-1439 or aandj@mindspring.com.

Advent — Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy

by *Glorius M. Sullivan*

Advent is coming! I can feel the excitement and anticipation and preparation as the first season of our new Church Year approaches! I am ready to set up my Advent Wreath and mark each week by lighting the candles and saying the prayers as the days lead up to the Birth of the Christ Child!

The first mention of Advent is found in ancient writings dating back to the sixth century, with some anecdotal mentions as early as AD 380 at the Spanish Council of Saragossa! Advent is not only an old Christian practice, but it's also a personal one. For me, Advent brings a sense of waiting — an expectation and a quiet joy deep inside — of celebrating the coming of Jesus, a gift like no other. For me, it means making time to put aside the hectic plans for gifts and gatherings, and to think about and focus on the themes of Advent — Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy. Especially at this time, with the COVID-19 virus surging yet again, the division in our country, the pain folks are bearing — physical and emotional — I want to focus on the hope and joy and peace and love that is our lasting gift.

These two prayers help express what I mean:

God of hope, who brought love into this world, be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world, be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world, be the joy that dwells between us.

God of hope, the rock we stand upon, be the centre, the focus of our lives always, and particularly this Advent time.

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This Advent-time we remember Mary and Joseph, giving thanks for their faithfulness, courage and obedience,

stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit, playing their part in the fulfilment of your plan

to bring your prodigal people home again.

We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives, that when your gentle whisper breaks through the

clamour of this world and into our small corner, we might be ready to listen, and having listened, to act.

(Copyright © John Birch, 2016 from www.faithandworship.com)

Our Chapter of the Daughters of the King continues to pray daily for ourselves, our families, our church community, and the needs of others. Let us know if there is a need for prayers for you or your family or friends. It's one of the most important ways we serve.

— *Glorius is President of the Margaret Rollo Chapter of the Daughters of the King*

The Motto of the Order of the Daughters of the King

For His Sake

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

Coping with the COVID-19 Pandemic

by Ann Boyd

As a virologist, I cope mentally by reading and following progress in understanding the virus, the disease, and the potential for a vaccine: how do you cope mentally?

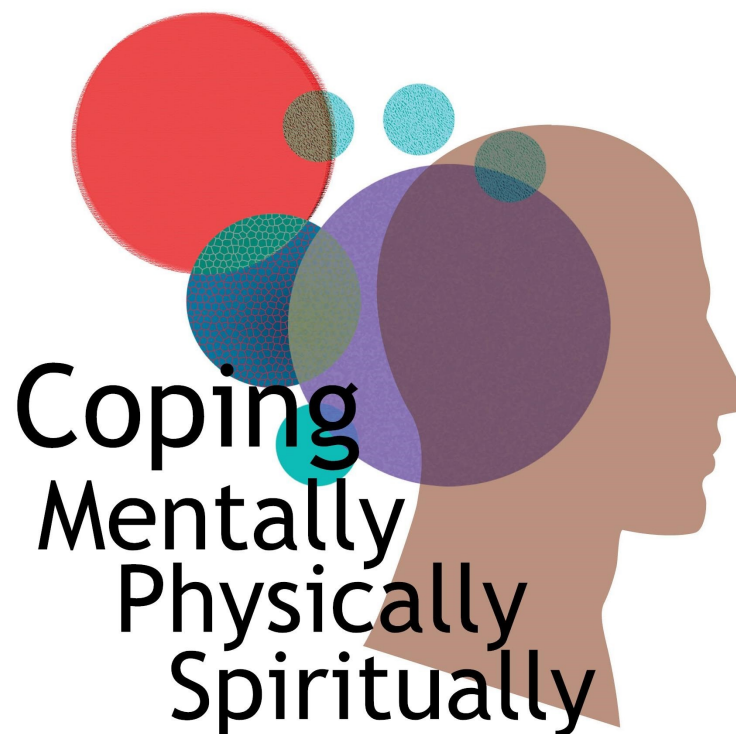
As an introvert, it may be easier for me to be socially isolated (indeed my nearest neighbor is more than a football field length away) and spending so much time teaching remotely (online) keeps me in my home office and away from crowds, but I confess that on the few occasions when I can be physically present at St. B's I am reminded how much physical interaction means in truth. Taking long walks with the dog helps nurture my body. How are you coping physically?

Spiritually, through weekly worship, Sankofa Circle discussions, Compline group weekly meetings, and personal disciples, I seek God who I believe is present regardless of the conditions and circumstances of our lives. How do you spiritually cope?

I hope you will Zoom in for Faith Forum on the 13th of December as we focus on how we are coping with COVID-19.

— Ann is a St. B's Clergy Associate

Faith Forum, Christian Formation for older youth and adults, gathers on Zoom from 9:00 to 9:45 am on the second Sunday of the month. Please join us!



Children's Word Is Back — on Zoom!

by Steve Miller

It is exciting to report that after a long COVID-enforced hiatus, Children's Word is officially back! Our Kangaroos (preK-grade 2) and Elephants (grades 3-5) returned during the last week of September, via Zoom video conferencing and the help of tech wizard Patrick Mellin and facilitator extraordinaire Maggie Caldwell. Miss Ebony and Miss Jo Anne are also back, leading the Kangaroos and Elephants, respectively, teaching lessons inspired by the Spark curriculum. Our Kangaroo class meets each Sunday from 5:00-5:30 pm, and our Elephant class meets on Tuesdays from 7:00-7:30.

What have our Children's Word classes been up to this fall, other than adjusting to the virtual classroom world? Plenty! Miss Ebony reports that her Kangaroos are "back and hopping along in the world." Lately they have focused on parables in the Gospel of Matthew, and what can be learned from them. One easy take-away, they decided, is that it is never a good idea to try to play tricks on Jesus. The Kangaroos also discussed how to listen to others because God can speak to us through many people. They also dove into a discussion about being a part of God's family and how everyone is invited to be a part of that family. Finally, the Kangaroos discussed the commandments and how the greatest of all the commandments is to love one another, since if we do that, all the other commandments come easily.

Miss Jo Anne's Elephants have likewise spent a lot of time talking about the parables in Matthew, and what we can learn from them. In addition to discussions they have watched short videos, worked on activity sheets, and sang songs. The 30 minutes goes quickly!

We have had a total of 12 children participate in Children's Word this fall, which is fabulous. But there is plenty of room for more, and newcomers are welcome any time—everyone is welcome to be part of our family! If your child has not yet attended but would like to check out the Kangaroo and Elephant classes, please let Maggie (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org) know and she will get you on our email list, which means you will get a warm reminder every week with Zoom link to the class meeting. You can also arrange with Maggie to pick up a hard copy of the Spark study Bible, if your child does not have one—just let her know. And for all Kangaroos and Elephants, we look forward to more fun and learning in our virtual classrooms as we head into Advent!

— Steve is a member of the Kid's Council







GROUP SCOOP

Get Ready for D-Group!

St. B's D-Group, for those in grades 6—12, meets via Zoom on Sundays from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. Please contact Youth Group Leaders Kathie or Marty Clark (peaceclark1@gmail.com) for the link to join. Gather for fun, fellowship, and faith. Invite a friend!

Here is the menu for our December gatherings:

- 12/06 – Soup and/or Grilled Cheese
- 12/13 – Brinner (Breakfast for dinner!)
- 12/20 – Favorite carry out or fast food place

Update from the Creation Caretakers

by Leah Kulp

Once again, Creation Caretakers, the green team, picked up litter along the Route 40 corridor on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Going forward, we are expecting to hold litter pickup events at least once a month. The more volunteers who show up, the farther down the street we can go! Therefore, CC team members are reaching out to different parish and community groups to recruit volunteers to join us. Youth in sixth grade and above and adults are urged to help us in future cleanups. Wear a face mask; garden gloves are optional. Grabbers, reflective vests, and trash bags will be provided. We will be spaced apart into our individual pickup "territories," and working outside, so this activity is relatively COVID safe.

CC team members are connecting to environmental organizations in our region, and will be planning to share news and learning events from different sources regularly with the parish. For example, we recently shared that on October 29, 2020 a Sun article reported "This year's Chesapeake Bay dead zone is the second-smallest since 1985..." (Dead zones in the Bay are regions of oxygen depletion where grasses, oysters, crabs, etc. cannot grow.)

— Leah is Chair of the Creation Caretakers

An Update from the Finance Committee

by Michael Haynie

Over eight months ago the Vestry passed the St. Bartholomew's 2020 "faith" budget. The Finance Committee wrote an *Apostle* article which spoke of the importance of putting our faith into action. Words to live by, as little did we know the impact of a world-wide pandemic on our ability to worship as "normal." We were all mandated to shelter in place and our outdoor activities and travel were curtailed to the most vital necessities. Schools were closed, businesses shuttered, jobs were lost and all of humankind scrambled to assess how this pandemic would affect "their world." Plain and simple, it was a mess!!

For some the mess was financial as jobs were lost which affected their ability to support themselves and loved ones. Others had to add, on top of the financial, the educational aspect of children not being able to go to school. Then there were the health concerns of family members and friends, as serious illness and death were occurring as a result of the COVID-19 virus all around us. A perfect storm of despair and helplessness for many.

But one more time GOD intervened, giving us specific guidance on how to persevere and gain a sense of order and control of our lives. Providing the resources such as online church services, we saw attendance "in church" at times higher online than when we worshiped in our physical space. People outside of Baltimore and the Maryland joined our worship. Our children were back learning (although virtual) and we were working through our financial options. As a church community, St. Bartholomew's has always risen to the Glory of God in times of despair and this was no different.

The committee commends and thanks each of you for your continued financial support and as a result we are in better shape than we anticipated at the start of this pandemic.

- Our pledge income (which is over 90% of total income) is within \$15,000 dollars of what we expected this year to date. \$400,439.60 (actual) vs \$415,833.34 (budgeted)
- The year to date deficit is \$17,741.93. The budgeted deficit was expected to be \$40,345.40. We have reduced \$22,603 of that deficit year to date. The deficit was reduced by not using our buildings during the week as well the Diocese lowering the monthly pledge amount for all churches. The PPP loan helped as well.

Over ten months ago, the Finance Committee thanked each of you for your financial commitment to our parish for 2019 and showed how we closed a budgeted deficit of \$100,700, coming within one percent (\$3097) of retiring it completely. The 2020 faith budget had a starting deficit of \$48,414.46. We are asking your help again. Please:

- Pay your 2020 pledges prior to December 31st if you are able to do so. You may contact John DeVale if there is a need to communicate any concerns regarding your 2020 pledge.
- If you are in a position to give more than your pledge amount for 2020 to help retire our debt (the \$17,741.93 deficit), please consider this as well.
- If you are not a pledger and wish to give, you may do so by mailing a check or visiting the open plate giving area of our online giving (<https://www.acionlinegiving.com/2924>).

An Update from the Finance Committee (*continued*)

(Continued from page 14)

- You may make a pledge at any time on our website or by contacting John DeVale (devale@computer.org).

Finally, as we prepare the 2021 budget, it is important to have an idea of how to budget our income. Please consider submitting your pledge amount as soon as possible.

Thank you!

Finance Committee members include:
Michael Haynie, Chair
Corinne Bowmaker

Drew Brown
Bates Churchill
Robin Murray
The Rev. Flo Ledyard- Rector
Angel Jackson- Senior Warden
Michael Sarbanes- Junior Warden
John Schroeder- Treasurer
John DeVale- Assistant Treasurer
Bonnie Kutch (Vestry Rep)
Dick Parker (Vestry Rep)
Gordon Piché (Vestry Rep)

Financial Position as of October 31, 2020

— Financial information is provided by John Schroeder, Treasurer

October 31, 2020	Current Month		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Income	35,497.95	47,066.67	462,245.74	470,666.66
Total Expenses	(41,261.93)	(51,101.20)	(479,987.67)	(511,012.06)
Difference	(5,763.98)	(4,034.53)	(17,741.93)	(40,345.40)

An Update from the Property Committee

by Dave Murray

Here's a quick summary of what we've been doing to maintain our facilities - it never ends....

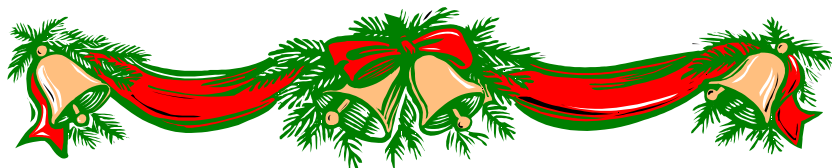
1. Upgraded the main church bathroom.
2. Replaced toilet wax ring in St John bathroom.
3. The entire 1st floor rear corner of the Youth House, at the point where the entrance way meets the kitchen, was rotten and no longer provided structural support. It was removed and replaced by Pete Sangree and Dave Murray.
4. Replaced light ballast in 40 West lobby.
5. After a toilet overflow in the church bathroom, Abbott's plumbing replaced the courtyard manhole grinder sump pump and repaired the sewer line in the courtyard.
6. Removed large ruts in courtyard created by tree and roofing equipment, and reseeded.

And here's what we're currently investigating

- a. Installation of a drainage system along the 40 West interior walls.
- b. Removal of all asbestos on the lower level of the church.
- c. Rebuilding the Youth House front porch

If you have interest in helping out with property issues, please contact Dave Murray. We'd like to have a "GO TO" group to help maintain our property. Training and help is always available. Thank you!

— Dave is a member of the Property Committee



St. B's Christmas Mart — An Outreach Benefit

The St. B's Black Friday Sales Page is LIVE! Before you think of the mall, or even Amazon, think St. B's! We have a variety of items - jewelry, clothing, books, movies - all kinds of gifts. We take Paypal and can arrange for pick-up and cash payment if necessary.

[https://www.facebook.com/St-Bs-Christmas-Mart-an-Outreach-Benefit-106215134643444/?view_public_for=106215134643444.](https://www.facebook.com/St-Bs-Christmas-Mart-an-Outreach-Benefit-106215134643444/?view_public_for=106215134643444)

Outreach Committee News

by Kim Flash

Contribute to Christmas Cheer – LAST CHANCE

Our “Angel Tree” looks a little different this year! Instead of asking for gifts for specific children, the Outreach Committee is collecting \$25 Walmart or cash cards (like VISA) to be given to the clients of 40 West and Hope Harbor partner families. This allows families to purchase gifts for their children or other necessary items. While we’re sad to miss the traditional growing pile of presents under our Angel Tree this year, it’s also good to know our neighbors are supported.

Cards are due DECEMBER 1st. Please call Glorius Sullivan at 410-644-8110 to make arrangements to drop off your donation.

A time of thanks

MANY THANKS to the Maryland Food Bank for their recent donation of Thanksgiving food baskets for the families that utilize 40 West and for our Hope Harbor partner families. This is usually an endeavor coordinated by Outreach, but during these pandemic times, we’re grateful to this community partner for making sure our neighbors had all the ingredients for a terrific holiday meal.

What’s to come?

Watch this space and the weekly “What’s Happening” for more information on how you can support our neighbors and each other during these times of need. Whether it’s a week-long food drive for 40 West or volunteers needed to help coordinate a spring Flea Market event, our Outreach Committee has a way for you to be involved in helping others.

For more information about Outreach, contact one of the cochairs: Dave Mountain (davidjmountain@ieee.org) and Kim Flash (keflash7@gmail.com).

— Kim is Co-Chair of the Outreach Committee



What Can the Gospels Teach Us About Being a Better Neighbor? An Update from the Gospel Justice Group

by Charles Flexner

“Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”
[Matthew 22: KJV Verse 39]

Since the death of George Floyd, the Gospel Justice Group (GJG) has been working to understand what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves in the context of systemic racism, divisiveness, and injustice in law enforcement. Our major focus for the past six months has been policing in our community, and the impact this is having on the very neighbors we are supposed to love. We are pursuing this with a 3-step process of Discernment, Engagement, and Reconciliation.

On the Discernment front, conversations with representatives of law enforcement and elected officials have led us to a surprising conclusion. The major concerns expressed by those who live in the Southwest Police District (the District that includes St. B's and surrounding neighborhoods) are centered around service delivery rather than discrimination. There have been complaints about response times to 911 calls. There is also concern about the low visibility of Baltimore City Police in many of our neighborhoods. Obviously, it is hard for people to love one another if they do not feel safe.

On the other hand, police morale in Baltimore and other large cities in the U.S. is low. Although bringing issues like racism and abuse of power to light is of critical importance, it is also putting this group of civil servants in an uncomfortable spotlight.

Our Engagement process has brought us into contact with some truly amazing people in the community. This includes our City Council Representative Kristerfer Burnett, who has served the Southwest District since 2016. Mr. Burnett joined the GJG for nearly an hour on October 28th to provide his

perspective on what is happening in the SW District, and the BCPD in general. He discussed a variety of initiatives in place to try and build better relations between the police and those they serve. For example, the Baltimore City Mediation Center is working to help organize our Ceasefire weekends — in which St. B's is a participant — and conflict de-escalation. Baltimore City Police Officers are currently volunteering to spend two days with high school students as part of the Outward Bound Foundation Program in Leakin Park.

Reconciliation begins with conversation. With that in mind, the GJG is planning a series of virtual Town Hall Meetings with those who can help us shed light on these issues. The first, beginning in December, will be with Councilman Burnett! So keep your eyes open for a date and time. This will be an opportunity for those who are interested to participate in this conversation, and hear about what is going on around us.

The GJG invites all St. B's parishioners to be a part of this process. We are happy to field questions and exchange ideas, so please contact a member of the GJG if you want to know more, or have additional suggestions for resources that we can share.

Members of the Gospel Justice Group include:
Charles Flexner and Amanda Harris, Co-Chairs
Daphne Cover
Tramar Jennings
Willis Keeling
Heather Neil
Dana Rose
Michael Sarbanes

My Brother's Keeper — Still Serving our Neighbors

by Bonnie Kutch

My Brother's Keeper has served our neighbors in the Irvington community since the early 1980s. In addition to youth programs, they provide a comprehensive set of services to the community. St. Bartholomew's has had partnerships with MBK for many years, most recently through the support of their meal service program.

My Brother's Keeper had, for many years, provided a hot lunch on-site six days a week. This past March, in response to the COVID restrictions, they quickly shifted gears to a bag lunch for pick-up service. This minimized the number of staff and volunteers needed on site, and also allowed them to maintain compassionate distancing with those they serve.

St. Bartholomew's has continued to support the meal service by providing items needed to make sandwiches for the carry-out lunches. Over the summer, when a hot lunch was added to the schedule one day a week, we shifted our donations to carry-out food containers, plastic utensils and paper goods. The portion of the Outreach budget earmarked for the My Brother's Keeper Casserole project is now used to fund these monthly donations. In addition, many parishioners are dropping off donations from the My Brother's Keeper Wish List, that is published in St. B's weekly "What's Happening."

As unemployment has increased in the region, My Brother's Keeper has seen a steady increase in the number of people that they serve. They have been extremely busy, serving 60 to 70 people a day. Sometimes they provide as many as 100 mid-day meals.

Plans are underway to provide a hot meal on Thanksgiving Day. Once that is complete, they will begin making plans for meal service during the Christmas Holiday.

Steve Wichtendahl, Volunteer Coordinator at My Brother's Keeper, recently expressed his sincere appreciation for the support that they have received

from the community. Monetary donations, as well as donations of food and supplies, have allowed them to continue to meet the growing need. He had a special word of appreciation for donors like St. Bartholomew's, who have been consistent in their level of support.

While they hope to open again by the first of the year, like most organizations they are waiting for a COVID -19 vaccine to be widely distributed. Their primary concern is keeping their staff, volunteers, and community members safe and well served. They look forward to being able to welcome volunteers again and to being able to expand their services.

Plans are underway to provide an on-site medical clinic, run in conjunction with Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital. Set to open this past October, the opening has been postponed.

My Brother's Keeper's current wish list of donations includes:

- Sliced Beef Bologna
- Sliced Ham
- Sliced Cheese 5lb box
- Sliced Turkey
- Mayo and Mustard Packs
- Drinks
- Cookies
- Oranges
- Cheese Crackers
- Potato Chips and Sun Chips
- Fruit Cups
- Fruit Gummies
- Granola Bars
- Carryout Plastic Bags
- Plastic Sandwich Bags
- Plastic Snack Bags
- Plastic Latex Gloves
- Prepackaged Cutlery Set (Fork, Knife, Spoon, Salt/Pepper)

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My Brother's Keeper (*continued*)

(Continued from page 19)

Please remember that any donations should be brought to the side door on S. Augusta Avenue, along the driveway. There is a doorbell with speaker there — be patient and someone will come to the door. If you go to the front door, there may not be staff in that part of the building able to answer and greet you. If you wish to call ahead to ensure someone is there — 410 644 3194.

Continue to look for the updated My Brother's Keeper Need List in our Weekly "What's Happening." For more information about what they do to keep the Irvington community strong, see <https://www.catholiccharities-md.org/services/my-brothers-keeper/>.

— Bonnie is a member of the Vestry

A Note of Thanks

The 40 West Assistance and Referral Center and Hope Harbor Inc would like to thank everyone that came out to our 6th annual crab feast. Because of COVID-19 it was a different experience for us all. We appreciate your support and patience as we attempted this for the very first time. We could not have done it without you.



Thank you so much and we look forward to seeing you next year.

40 West News & The Multiplication of the Turkeys (Forget the Loaves and Fishes!)

by Peggy McMillan

Dear 40 West Community Members,
We opened 40 West Assistance & Referral Center to the public on Monday, November 2, 2020 for the first time since closing it on March 13, 2020. We resumed the prior food pantry and assistance center hours of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. We added Wednesday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm for appointments for individuals needing help with evictions and BGE turn-offs.

Even though we handed out flyers announcing the 40 West opening for a month in advance, we have not had the turnout we were hoping for. Our food pantry numbers are much lower than pre-pandemic. We hope that as the word gets out among our neighbors, participation will increase. However, given the surge of COVID-19 cases in Baltimore City and all over Maryland, individuals may not want to come inside our small center.

This is what we have done to ensure our physical well-being and that of our clientele:

- 1) We screen everyone for health symptoms and exposure to COVID-19 prior to allowing them into 40 West.
- 2) Everyone in 40 West, the staff and our clientele, must wear a mask that goes over their nose.
- 3) We allow two persons to enter the lobby at a time where they are asked to sanitize their hands and then sit in chairs placed six feet apart from each other.

- 4) Persons requesting food are interviewed by staff behind plexiglass shields.
- 5) After being interviewed, each client walks one at a time to the former choir room, picks up their food, and exits out the back door to the parking lot.

Given the surge of COVID-19 cases throughout Maryland, 40 West could be shut down at any time. We follow the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland guidelines and they call the shots.

On a lighter note, we distributed frozen turkeys and Holiday Boxes for Thanksgiving on Tuesday, November 10 from St. B's parking lot. We had requested 100 frozen turkeys and boxes for Thanksgiving and another 100 in December for Christmas, but our whole allotment came for our Thanksgiving Distribution! Clients called family and friends and thankfully, all the turkeys found a home.

May we all find our home for the Holidays (Holy days) with our Creator, whose greatness and majesty are beyond description and words. Amen.

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



November Ceasefire Weekend

by Brigit Molony

Ceasefire events have naturally been impacted adversely by the pandemic, but the pandemic has not slowed the murder rate. It has not slowed the feelings of hopelessness and desperation some feel.

We, in the Ceasefire movement, have not decreased our desire to be beacons of peace, love, light and hope in our city. We continue weekly to be out in the communities that are affected by violence, linking people to resources and praying with and for the residents who are impacted by murder. Murder will not have the last say.

This past Ceasefire weekend there were life-affirming events across the city. In the Edmondson Village and the greater community, there were three events over the weekend. On Friday, there was a rally which was attended by community leaders, faith leaders and the Ceasefire Squad and Ambassadors. In addition to getting the message out, we were able to hand out hundreds of free Ceasefire cloth masks to people in passing cars and passengers on buses.

Saturday a group of youth led a peace walk down Edmondson Avenue.

On Sunday, we capped off activities in the Edmondson Avenue corridor with a Sacred Prayer time combined with Sacred Rituals, combining

African spirituality, Native American Spirituality, and Christian Prayer, which was co-led by Deborah McEachran from Hunting Ridge Presbyterian, Scott and Paris Slotak, and JB Garner. Naming all those who have died in Baltimore from violence this year, joining together in prayer, accompanied by drums and burning of ancient herbs, we walked from Edmondson Village down to Allendale and back. This was a beautiful ceremonial outpouring of love for our community and our city.

Saturday, we had a beautiful day for a prayer walk on the East Side led by with Canon to the Ordinary, Scott Slater. We were blessed to have several of our regular, faithful St. B's walkers with us as we walked to the places where 12 people had been killed in the past year, ending with the prayer, "O God, look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us all in bonds of love; eliminate violence in all forms and work through or struggle and confusion to accomplish your purpose on earth; that in your good time all nations and races may serve you in harmony and peace."

Please continue to pray for our city and when you can, do what you can.



November Ceasefire Weekend



JOIN HOPE HARBOR AND PLAY



**WE CAN'T MEET IN PERSON
BUT WE CAN STILL PLAY BINGO**

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY JANUARY 23RD, 2021

DETAILS ANNOUNCED SOON

A Blazing Beacon Moment

We have an awesome Vision Statement. We say it on Sundays to remind ourselves and God that we get it.

We will, with God's help, be a vibrant faith community that is a blazing beacon of God's transforming love.

Might be easy to think that it is not very pertinent right now during this time of separation. Not so. In fact, our vision for us is just as important as it has ever been. AND there are stories abounding of blazing beacon moments. So let's share them in this section of *The Apostle*.

I invite you to email Maggie (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org) with another one that we can share next month. Come on, everyone. Let's celebrate abounding Blazing Beacon moments.

— Flo Ledyard, Rector

How often do we see opportunities for service at St. B's, such as

- dropping off Angel Tree gift cards for the children;
- picking up litter along Edmondson Avenue;
- setting up, sorting, staffing, and cleaning up from the Flea Market;
- dropping off non-perishable food for 40 West;
- making repairs to our facilities;
- writing letters in support of our schools;
- preparing Thanksgiving baskets;
- delivering backpacks and school supplies;
- the list goes on!

It is our St. B's Blazing Beacons who respond!

Recently a request was made for help cleaning up from our Flea Market. Special thanks to these Blazing Beacons who responded to Flea Market clean-up projects in the Church, Parish House, and Youth House — and also installed the storm windows on the second floor of the Parish House:

Marty Clark, Dave Mountain, Diane Mountain, Michael Mountain, Tramar Murdock-Jennings, Michael Sarbanes, Sharon Selleck, Mary Helen Sprecher, and Celeste Thurston.

Thank you to these — and all of our Blazing Beacons!



*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; Lillian Thomas;
Celia Vismale; Ray Zeigler; Larry Brown; Sandra DeSilva; Peter
Griffin; Jon Davis; Young Sam; Michelle Haynie Madison; Kate
Henshall; Mary Warfield; Ayodele House; Tom Cover; Jim Wright;
Kathleen DeVale; David McClellan; Dana Przybyszewski; Larry
Bucher; John White; Steve Sprecher; Chris Bassett-Jellema; 40 West
Assistance and Referral Center Clients; Hope Harbor partner
families; Heidi; Theresa Thomas; Meg and Shaun; Kathy and Andy; Don and Angel; John and
Jean; Sue Goodall; Amanda Ash Freeland; Kyle Yoder; Van Gardner; Scott Armentrout; John
Mountain; Patricia Mountain; Diane McPhillips; Ron Blouin; Mary Warren; Michael Pizarro;
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 January issue of
The Apostle is Tuesday, December 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.

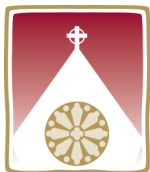


in the heavenly heights,

Peace

*to all men and women
on earth.*

Luke 2:14



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

4711 Edmondson Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21229-1440

office phone: 410-945-7263

**During this complicated time, we worship on Sunday mornings at
10:00 am via Zoom.**

Please visit our website to learn how you can join us!

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**.
