

UNINVITED GUESTS

One of the places I love to go to in the summer is the Adirondacks in upstate New York on the shores of Lake Champlain. The camp (*All houses are referred to as camps in the Adirondacks whether they are worth 1 million or 1 thousand dollars! Go figure.*) where I stay is delightful.

Last summer, thanks to the pandemic, my dog Brook and I were the only ones there. No guests, thank you. At least no invited guests.

BUT there were uninvited guests. Lots of them. Ants in the living room. Mice droppings wherever. Flies and moths despite screens on doors and windows. Like this one:



And btw, they are not small up north!

Truth is, in that kind of environment it is hard not to have uninvited guests. However, I am delighted that potential larger sized uninvited guests did not make an appearance inside! Phew.

So, I spent a good deal of time trying to extricate these characters — figuring out how to kick them out. Until it became evident that it would be an unsuccessful quest.

Which got me to thinking.

We are in still in the church season of Epiphany. This is the time when Jesus begins to gather his disciples — the ones he will train to carry on after he is gone. It is also the time when we begin to see in his words and behavior that he will be a very different Messiah than expected or, even on occasion, wanted.

Jesus doesn't come from a big important city. His parents are really unimportant people. He isn't a great politician, military leader or part of the priestly crowd. So he doesn't match people's expectations of a great leader.

But even more importantly, Jesus doesn't act in the way people are expecting. Instead of power and privilege, he opens his arms and welcomes all — eating with tax collectors, hanging out with Samaritan and Canaanite women and having a

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special heart and care for the least, the last, and the lost. In other words, Jesus cared a lot about the uninvited guests of his day and went out of his way to remind EVERYONE that God does too, and ergo, his disciples had better and therefore so should we! In other words, as baptized Christians and consequently Jesus' present day disciples — we need to be less about extricating people and more about welcoming — even uninvited guests. They just might be the ones Jesus cares about the most.

Which is actually kinda nice — especially when we feel like, at someone else's camp, we are the uninvited guest!

So maybe this is a great time to stop worrying or barricading and just welcome — like we try to do at St B's. Maybe this is a great time to see in everyone, whether we like them or not, the soul that Jesus sees. Maybe this is a great time to rejoice that in God's camp all are invited guests — even you and me! Phew!

— Flo Ledyard, Rector

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=d05KWmJPZ0ZZaHlmUlPpRK2NiOFp6UT09>.

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.



“A Moment of Peace and Quiet”
A digital devotion available on our [website](#).

“Take Out @ St. B’s”

On Saturday, February 13, 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 worship on Sunday, February 14, 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.



Ash Wednesday February 17

The Ash Wednesday Liturgy
will be held on Zoom at 7:30 pm

Questions about Angels

shared by Janet Aldrich

Because many of us need a bit of levity this winter—while still taking our spiritual lives quite seriously—I offer up a bit of Billy Collins this month, in honor of the February 2nd feast of St. Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas). Ash Wednesday also gets honored this month, 20 days later, so poetic Lenten observations will follow in the next issue. ‘Til then, imagine yourself “dancing forever” with God, angelically, to the beat of “a small jazz combo.” God will love it!

Of all the questions you might want to ask
about angels, the only one you ever hear
is how many can dance on the head of a pin.

No curiosity about how they pass the eternal time
besides circling the Throne chanting in Latin
or delivering a crust of bread to a hermit on earth
or guiding a boy and girl across a rickety wooden bridge.

Do they fly through God's body and come out singing?
Do they swing like children from the hinges
of the spirit world saying their names backwards and forwards?
Do they sit alone in little gardens changing colors?

What about their sleeping habits, the fabric of their robes,
their diet of unfiltered divine light?

What goes on inside their luminous heads? Is there a wall
these tall presences can look over and see hell?

If an angel fell off a cloud, would he leave a hole
in a river and would the hole float along endlessly
filled with the silent letters of every angelic word?

If an angel delivered the mail, would he arrive
in a blinding rush of wings or would he just assume
the appearance of the regular mailman and
whistle up the driveway reading the postcards?

No, the medieval theologians control the court.
The only question you ever hear is about
the little dance floor on the head of a pin
where halos are meant to converge and drift invisibly.

It is designed to make us think in millions,
billions, to make us run out of numbers and collapse
into infinity, but perhaps the answer is simply one:
one female angel dancing alone in her stocking feet,
a small jazz combo working in the background.

She sways like a branch in the wind, her beautiful
eyes closed, and the tall thin bassist leans over
to glance at his watch because she has been dancing
forever, and now it is very late, even for musicians.

~~ Billy Collins

Lenten Choral Evensong

by Ted Davis

Invite a friend, whether near or far, to join us for Choral Evensong for the 1st Sunday in Lent on YouTube Live!

This sublime musical liturgy, with its history of nearly 500 years, has been called one of Anglicanism's gifts to the world. And your friends in the St. Bartholomew Choir have been working diligently to prepare this unique virtual version. Lent is a particularly good season to carve out a moment for prayer. And evensong—prayer in song—has a special aura that many report is soul-enriching, and a lovely way to close the weekend and spiritually fortify for the week ahead.

While the service will be available to view after the live stream, there is a particular potency in praying as a community together, so we hope you will join us for the live stream from wherever you are. Check the [church web page](https://stbs-md.org) (<https://stbs-md.org>) for connection information.

— Ted is Organist and Choirmaster

The solemnity
and beauty of *Virtual*
Choral evensong

Sunday, February 21
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

Vestry Highlights

During this time of pandemic and quarantine, the Vestry decided to divide the monthly Vestry meeting into two meetings. Shorter meetings on Zoom are preferable than a longer meeting. The Vestry now normally meets on the third and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:30 pm.

At their meeting on January 29, 2021, the Vestry:

- Discussed of ongoing problems with Church sewage lines; Motion approved to proceed with rerouting of Church sewage lines to address this problem.
- Approved a motion to transfer matching funds to 40 West to support Project Jigsaw.
- Discussed of the need to replace five Vestry members who will be finishing their terms this spring and the vetting process for nominees to the Vestry; a Vestry Nominating Committee is being finalized.

At their meeting on January 26:

- Kathleen Schotto provided an update on her seminary training and future plans.
- Michael Haynie presented the recommendations of the Finance Committee; the Vestry approved a motion in support of the proposed 2021 budget.
- The Vestry discussed the importance of thoughtful dialogue and the teachings of the gospel for our diverse congregation.

The next set of regular meetings, scheduled on February 16 and 23, 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.

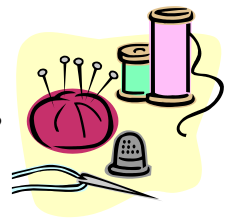
Prayer Shawls and Sewing Bees

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

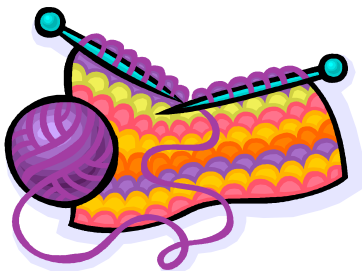
care for them. Knitters and crocheters of any age and ability are welcome.

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.



Welcome!

Almost every week, even in these pandemic times, new faces join us for zoom worship here at St. B's. Some are visitors—members of our extended families, friends visiting from out of town, even sojourning Episcopalians in Baltimore for a time looking for a place to worship—but many become a more permanent part of our congregation. Every few months, we take the time to note those in our midst who are new here, but have become active parts of our worshipping community. This month we welcome Eleanor Holland and Helen Langa!



Eleanor Holland (on the left) and Helen Langa (on the right) are excited to become members of St. Bartholomew's because it is a diverse congregation committed to social and racial justice, and we enjoy the excellent preaching, traditional liturgy, and uplifting music.

Eleanor grew up in Atlanta and Helen in Philadelphia; we met in North Carolina and have been a couple for 41 years; we were legally married in 2012.

Eleanor graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary in 2001 and was ordained a priest in 2002 at St. James Lafayette Square. She served as the Interim at St. Paul's Prince Frederick 2003-2004, and was rector at St. Matthias Baltimore from 2004 until 2011, when she retired due to health concerns. Before seminary she was a naturalist illustrator and did HIV-AIDS education work.

Helen earned a PhD in Art History from the University of North Carolina in 1993 and taught American and African-American art history at American University in Washington, D.C. from 1994 to 2017.

In retirement we participate in several reading groups. Eleanor enjoys naturalist studies (ferns, moss, and entomology) and Bible study; Helen sings with the Charm City Labor Chorus and seeks to promote antiracist understanding through community education. At St. Matthias she was a member of PEEL (People Embracing Equality with Love) and helped organize their educational programs.

We look forward to getting know the wonderful people at St. B's better little by little, zoom by zoom for now, and through a Sankofa Circle!

The Peace of Prayer

by *Glorius M. Sullivan*

February is here – sometimes it feels to me like “Finally!” and sometimes it feels like “Already!” We are in the midst of a tumultuous changing of our political leadership, almost a full year of the COVID-19 virus and its very costly effects – with news now of various new strains of the virus being found! - the temperatures outside are freezing, and many of us have suffered through sickness and loss, and we are tired of all of it, but...

WE ARE HERE - by the Grace of God! Every Sunday on Zoom we have the gift of being together to pray with and for one another, sharing a meal and giving thanks for our many blessings! We are a strong community of faith, and we support each other through our prayers and actions, at home and as we go out into the world. It's what helps to sustain us and support us as we extend that gift to others!

Though there are times that seem to make us frustrated and feel upset by the many problems we see, there is always the hope and promise each of us carries within ourselves – the need and the gift of prayer. It is what sustains me. I feel the joy of giving thanks for each new day and the promise that it holds and of asking in prayer for the health and care of families and friends, and knowing that I can be a part of that gift – caring for one another – every day. It lifts me from sadness to pray for others and for peace. This prayer by an unknown author helps explain the peace of prayer.

God is in every tomorrow,
Therefore, I live for today;
Certain of finding at sunrise
Guidance and strength for the day.

Power for each moment of weakness,
Hope for each moment of pain.
Comfort for every sorrow,
Sunshine and joy after rain.

God is in every tomorrow,
Planning for you and for me.
Even in the dark I will follow,
Trust where my eyes cannot see.

Stilled by His promise of blessing,
Soothed by the touch of His hand.
Confident in His protection,
Knowing my life-path is planned.

(Author Unknown)

We Daughters of the King hold our parish family, and our families and friends, and the world, in prayer every day. We pray for needs known and unknown to us, but fully known by God. Prayer makes a difference, not only in our lives, but for those for whom we pray. I offer prayer because it is my response to God in my life. Prayer matters – now and always – for all of us.

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?

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

An Update from Children's Word

by Steve Miller

Our Children's Word classes have been zooming along the past couple of months, from Advent to Christmas and beyond, and like many of us in COVID times have experienced some ups and downs with technology. But our Kangaroos (preK-grade 2) and Elephants (grades 3-5), led by Miss Ebony and Miss Jo Anne, respectively, are rolling with the punches and learning and growing with God.

This month's report will focus on the Kangaroos. Miss Ebony reports that her Kangaroos have been very busy this season. They have been focusing on finding out more about God's word and God's love.

They learned about Simeon and Anna, who understood the importance of waiting, then they discussed times when they had to wait and how that made them feel. Their assignment was to practice patience.

The Kangaroos also discussed showing love to those we love, and to those we may not know so well. They learned that they can see Jesus' love every day, and how they can share Jesus' love anytime with others; and they engaged in conversations about how it makes them feel when they share Jesus' love with others. The Kangaroos made a list of things such as giving things away to those in need, writing cards to loved ones and those in hospitals, and drawing pictures or creating a painting to brighten up someone's day.

Lastly the Kangaroos discussed Jesus' baptism and talked about what their baptism means and about witnessing the baptism of others. The class also

engaged in discussions about how they enjoy being a part of God's family and what new things they will do to continue to share Jesus' love daily. Whew—they sure did cover a lot of ground!

Also, the Children's Word team would like to extend a huge "Thank You!" to parishioner Cyndy Compton, who graciously jumped in feet first and taught the Elephants for three weeks in November while Miss Ebony tended to some family matter. Miss Ebony reports that all are doing well now, but she is always grateful for your prayers.

We have now had a total of 13 children participate in Children's Word this year—our numbers keep growing! 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 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. Our Kangaroo class meets each Sunday from 5:00-5:30 pm, and our Elephant class meets on Tuesdays from 7:00-7:30. If you would like, Maggie would be happy to get you a hard copy of the Spark study Bible (our primary teaching resource), if your child does not have one—just let her know. We all look forward to more learning and growth in God in the New Year!

— *Steve is a member of the Kid's Council*

D-Group

Who are we?

Disciples of Jesus!

Growing in faith together!

Reflecting on the Bible each Sunday has given us the

Opportunity to ask questions - the simple curious ones and the hard ones.

Unconditional support of each other has helped ALL of us get thru this past year and we always take the time to

Play and laugh together!



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!

Faith Forum

by Flo Ledyard

Faith Forum is a pretty awesome time.

- It is a chance to **learn**. How wonderful that we get to learn about interesting topics and discover how our faith is so rich and complex.
- It is a chance to **hear** from so many different people who share their wisdom as they present on these different topics. How wonderful that so many different perspectives are offered.
- It is a chance to **ask** questions, think about stuff, and to consider things.

So yep, it is a pretty awesome time.

Here is what is next.

On Sunday February the 14th we will learn about **Thomas Bray**. Never heard of him? Well, he is pretty important to Maryland, It was Bray who brought the Anglican faith to our state. But he also was an important voice regarding enslavement. So join Flo as we learn about this character and his importance to us.

On Sunday February the 21st and March the 14th we will explore the role of **lament** in our faith lives. Lament is an important part of our faith tradition and an intriguing way to understand God. Not to mention that there may be a lot of stuff that might be worth lamenting right now!

So on the 21st, Ann Boyd will talk about what lament actually is and on the 14th Corinne Bowmaker will lead a discussion with some others on how to lament. After all, if we are going to lament, it would be nice to get it right!

This is, btw, a great topic as we move into the season of Lent on Wednesday February the 17th. Just saying.

So come zoom in and join us on these Sundays at 9:00 am. We will end at 9:45 am so we can all have a break before 10:00 am worship. Promise.

— Flo is St. B's Rector

Faith Forum (for adults and older youth) at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

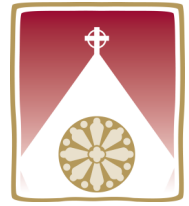
Spring, 2021

Sunday mornings—9:15 to 10:00 am
via Zoom

- ◆ February 14 Thomas Bray (Flo)
- ◆ February 21 What is Lament (Ann Boyd)
- ◆ March 14 How to Lament (Corinne Bowmaker, et al)
- ◆ March 28 The History and Journey of Women's Ordination (Joe Twist)
- ◆ April 4 Easter (no Faith Forum)
- ◆ April 11 Why did Jesus have to Die (Thelma Smullen)
- ◆ April 25 That Little Voice: a video
- ◆ May 9 Native American Spirituality (Cynthia Wagner)
- ◆ May 23 What Have We Learned this Year — About Anything!

Christianity and Racism

Part One — Spring 2021
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church



Christianity and Racism is a complex topic. But it is an essential issue to understand in order to be faithful and responsible children of God. You might think it is abundantly clear, Not so much.

Ergo the Adult Formation team has crafted a curriculum to address this very topic. This year is Part One.

February 24: Racism and the Bible with Flo

- A complex truth in our Bible. We will look at the various types of enslavement in the Scriptures as well as the different words used.

March 3: The History of Racism and St B's with Corinne Bowmaker and Pat Alt

- Announcing! All new! You may have heard St B's history before, but it was not the whole story. There's so much you haven't yet heard. New research will add a much richer understanding of our church in its time..... from the founding Dashiell family settling in Somerset County in 1663, their plantation called Long Hill, and the question of this family using enslaved persons.... to Fells Point and the War of 1812, Captain Henry Dashiell and his daughter Alice Ann who bequeathed the land for the first St. B's on North Avenue -- we have her startling diary. Privateers and Black shipbuilders and sailors, the Fells Point slave trade, the Civil War and Mobtown, the African-American community of arts and culture that grew in West Baltimore. From white flight to Ten Hills, redlining and blockbusting, to St. B's part in the struggle for racial justice. Our story comes to life in a series of presentations on "St. B's History in the Context of Its Times." Come, join, and learn!

March 10: Positive Role Models with Anthony Pitts

- The world is full of amazing people who have made incredible contributions but whom we sometimes do not know anything about. Time to change that! We will enjoy learning about positive role models and feel our spirits rise accordingly.

March 17: Personal Conversations with Heather Neil, Celeste Thurston, and Joe Twist

- Members of the parish who have experienced racism as well those who have chosen to confront racism in their daily lives will gather as a panel to discuss real and critical racial issues that are confronted in our daily lives. The panel will be moderated, but questions from the audience are not only welcomed, but encouraged.

March 24: Implications for Today with Daphne Cover and Nicete Moodie

- Leaders from the Faith Forum group will have an open and honest discussion regarding race and how it is interwoven in many aspects of our day to day lives. We plan to bring information that isn't always on mainstream news outlets along with various guest speakers to hear an array of viewpoints on the topics. We ask that you come with an open mind and we hope that you leave with new ways to share the information that you learned.

We will gather by Zoom at 6:30 pm over dinner to enjoy each other's company and no doubt admire what everyone else is eating!

Then begin our sessions at 7:00 pm lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. So we will finish by 8:15 pm.

Our time together will include a presentation, small group discussions and the chance to end with a bit of worship.

There is lots to explore and share.

For St B's, a multicultural congregation, this is pretty essential.

A Report from the Stewardship committee Regarding Practical Matters of St. B's Time & Talent and Pledging Forms

First off, there is a new [Stewardship tab](#) under the Ministries link on the website and you can find a downloadable pledge form and time and talent form there. In addition, there is information about online giving.

The Vestry Pledge Task Force along with other Vestry members called every congregant to check-in and also remind them to submit their pledge for the 2021 year. Hopefully, everyone has received that call remembered to submit their pledge, time and talent forms, and appreciated the check-in.

The Stewardship Committee appreciated the feedback gathered from the calls. One question arose regarding filling out your time and talent form. You should check the ministries you are both currently in (and want to continue) and any new ministries you wish to try out. The committee has a spreadsheet that is updated every time we receive a time and talent form from a parishioner.

Another concern was about potential questions of what each committee/group does. Because of COVID, not all committees are “active,” but to highlight those committees that remain active and need help, we are planning on having a few, very short (10-15 minutes), post-worship Zoom meetings

in which committee chair/members will give a short ‘infomercial’ regarding how they are still active during this time and ways that volunteers can help. Look for those to begin in early-mid February—they will be listed in the “What’s Happening.” These ministries are vital to our worship services AND to our neighbors who depend on some of these services during these economic tough times.

Regarding pledges, if you pledge via the online giving option, please remember that your pledge *does not* “roll over”, you need to sign up every year. If you have not used the online giving option, but would like to give it a go, John DeVale (devale@computer.org) is available to answer your questions and help you make it happen.

One more thing to note, you can **always** change your pledge at any time during the year by contacting John DeVale, and the same is true of your time and talent choices by contacting Cynthia Wagner (crw21229@gmail.com).

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any of the above issues, please don’t hesitate to ask.

In the stewardship of Christ,
The Stewardship Committee

Faith and Finance

by Michael Haynie and the Finance Committee

The St. Bartholomew's Finance Committee met in January to review the year end 2020 financial state of the church as well as finalize the draft budget for 2021. In reviewing the 2020 financial statement the following are highlights of our year- ending 2020:

- Our **operating** departments and **ministries** operated well with in the budgets. Because of the world health crisis many of our ministries were not able to fully function in 2020.
- Of significant note in the income areas. **Open plate** collections finished 2020 over \$17,000 dollars more than the budget expectation. We attribute much of this to the number of visitors we attracted to our on-line worship services. **Pledge income** finished a very respectable \$12,874 dollars short of its budget expectations. Given the employment uncertainty of many members of our congregation this was nothing short of God's blessing. As a result, we finished the 2020 year **\$7,000 more** in total income than we had budgeted. A phenomenal achievement
- We are a church which shows our faith not only in our communities and church but in our financial budget as well. Last year the vestry approved a "2020 faith budget" with a deficit of **\$48,414.00**. **I am very happy to report, we significantly closed that 2020 deficit, and the actual year end net income was only \$1,000.18 over the actual income.**
- When we have a year-end deficit our "**Prior Year Reserve Fund**" is what is usually used to offset and balance out the year. The finance committee will be making the recommendation to our vestry to offset the **\$1000.18 deficit** with prior year reserve funds.

Pledge income accounts for almost 90% of our income stream and it is important each parishioner is able to discern with God their ability and level of giving. If you have not had a chance to submit your 2021 pledge, we ask you to do so as soon as possible. If you are interested in pledging and would like pledge envelopes or have questions, please contact our Assistant Treasurer, John DeVale [j \(devale@devale.net\)](mailto:devale@devale.net).

If you have made your 2021 pledge commitment, the finance committee sincerely thanks you!

Colossians 1:9-10:

"And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Finance Committee members include:

Mike 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 Piche, (Vestry Rep.)

Financial Position as of December 31, 2020

— Financial information is provided by John Schroeder, Treasurer

	12/20 Actual	12/20 Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Current Weekly Pledged Offerings	\$43,560.45	\$41,583.33	\$486,126.26	\$499,000.00
Prior Years Pledges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,805.00	\$0.00
Open Plate Offerings and Children's Offerings	\$10,325.00	\$2,416.67	\$47,165.51	\$29,000.00
Special Envelope Offerings (Good Friday, Easter, Christmas)	\$740.00	\$291.67	\$2,970.00	\$3,500.00
Altar Guild Income	\$318.00	\$525.00	\$3,057.00	\$6,300.00
Community Use Donations (NA, and AA donations)	\$0.00	\$166.67	\$835.00	\$2,000.00
Special Projects Income	\$184.00	\$1,333.33	\$8,859.29	\$16,000.00
House Sale Income	\$9,000.00	\$750.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00
Endowment Fund Disbursement	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest & Div	\$114.14	\$0.00	\$1,029.27	\$0.00
Total	\$64,241.59	\$47,066.67	\$571,847.33	\$564,800.00
Ministry Expenses				
Diocesan Pledge	\$5,311.12	\$6,248.33	\$67,482.00	\$74,980.00
KIVA MicroLoans	\$317.52	\$329.47	\$4,108.87	\$3,953.60
Communication Ministry	\$1,118.22	\$129.67	\$2,065.62	\$1,556.00
Daughters of the King	\$0.00	\$20.83	\$250.00	\$250.00
Education Ministry	\$63.50	\$583.33	\$1,088.53	\$7,000.00
Youth Pilgrimage	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Library	\$0.00	\$8.33	\$0.00	\$100.00
Parish Life (Fellowship) Ministry	\$140.00	\$250.00	\$915.15	\$3,000.00
Landscape	\$0.00	\$83.33	\$141.54	\$1,000.00
Music Ministry	\$150.00	\$597.92	\$2,511.36	\$7,175.00
Newcomers Ministry	\$0.00	\$41.67	\$63.72	\$500.00
Pastoral Care Ministry	\$272.50	\$262.67	\$3,016.30	\$3,152.00
Sunday School Teacher Salaries	\$400.00	\$433.33	\$5,000.00	\$5,200.00
Youth Activities Coordinator	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property Ministry	\$8,906.68	\$2,916.67	\$50,209.56	\$35,000.00
Safety & Security Committee	\$0.00	\$20.83	\$0.00	\$250.00
Special Projects Expense	\$0.00	\$166.67	\$821.06	\$2,000.00
Special Projects-Net	\$184.00	\$1,083.33	\$8,038.23	\$13,000.00
Stewardship Ministry	\$0.00	\$87.50	\$510.66	\$1,050.00
Worship Ministry	\$137.41	\$41.67	\$500.67	\$500.00
Vestry	\$121.80	\$133.33	\$150.44	\$1,600.00

Financial Position as of December 31, 2020 (continued)

Operating Expenses	12/20 Actual	12/20 Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Accounting (includes Bank Fees and audit expenses)	\$210.99	\$208.33	\$2,443.83	\$2,500.00
Altar Guild Expenses	\$1,025.83	\$525.00	\$2,917.19	\$6,300.00
Conferences	\$0.00	\$95.83	\$0.00	\$1,150.00
Insurance (Property/D&O)	\$0.00	\$2,075.00	\$26,752.25	\$24,900.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$8.33	\$0.00	\$100.00
Office Expenses	\$730.18	\$1,437.50	\$11,707.13	\$17,250.00
Clergy Discretionary & Hospitality	\$0.00	\$333.33	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Supply Clergy	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Taxes (Property)	\$0.00	\$236.25	\$2,574.24	\$2,835.00
Telephones and Utilities	\$3,966.77	\$3,742.18	\$35,522.41	\$44,906.00
Salaries, Benefits, Payroll Taxes, Workers Comp	\$32,847.08	\$28,750.57	\$337,056.75	\$345,006.86
Total	\$56,153.60	\$51,101.20	\$572,847.51	\$613,214.46
Net Income w/o Depreciation	\$8,087.99	(\$4,034.53)	(\$1,000.18)	(\$48,414.46)
Depreciation	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Net Income with Depreciation	\$8,087.99	(\$4,034.53)	(\$1,000.18)	(\$48,414.46)

Notes on Income and Expenses:

- Total Pledged Offerings (current & prior year) were **(\$68.74)** less than budgeted for 2020.
- Total income was **\$17,174.92** more than budgeted for the month of December and **\$7,047.33** more than the budget for the year.
- We are showing a net gain of **\$8,087.99** for the month of December and a net loss for the year of **(\$1,000.18)**.
- Altar Guild Income YTD was more than Altar Guild Expenses by **\$139.81**.
- 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.

Outreach Updates

by Kim Flash

Our St. B's Outreach Committee continues to work in various ways to provide support to our neighbors in the 40 West Corridor and overseas. Our mission is *"to nurture multi-generational relationships with our neighbors – locally and globally. Partnering with families and communities, our ministry is focused on helping children and youth to discern, develop and use their God-given gifts."*

Honoring MLK Day and Supporting 40 West Assistance and Referral

Many thanks to those who were able to participate in our financial drive to fill the pantry shelves of 40 West. At the time of publication, we do not know the total contributions collected. Watch this space in the *March Apostle* for more information and to learn who the winners were of our five auction items for the "MLK Day Food Drive Re-Imagined."

Upcoming: Watch your "What's Happening" for upcoming information regarding a food drive to support My Brother's Keeper, a non-profit in neighboring Irvington that St. B's partners with and supports.

If you're interested in joining the Outreach Committee, please speak with either co-chair Dave Mountain (davidjmountain@ieee.org) or Kim Flash (keflash7@gmail.com).

— Kim is Co-Chair of the Outreach Committee

“Bmore2gether” with KIVA

by Kim Flash

After a lengthy break due to Covid19 restrictions, St. B’s KIVA committee was able to meet virtually to continue our lending in the international arena. As a reminder, a percentage of Outreach Committee funding is designated for supporting those in need overseas. At St. B’s, the KIVA group meets bi-monthly to designate funds for micro-loans lent to a wide variety of people and countries.

In January, we loaned to the following folks:

Monserrath Group

Jessica Eugenia (located in the sixth position from left to right, wearing a grey t-shirt and blue jeans), a 28 year old from Nicaragua, was loaned \$2350.00 to build her massage business. She supports her 15-month old child, and helps to build her community by generating jobs for others.



Calle Amarilla Group

This is a women’s collective in Paraguay, with the goal of growing “economically and personally.” One of the members, Angelica, makes and sells her own bricks. She was loaned \$2250 to continue to build this enterprise, which helps to alleviate poverty in her village.

Activas de Pacayal Group

A member of this group, Magdalena, will receive a loan of \$4475 to buy fertilizer for her farm and silos to store her crop. Magdalena, from Guatemala, is the mother of 10 children. As part of this lending process, she is part of a women’s group that meets monthly to learn about effective business management practices, health, hygiene and nutrition.



Charles, from Uganda

This young man will receive a loan of \$325 to purchase construction supplies in order to modify and repair several rental apartments that he owns and rents for income. This loan is categorized as funding “rural entrepreneurs,” an important part of building up a community and its economy.

If you are interested in joining the KIVA Committee to pick the recipients of St. B’s loans, we will meet next by Zoom on Wednesday, April 7th at 7:00 pm. Please contact Kim Flash (keflash7@gmail.com) for more information and to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome!

— Kim is Co-Chair of the Outreach Committee

Ceasefire

by Brigit Molony

What does Ceasefire mean to me, you might ask. I don't have a gun. Or. I have never killed someone. Or, I would never kill someone.

But.....I would and do get angry. But..... I would and do feel and think non-peaceful thoughts. But..... I would and do act in non-peaceful ways. This is the challenge to us all. The Baltimore Peace Challenge is as follows: It is a pledge to:

#VibrateHigher

I agree to respond to conflict in ways that will not harm a person, their autonomy, and their dignity. I respect others as well as myself. I value others as well as myself.
I choose to vibrate higher.

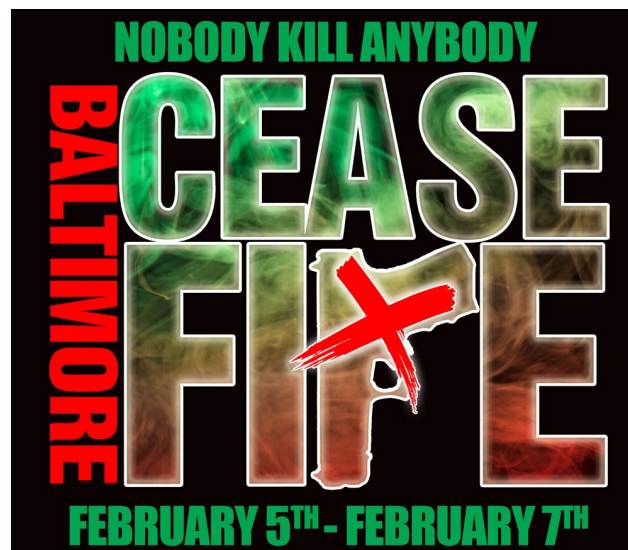
#DontBeNumb

I agree to stop and pause and think about what it means to lose a community member to violence in Baltimore whenever we lose someone.
I recognize that all of our lives matter. I will not be numb.

It seems even more salient in this time to think about and to take the Baltimore Peace Challenge.

I encourage you to read the statement by the Bishops United Against Gun Violence as well. https://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/news_release/the-epidemic-of-gun-violence-now-threatens-our-democracy-a-letter-from-bishops-united/

Because of the continuing pandemic, the February 5-7th Ceasefire Weekend looks different than in previous years. Most of the events have to be virtual because of health safety reasons. Please check the calendar for events, as new events will continue to be added up to the weekend: <https://baltimoreceasefire.com/calendar>



Serving Our Neighbors

by Bonnie Kutch

Outreach is a part of the foundation by which we, at St. Bartholomew's, fulfill our Vision and Mission as an Episcopal congregation. Concern and care for our neighbors is one of our missional focuses and one of the places that we devote our time, our talent, and our resources.

The Outreach Committee for some years has supported our neighbors in Irvington through a partnership with My Brother's Keeper. We have continued to support their lunch service, despite their shift from a sit down, hot lunch service to a take-away bag lunch service, due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

- ◆ Every month, since March 2020, the Outreach budget for the My Brother's Keeper Casserole Project was used to purchase and deliver items on their Lunch Service Wish List. Monthly donations will continue until we can resume cooking casseroles together at St. B's and volunteering to help prepare and serve lunch from their kitchen.
- ◆ To support their Thanksgiving Meal, we donated 8 sweet potato pies, 8 deep dish apple pies, 2 pound cakes, and 2 apple cakes, so that dessert could be included with the meal.
- ◆ For their Christmas Meal, we donated a case of 500 wrapped plastic cutlery sets, 20 cases of soda, and 2 cases of juice boxes — items needed to complete their meal.
- ◆ My Brother's Keeper continues to receive individual donations from St. Bartholomew's parishioners. They are located at 4207 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore, 21229. Donations should be brought to the side door on S. Augusta Avenue, near the driveway. There is a doorbell, but please be patient as there is limited staff on-site. [Here is the current MBK Wish List:](#)

Sliced Beef Bologna
 Sliced Ham
 Sliced Cheese (5-lb box)
 Sliced Turkey
 Mayo Packs
 Mustard Packs
 Sun Chips
 Cookies
 Sodas
 Apples
 Cheese Crackers

Potato Chips
 Fruit Cups
 Fruit Gummies
 Carryout Plastic Bags
 Granola Bars
 Prepackaged Cutlery Set (Fork, Knife, Spoon, Salt/Pepper)
 Plastic Sandwich Bags
 Plastic Snack Bags
 Disposable Gloves (for food preparation)

My Brother's Keeper staff members each month express their appreciation for our donations, especially the regularity with which we give. They continue to work to meet a need in the Irvington community, despite the current circumstances, and what we do helps them to succeed. If you would like to know more about supporting My Brother's Keeper, please contact Bonnie Kutch at bonnie_kutch@verizon.net or Sharon Selleck at scobleselleck@gmail.com.

How'd We Do?

by Peggy McMillan

2020 Numbers vs. 2019 Numbers at the 40 West Assistance & Referral Center

.....

2020 started out serene. The holidays had been lovely. God was in the heavens and all was right with the world.

With the March wind the pandemic blew into all of our lives. 40 West A & R Center closed, regrouped, and reopened in April doing outside food distributions, which we continued throughout October. 40 West transitioned to inside operations in November 2020.

The number of people we saw inside the 40 West Center did not reached our pre-pandemic numbers, but we continue to offer services. Below is a comparison and contrast of 2019 and 2020 numbers.

Pounds of Food Distributed:

2020 165,719 pounds (+56%)
2019 105,727 pounds

Funds Distributed:

2020: \$4,175 (-82%)
2019: \$23,425

Food Donations:

2020 16,136 pounds (+64%)
2019 10,369 pounds

Thanksgiving Baskets:

113, @48 lbs. per household

Meals Provided:

2020 139,723 (+35%)
2019 89,994

Christmas Baskets:

99, @24 lbs. each
235 gift cards (given to families with children)

Thank you to Hunting Ridge Presbyterian, St. William of York, New Hope Christian Baptist, The Open Church of Maryland, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal, St. Bernadine's Catholic Church, St. Agnes, the Board of the 40 West Assistance & Referral Center, Inc., and all our neighbors, friends, and volunteers in 2020. You all made this possible. Many thanks!

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

Fun Playing Virtual BINGO!



by Anna Williams

Thank you to everyone who participated in our first Hope Harbor Virtual Bingo. It was a small group but was big on laughter and good times. Everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a fun afternoon. Steve Dethridge was our bingo caller and did a wonderful job. Thank you, Steve!

We would also like to thank Wegman's for their generous donation of gift cards for prizes. We would also like to thank Hope Harbor board members Sara Schroeder, Daphne Cover, and Cathy Brookman who also donated gift cards for prizes. This would not have been possible without your donations. Thank you.

Because it was such a fun activity, we will once again play Virtual Bingo in a few months. Please be on the look-out for the date and consider joining us. Not only is it a fun afternoon but you are also supporting a good cause.

Hope to see you there!

— Anna is the Hope Program Director

One Straw Farm CSA Returns to St. B's



St. Bartholomew's Church will again be a pick-up site for the One Straw Farm CSA this year, with fresh fruits and vegetables arriving every Thursday afternoon between 4:00 and 7:00 pm. They are using a program to better enable the customization of your share online

each week, so you do need to register for it at the link below. You can rate your preferences ahead of time, adjust your custom box each week online, and purchase extra items if you choose. Join with your friends, purchase a share (either small, large, or jumbo), and then volunteer to staff the pick-up site a few times during the 24-week season, from June 10 – November 18, 2021. A great chance to get excellent produce, support local organic agriculture, and meet your neighbors!

2021 CSA Details:

Small Share ~ 4-5 items/week = \$408

Large Share ~ 8-9 items/week = \$720

Jumbo Share ~ 12-14 items/week = \$960

For 24 weeks (06/10—11/18)

With the new payment plan, you have a choice of paying in four installments, or paying in full at the sign-up. You can also choose to have it delivered every other week, purchase extras, put your box on hold, or move it to another week if needed. And the CSA will also offer other specials during the season.

Here is the link to join this year, be sure to use the Pickup Site button and sign up for the St. Bartholomew's location: <https://onestrawfarm.csaware.com>.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a mutually beneficial relationship between farmers and the community in which participants provide funding for the farmer in advance in exchange for produce during the growing season. Items vary according to the season (with 30 fruits and vegetables overall). For example, greens for the whole time, strawberries and sugar snap peas in spring, tomatoes and watermelon in summer, and hard squashes in fall.

Membership is accepted throughout the growing season, members who sign up after the season has begun may do so at a prorated price. If there are at least ten shares purchased at our site, One Straw Farm will provide some produce each week for a charitable organization (such as 40 West).

Vestry Prayers

These are prayers shared by Celeste Thurston at a recent Vestry meeting. We thought you might enjoy them as well.

Give strength, give thought, give deeds, give wealth
Give love, give tears, and give thyself
Give, give, be always giving
Who gives not, is not living
The more you give, the more you live

~~Anonymous

The truths of the spirit are proved not by reasoning about them,
Or finding explanation of them, but only by acting on them.
Their life is dependent upon what we do about them.
Mercy, gentleness, forgiveness, patience;
If we do not show them, they will cease to be.
Upon us depends the reality of God here on Earth, today.

~~Edith Hamilton, American educator and Greek scholar



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

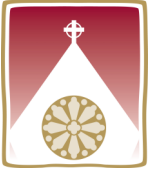
Lucy Marshall; Doris Haughey; Vince Marsiglia; Donna Cartwright; Janet Churchill; Shirley Nathan Pulliam; Wyvetta Dupree; Tony Creek; Mike Knudsen; Lillian Thomas; Celia Vismale; Ray Zeigler; Larry Brown; Sandra DeSilva; Peter Griffin; Jon Davis; Young Sam; Michelle Haynie Madison; Mary Warfield; Ayodele House; Tom Cover; Jim Wright; Kathleen DeVale; David McClellan; Larry Bucher; John White; Steve Sprecher; Chris Bassett-Jellema; Michele Pearson; Don, Kelsey, and Jaxon Blackert; Melody Pitts; Wayne Selleck; Anne Lane; Tim Wolf; Steven Johnson; Vernon Wiggins and family; 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; Nathan; Sue Goodall; Amanda Ash Freeland; Kyle Yoder; Scott Armentrout; John Mountain; Diane McPhillips; Ron Blouin; Mary Warren; Michael Pizarro; Robin Kaspar; Jerome Gray; Patricia Martin; Rick M.; Priscilla W.; Carlson T.; Clay Shiflet; David Liscinsky; Joyce Stanley; parents of Kevin Markle; 65-year-old John; Jill Sandford; Laurel Vincenty; Juanita and Jim Schmitz; Chip Lee; Alan Varner; Nathan Battle; Karen Lee; Brian Campbell; Gart Kosaku Westerhout and family; Aminata Kabia; Francine Neal; 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 *March* issue of *The Apostle* is Monday, February 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

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.
