



The APOSTLE

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

March 2021

NYT: A Lenten Whodunit

I get the Sunday New York Times. Delivered. Literally. The rest of my news comes digitally. But I look forward to the blue wrapper at the end of my driveway knowing that after church I can unfold its contents and explore news from around the world and in the USA, arts and culture, business, commentaries of all sorts, enjoy possible things to do at home, and peruse book reviews. So yep. The NYT Sunday edition. Delivered in the flesh, so to speak.

A couple of Sundays back when it was really icy, I got an email letting me know that the paper would be late. And it was. But, when I looked out around noon, there it was — ensconced in its identifiable blue wrapper.

So I decided it could stay there til my dog Brook and I took our afternoon slip slidey walk.

A couple of hours later, we bundled up (well, I bundled up) and when we went out the garage door – IT WAS GONE. Stolen! Someone had stolen my NYT. I was not happy. I immediately thought I should report this to the NYT police. But Brook said later, please. Her walk was way more important.

But the entire time I was fuming. I mean really — who would just walk by or drive by and take my newspaper. Of course, it is a valuable possession but really — in broad daylight? The nerve and audacity. Then I started to muse about which of my neighbors could have done it.

I did try at one point to remind myself it was only a newspaper, but my COVID brain could not stop being judgmental, irritable, and snarky.

Then I ran into one of my neighbors up the street. She is relatively new. A cat person. Oh well. But she is very nice. She is also an Episcopalian. Goes to the

Church of the Redeemer. A very nice soul. We have enjoyed catching sight of each other when we pass on our walks. Besides she thinks Brook is stunningly well behaved and beautiful. Of course I like her!

As we wrapped up our conversation, she asked if I got my paper? She said she had put it by my front door thinking it would be a nice Sabbath gesture. OMG! Case solved!

So of course, I profusely thanked her. Too profusely thanking her as I was trying to cover up my previous ill thoughts and assumptions.

And on the rest of our walk back home, needless to say I had some intriguing conversation with God — which included a lot of apologizing and groveling and whatever else I thought important in order to set aside my baser instincts and try to rectify my snarky judgmental thoughts. Confession may be good for the soul but it is not very easy!

And upon reaching home, there indeed was the blue wrapper nicely propped by the front door. Groan.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside

- 2 Worship
- 5 Poem
- 6 Vestry
- 6 Community Formation
- 9 Christian Formation
- 15 Commitment to Ministry
- 19 Mission
- 26 Prayer List

(Continued from page 1)

SO the NYT Whodunit was solved. But now it is Lent — which apparently will be good for my soul. All 40 days and 40 nights' worth. Lent is the time when we think about the things that we do that are not so great or the things we don't do which are not so great, either. Clearly, I was off to an uncomfortable start.

But the gift of Lent is actually the chance to acknowledge some stuff about ourselves that is not so great, recognize it is not the way we prefer to live, find some peace with God, and recognize that our default snarky behavior is probably not very helpful or a necessary first response. In fact, our baser selves really are not often very helpful — to others, but even to ourselves. If for no other reason than it can so easily inhibit our ability to assume, look for, and even see the wonderful generosity and thoughtfulness of others — the way we would all rather behave, I bet.

So turns out I am not a great detective. Just an irritable mess on occasion. But Lent will give me the spiritual opportunity to be more honest about me and to seek God's guidance and support as I try to become less of a mess.

I would enjoy some company on this 40 day and night journey, btw. I suspect I am not the only one among us capable of less than sterling faithful thoughts and behaviors. So I invite you to a holy Lent — a time to reflect daily, pray with some honesty, and muse about a God of enormous forgiveness. God gives us the strength to confess, the grace of forgiveness — and each other, so we can support and encourage each other's better selves. Snarkiness be gone!

So maybe together we can find more amazing ways of living. Who knows whose "newspapers" we can prop up against doors!

— 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=d05KWmJPZ0ZZaHlmUlpRK2NiOFp6UT09>.

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

The Meeting ID: 764 173 8777

The password: 703085

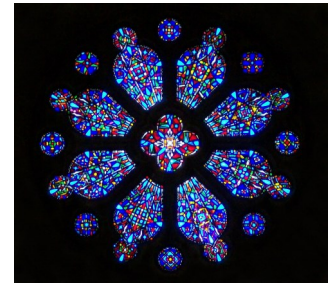
or you can call in using this number: (646)558-8656.

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



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

[Virtual “Choral Evensong”](#) for Lent
and a copy of the [service bulletin](#)
may be found on the music page of our website
at <https://stbs-md.org/music/>.



“Take Out @ St. B’s”



In anticipation of Holy Week, on Saturday March 27 from 11:30 to 12:30 at the red door in the back of the Church — you can drive up and take out

- ✦ some palms for Palm Sunday
- ✦ and 2 Communion Kits —one for Maundy Thursday and one for Easter Day.

Sweet!



Lent at St. B’s

During Lent, we prepare for Easter and the celebration of Christ's resurrection. These six weeks between Wednesday, February 17 and Saturday, April 3 are a special time in our calendar for **prayer, reflection, formation, and service**.

We are worshipping together in spirit, vocally and visually, via Zoom. Information is available on our website at <https://stbs-md.org/>. Please check the service times and join us.

Special Lenten Worship

Palm Sunday (March 28) Blessing of the Palms and Passion at 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday (April 1) Footwashing, Eucharist, & the Stripping of the Altar at 7:30 pm

Good Friday (April 2) Good Friday Liturgy at 12:00 noon.

Weekly Worship

Sundays: Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am

Weekdays & Saturdays: Noonday Prayer at 12:00 noon (from home)

Wednesdays: The Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm

Stations of the Cross

by *Glorius Sullivan*

From the earliest times, Christians flocked to the Holy Land to visit the places sanctified by the events in our Lord's earthly life. Especially popular was the pilgrimage along the path our Lord took on the first Good Friday. This pilgrimage was made with great devotion, the procession stopping (or making "stations") for prayer and meditations at the various traditional points where legend held that special events took place.



For those who were unable to visit the Holy Land, the custom arose throughout Europe of setting up replicas of the different incidents along the Way of

Sorrow, so that the faithful could make spiritual pilgrimages. After a long development, these little shrines were formalized and set along the interior walls of Christian churches, just as they are in the nave of St. Bartholomew's Church.

Since we cannot be in the nave due to the COVID virus, the Order of the Daughters of the King will be hosting the Stations of the Cross via Zoom this year beginning at 5:30 pm on the Wednesdays in Lent (February 24, March 3, March 10, March 17 and March 24). Our new intern Steven Smith will be joining us on this journey. You may find the Zoom link [here](#).

This is a short but powerful reminder of the true sacrifice that was made by our Lord Jesus Christ for us. This simple 'walk' has been a Christian tradition for hundreds of years. Please join in this "walk" as part of your Lenten journey towards Easter.

For those who are not able to participate on Wednesdays, the Stations of the Cross will be available on the St. Bartholomew's website beginning on February 24 for individual meditation throughout the season of Lent.

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

St. B's welcomes your special offering for
Easter flowers
for either Memorials or Thanksgivings.

Please email the office (office@stbs-md.org)
by Palm Sunday, March 28.



In Blackwater Woods

shared by Janet Aldrich

In the depths of Lent (and winter), we are called to turn our “own bodies/into pillars/of light,” by turning ourselves inside out and “bursting and/floating” our souls to God. It even says so in the Ash Wednesday liturgy! Jesus would agree with Mary Oliver, that on the other side of “the fires/and black river of loss...is salvation,” whether we ever know salvation’s meaning or not. Love life, hold on to it, then “let it go” when the time comes (in the depths of Lent), “knowing your own [soul] “depends on it.”

Look, the trees
are turning
their own bodies
into pillars
of light,
are giving off the rich
fragrance of cinnamon
and fulfillment,
the long tapers
of cattails
are bursting and
floating away over
the blue shoulders
of the ponds,
and every pond,
no matter what its
name is, is
nameless now.

Every year
everything
I have ever learned
in my lifetime
leads back to this: the fires
and the black river of loss
whose other side
is salvation,
whose meaning
none of us will ever know.
To live in this world
you must be able
to do three things:
to love what is mortal;
to hold it
against your bones
knowing your own life
depends on it;
and, when the time comes
to let it go,
to let it go.

~~ Mary Oliver

Daylight Saving Time begins March 14.
Remember to “Spring Forward” and set your clocks ahead
one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.



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 February 16, 2021:

- Bishop Ihloff joined the meeting to discuss current and future directions in the Parish and the Diocese.
- The Vestry approved the end of year Treasurer's report.
- Dave Murray provided an update on the timeline and coordination of the Undercroft renovation.

At their meeting on February 23:

- Michael Haynie provided an update on the 2021 Budget; the Vestry approved the 2021 Budget as presented.
- Rev. Flo presented the 2020 Parochial Report; Vestry members provided comments and certified the report.
- The Vestry discussed the opportunities and challenges presented by Zoom that will need to be considered when St. B's returns to in-person worship.

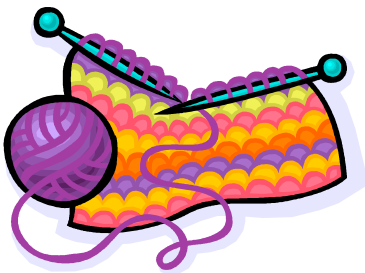
The next set of regular meetings, scheduled on March 16 and 23,
will take place via Zoom, both beginning at 6:30 pm.

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

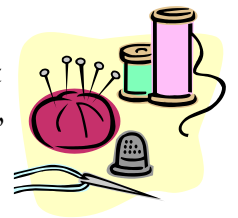
Prayer Shawls and Sewing Bees

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.

Women's Retreat Reimagined Became Real

by Christine Hostetter

During my COVID self-isolation, like many people, I am little by little cleaning and reorganizing. One pile I found were papers and projects from my Masters' studies in Spirituality. Among them were writings about creating retreats. Nowhere was there an inkling of a complete retreat online. So, when the announcement of the annual St. Bartholomew's Women's retreat via Zoom was published it piqued my curiosity.

OK, during the pandemic, meetings, worship, family celebrations, medical support group, prayer group, even tea with friends have all been online. Why not a retreat? Oh yea, why not a retreat where I can invite friends who also are not leaving their homes much? Sounded really good! Then, I pondered the topic *Tikkun Olam*, "to repair the world" in Hebraic faith tradition. I already was struggling how the pandemic seemed to be destroying and repairing the world simultaneously (brave of me to admit this in writing), so exploring the concept of repairing the world during an online retreat was a godsend. My prayer group friend Barb accepted my invitation to attend with me. Other friends of attendees joined from various parts of the country, as well.

Over 40 women zoomed-in on Saturday January 30, 2021. Flo and Katharine kept this retreat simple: prayer, one teaching, small group pondering, large group sharing, and individual time. Nicete helped these modules become Zoom compatible, visual to all (think online newsprint) and directed us like a retreat conductor. I'm thinking someone like this could be part of an in-person retreat team, someday. Only a month before I had been in Zoom small groups for the first time, with strangers. On retreat day, Zoom

placed me into small groups with church friends! A lot more intimate than I anticipated. In my second group my friend Barb was included. Now, she was in a group with a friend and some strangers. Super! I could see she felt welcomed and comfortable to ponder *Tikkun Olam* with us at four levels: our world, our country, our churches, and ourselves. Two small group times: one to brainstorm what needs repair and another to name ways to participate in the repair. Simple, real.... challenging.



Flo's teaching about *Tikkun Olam*, which started with the origins of this "simple" phrase of a verb and noun, and then its evolution through time all the way to today's meanings, was smack in between the small group activities. So, so important timing to springboard our list of actions to participate in *Tikkun Olam*. The individual time module felt a little different than if we were gathered in person. No new scenery to walk in or a chapel

to visit. But, I ate, drank, window gazed and talked to my dog. Yes, Clover helped me wrestle with *Tikkun Olam* during an online retreat! Other benefits of being online were during prayer. First, no one could hear me sing, LOL. And, no one knew I was diffusing an inspiring blend of essential oils during the closing prayers. I needed something to replace the uplift I usually get from voices praying together. One drawback of Zoom is how to clearly hear many voices pray or sing together. Katharine led us so reverently through meaningful prayers I still heard over 40 women's voices, albeit in my mind, praying in unison and stepping up to *Tikkun Olam*.

From the Daughters of the King

by *Glorius M. Sullivan*

We are in the season of Lent — a special penitential time set aside for prayer, confession, fasting, charity, mediation — a time of personal preparation as we journey towards Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and joyful Easter — the Day of Resurrection. In these forty days, I have learned that if I take this gift of time to examine how I live my life, repent, and make changes so that my life reflects the life God calls me to live, I feel “ready” for Easter — I have journeyed and been reminded of all that God has done for me — I have an increased sense of appreciation of His grace and am thankful for the gift of salvation. I am reminded of Joel’s words ([Joel 2:12-14](#)) “*Even now,*” declares the Lord, “*return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning. Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate.*”

Our Daughters are glad to be offering the service of the Stations of the Cross during Lent – not in the nave this year but via zoom. Come journey with us on line on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm. If you are unable to join us at that time, the service can be accessed for a solitary walk at any time. The link is in the Sunday bulletin, and on [St. B’s Website](#), under Ministries and then Daughters of the King.

We have also just begun reading [Love is the Way – Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times](#) by Bishop Michael Curry with Sara Grace. Taking the time to read this book now seems particularly right.

Sometimes, but especially this Lent, as I wander on my journey, I can “hear” our choir singing this offertory anthem, set to music by our organist Ted Davis from words by Frances Jane Crosby:

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, And it
told thy love to me,
But I long to rise in the arms of faith, And be closer
drawn to thee.
Draw me nearer to the cross, to thy precious bleeding
side.
Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, By the power
of grace divine;
Let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, And my
will be lost in thine.

We Daughters continue to keep our parish family, 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. These are difficult and painful times. We miss our families, physically being with one another, and COVID still takes its toll, and there are still many problems here at home and in the world — but giving thanks for our many blessings and asking God for strength and help and hope is one way we can all respond to these times. Prayer sustains — it lifts up and offers peace and promise.

The gift of prayer makes a difference, not only in our lives, but for those for whom we pray. 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 are now in their fifth month of Zoom learning and are settling into a nice online rhythm with Kangaroo (preK-grade 2) and Elephant (grades 3-5) cohorts led by Miss Ebony and Miss Jo Anne, respectively. Our St. B's children have been learning lots, but also having lots of fun, with plenty of "silly time" built in to keep them from getting screen fatigue.

This month's report will focus on the Elephants. Miss Jo Anne's Elephants have been learning not just from their Spark Bibles, but also through arts and crafts, doing puzzles, and having thoughtful discussions about Bible stories and what they mean to our lives today. The focus this past month was on discipleship—what it means to be a disciple, and how one can be a loyal disciple. They each discussed what THEY would have done if they were disciples in the time of Jesus, and how they can be disciples now. Miss Jo Anne also taught her class through discussions and an art project about how we can help others, even in small ways, in our everyday lives. Finally, to get her

Elephants ready for Lent, Miss Jo Anne had her class make drawings of Jesus carrying the cross, and they discussed what it means for us that Jesus went through what he did.

Participation in Children's Word has been steady, but there is always room for more, and newcomers are welcome any time! 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. Lent would be a great time for your child to join our Children's Word family!

— Steve is a member of the Kid's Council



D Group Digs into Job

by Steven Johnson

Greetings all! During this month, we have been looking at the story of the upright and faithful man Job. Job 1:1 says — *“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.”*

As a group, we looked into what being faithful, upright, and shunning evil means. We came to a conclusion that even though Job was a human with issues, and feelings, and NOT perfect, he loved God so much that he refused to knowingly do anything that would hurt God, or separate him from the love of God!! What a faithful person. During our Sunday meetings, we have not only talked about Job, we have opened our Bibles and dug into the word.

To give our Bible study even more of a flare, we acted out the trials that Job experienced. I must say, we had an amazing “Jobette” portrayed by our very own Audrey!! This provided our group a visual, as well as an auditory understanding of what exactly Job experienced. In addition, we broke down the Job experience into 3 categories:

1. Job lost. The Bible tells us in Job 1:13-22 that he lost his children, his possessions, his money, his cattle; Job even had battles with his health.
2. Job learned. We began to see that even though Job lost all he had during his time of great sorrow, he still found time to get closer to God, and he learned that even though grief, heartache, and

loss comes life. God is still there, and he loves us !! Hallelujah!! Job also learned that even in the midst of suffering, we must never lose our trust & faith in God. In Job chapter 13. Job says: *“Though he slay me, I will trust in him.”* No one and nothing can steal your joy or your peace when your hope is in God. Never lose your trust in God!!

3. Job Gains!! Job 42:12 tells us that God blessed Job more AFTER his suffering than he did BEFORE his suffering We see that God rewards our faithfulness. God reminded Job that if he (God) created the birds, and they don’t go without food, why would he not take care of him?!?!

In closing, our young people have been on fire during this Bible study. They have memorized scriptures associated with the study, and have come with a multitude of questions that are mind blowing!! Their thoughts and cerebral aptitude has helped to deepen our understanding of who Christ is. Remember; Jesus said in Matthew 6:25-34 *“Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?”* God will take care of you, just hold on, trust in him, and believe!!

— Steven is Coordinator of Youth Education



GROUP SCOOP

Get Ready for Youth Events!

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!

Sundays— *The Brunch Bunch*

Youth from the Diocese of Maryland (students from middle school to recent graduates and youth workers) are invited to come to **The Sunday Brunch Bunch** on Sundays from 12:30 — 2:30 pm for fun, fellowship, and formation. Our first four weeks will be a Lenten program focused on intentionality. We will have guest speakers, special prayer practices, and games to play. Please sign up for a [weekly reminder here](#). Use either of these links to join: <http://bit.ly/sundaybrunchmd> or <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88505613100>.

Journey to the Cross — Lenten Season Devotions

Journey to the Cross returns to d365.org. This series features scripture, prayer, and meditative thoughts accompanied by gentle music.

Saturday, April 17— *Happening Preview Day: "Faith Has No Bounds"!*

At the Claggett Center from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Diocesan youth staff will run a COVID-19 safe day that will highlight chosen aspects of the weekend retreat. Youth Talks/Testimonials, Small Groups, No contact games, Prayer, Adult Mentors. For youth in 8th to 12th grade.

Saturday, May 15— *New Beginnings Preview Day: "Dig a Little Deeper Into Your Faith"!*

At Camp Wright from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm. Diocesan youth design team will run a COVID-19 safe day that will highlight chosen aspects of the weekend retreat. Youth Talks/Testimonials, Small Groups, No contact games, Prayer, Adult Mentors. For youth in 5th through 8th grade.

There is no charge Happening or New Beginning Preview Day. A registration form for Preview Day can be found on the Diocesan Youth website (<http://episcopalmarylandyouth.weebly.com/>) or [here](#).

Faith Forum — For Adults and Older Youth

by Flo Ledyard

The chance to learn. How cool. Faith Forum is the chance to learn about different topics of interest as we all continue to grow as people of faith.

We gather on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month starting at 9:00 am with a hard finish by 9:45 am — so we all get a break before our gathering for worship at 10:00 am.

For March:

March 14: How to Lament

Lament is actually a significant part of our spiritual history and practice. The Bible is full of places where people and individuals lamented the state of affairs.

I suspect, however, most of us know how to be miserable but not how to actually lament. Probably more advantageous to lament.

So come join Corinne Bowmaker and some others who will share about How to Lament.

PS — That is the same day as Daylight Saving Time — so adjust your clocks!

March 28: The History of Women's Ordination

March is Women's History Month. Given St. B's history regarding the ordination of women (St. B's was the site of the first woman ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Maryland) — this a great topic for us.

Come join Joe Twist as he helps us understand the complicated journey to ordination for women, for those who supported it — and for those who did not.

— 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 28 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!

~ *Wednesdays in Lent* ~

Our Lenten Wednesday evenings begin at 5:30 pm with the **Stations of the Cross** on Zoom. The Zoom information for Stations is [here](#). This short service of prayers walks through the path our Lord took on the first Good Friday.

Then we gather for dinner (on Zoom) at 6:30 pm. Our series on **Christianity and Racism** begins at 7:00 pm. [Here](#) is the Zoom information for dinner and the Christianity and Racism program.

Christianity and Racism

Year One — Spring 2021

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 Year 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 & 10: 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 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! The Zoom link may be found [here](#) on our website.

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.

St. B's Goes to CEEP

The 2021 CEEP Network's Digital Annual Conference takes place March 3—5. St. Bartholomew's Church belongs to CEEP (Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Churches) and will be represented by Corinne Bowmaker, Bonnie Kutch, Flo Ledyard, Deirdre McElroy, and Diane Mountain.

Attendees will explore five main topic areas:

- Future Economic Models of the Church
- The Church as Third Place
- Racial Reckoning Within the Church
- Strategic Conversations
- Leadership in the Moment.

Keynote Speakers include

- ✦ **The Most Reverend Michael Curry**, Presiding Bishop and Primate, The Episcopal Church;
- ✦ **Catherine Meeks, PhD**, Executive Director, Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing;
- ✦ **Darren Walker**, President, The Ford Foundation;
- ✦ **The Reverend Kathleen Walker**, Missioner for Black Ministries, Diocese of North Carolina;
- ✦ **The Most Reverend and Right Honorable Justin Welby**, Archbishop of Canterbury;
- ✦ **The Reverend Dr. Sam Wells**, Vicar, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, England;
- ✦ and **The Reverend Azariah France-Williams**, Priest-in-Charge, Ascension Church, Manchester, England, and author of [Ghost Ship: Institutional Racism and the Church of England](#).

We look forward to learning about the conference from our folks! Watch for their reports and stories in the *April Apostle*.



Financial Position as of January 31, 2021

— Financial information is provided by John Schroeder, Treasurer

January 31, 2021	Current Month		Year to Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Income	56,012.90	48,613.99	56,012.90	48,613.99
Total Expenses	(52,034.17)	(51,258.98)	(52,034.17)	(51,258.98)
Difference	3,978.73	(2,644.99)	3,978.73	(2,644.99)

An Update from the Property Committee

by Dave Murray

Plans are being made to have all asbestos removed from the undercroft and a new drainage system installed around the perimeter of the lower level during the May 1 to June 30, 2021 timeframe. As a result, the 40 West operation will relocate into the 1st floor of the Parish House. Hope Harbor and the staff will also need to relocate. We're currently developing a project plan to be sure everything is considered.

This work is partially funded via a Challenge Grant from the Knott Foundation of \$15,000. The rest of the work will be paid via JIGSAW funds transferred to the 40 West account. With this funding in place, 40 West can count the cost of this work towards their State of Maryland Matching Grants that were secured in 2018/19 for JIGSAW. Both the asbestos removal and the drainage system were part of the JIGSAW project.

If anyone knows of a good contractor who can rebuild the Youth House front porch, please send their info to Dave Murray.

— Dave is a member of the Property Committee

Creation Caretakers Update

by Leah B. Kulp

St. B's green team, Creation Caretakers, has established monthly litter clean-ups along Route 40. We gather every third Saturday from 10 to Noon at St. B's parking lot. Grabbers, trash bags, pails, and reflective vests are provided for volunteers.

Here are some quotes from volunteers about past events:

- ✓ I felt good when a passerby rolled down their window and thanked me.
- ✓ My daughter and I spent a great fall morning helping with the cleanup. I'm glad we did! There were lots of other families and afterwards we could tell we'd made a difference at St. B's.
- ✓ Litter is unsightly but it can also lead to serious consequences for wildlife. Once I noticed a distress call from a vocal robin: its baby had plastic fish line wrapped around its leg. I cut the line and returned that baby to the nest.
- ✓ We owe each other to take care of ourselves and neighbors during this time of the pandemic. Picking up litter is one small way to do that.
- ✓ I've had as much fun working this morning as can be expected when you're picking up trash!
- ✓ I'm glad to do a little something to improve the landscape. Of course, much more still needs to be done.
- ✓ It is surprising what kinds of litter I've picked up along with fast food wrappers and single use liquor bottles: part of a car's plastic bumper, soggy paper face masks that pandemic-compliant citizens "disposed" of along the street, a bike tire, and lottery tickets. It's ironic that I collected 20 pieces of trash laying within 3 feet of a trash receptacle: the pieces included a banana peel and glass bottles, too heavy to have blown out of the can.
- ✓ A rider waiting at a bus stop watched me picking up trash, and when she finished her candy bar, she threw the wrapper in the trash can there. Hooray!
- ✓ I appreciate having the opportunity to help clean up our church neighborhood with the Creation Caretakers team. During the events I've met church and community members who also value how important it is to set an example and assist in keeping our city clean. Being able to be outside and active but still safe and socially distanced feels great as we work to make a positive difference in our community.

A volunteer from St. William of York Church also wrote this Advent reflection for their church newsletter based on their experience in November and December:

"What I say to you, I say to all: 'Watch!'"

(Mk 13:37)

Jesus wasn't referring to trash on Route 40 when he said this, but it still works. Picking up trash on a Saturday morning in December, taking the time to journey with others and clean away litter and trash (hubcaps? smashed donuts? abandoned pants?) — it's an image for Advent penitence. Pick up the trash that clutters our hearts! When we work with others to create a more beautiful Baltimore and a more beautiful world, we're also creating more beautiful homes in our souls for the King of Kings to be born. Come, Lord Jesus!

Please join us in our continuing effort to care for our City. Our next litter cleanup events will be held on March 20 and April 17.

— Leah is Chair of the Creation Caretakers

Outreach News

by Kim Flash

MLK FOOD DRIVE

Our heartfelt thanks to those who were able to contribute to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. food drive throughout the month of January. As many of you know, St. B's usually organizes a large food drive on MLK Day each year. This event was impossible to do while maintaining social distancing, so this year things looked a little different in that we asked for financial contributions directly to 40 West Assistance and Referral to fill the pantry shelves. Donors were entered to win five raffle prizes. Winners will be notified directly.

We are pleased to announce that this "virtual food drive" raised \$4525!

We cannot extend enough thanks for the generosity of this parish during these challenging times.

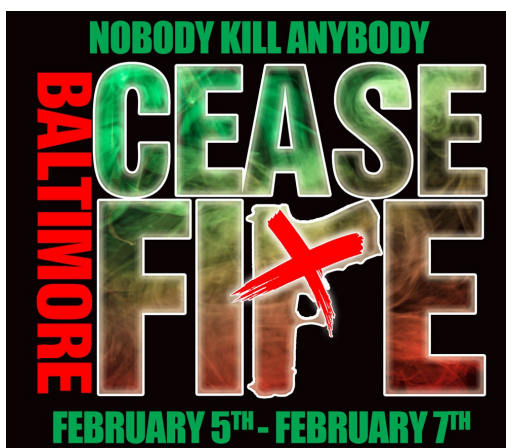
KIVA CONTINUES

If you have an interest in participating in our Kiva Micro-Lending Committee, which is the international "arm" of Outreach support, our next meeting is scheduled by Zoom for Wednesday, April 7, at 7:00 pm. Contact Kim Flash (keflash7@gmail.com) for more information.

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

Please continue to support this vital neighborhood organization that St. B's is in partnership with. See information in the weekly "What's Happening" for food supplies needed at MBK to give daily lunches to those in need in the Irvington community.

— Kim is Co-Chair of the Outreach Committee



Recap of February 2021 Baltimore Ceasefire/Peace Challenge Weekend

Day 1: 1 person taken by stabbing. RIpower. She matters to us! 13 life-affirming events.

Day 2: Zero shootings. Zero homicides. 18 life-affirming events.

Day 3: Zero shootings. Zero homicides. 12 life-affirming events.

Gospel Justice Group Sponsors Townhall Meeting with Councilman Burnett

by Charles Flexner

In response to our ongoing examination of police and policing in our community, the Gospel Justice Group of St. B's sponsored a virtual Town Hall Meeting with 8th District City Councilman Kristerfer Burnett on Wednesday February 10th from 6 to 7 pm. The meeting was open to all St. B's parishioners, who were asked to submit questions in advance, but was also opened to participants from several other 40 West churches. This first Town Hall drew over 70 participants, and elicited a lively discussion from the Councilman during a lengthy Q&A.

The meeting was opened with greetings and prayer from Reverend Flo, followed by introduction of the Councilman by Daphne Cover. Dana Rose served as moderator of the discussion.

Here is a list of the questions we received. Since the focus of this first Town Hall was meant to be policing and community safety, most of the 60 minutes was devoted to those topics.

Policing:

- Given the Capitol police response on Jan 6th, what is the BCPD doing to investigate and address officers who might be participants in extreme right-wing activity within the department? Does officer recruitment address this issue?
- Has officer training changed since the George Floyd murder? Again, the Jan 6th insurrection clearly showed the disparate police treatment of blacks and whites.
- What percentage of Baltimore City police officers are Baltimore City residents? Are measures being taken to increase that percentage, and how?
- Mental fitness is all about the good management of good mental health. Is the police department proactive in providing officers the assistance they need to be mentally fit on the job (and at home)?
- Although I don't agree with totally defunding the police, I do agree that funds can be allocated somewhere else within the BCPD. What areas of policing do you think could use more funding in order to cut down on police brutality and mistrust of the police within the black communities?
- In reference to police responding to calls concerning people with mental health issues and some of those incidents resulting in death. What training is being conducted to help aid police in dealing with cases that involve people with mental health issues? Do you think that police should be responding to these types of cases?
- I read a stat that 1-5 officers are involved in extreme right wing activities. 1 in 5 or 20%! Can the Councilman opine on this stat? This event was a game changer. Racism in the police ranks is no longer an isolated Officer given the department a bad look but is a severe systemic crisis. Where, how, who, and when do we take this issue seriously and address it? What are the short term and long term benefits and challenges? Who are the key stakeholders and how will they be held accountable? How can we, the faith community, be part of the solution and provide support during this journey?
- Can you explain the geographic focus that the police department has put forth in the Crime Reduction Strategy — deployment zones and District Action Teams? How does that police focus relate to what other agencies are doing? And how might community residents and institutions like churches support making these areas safer for residents?
- What kinds of conversations are happening with the southwest police department to help them serve the neighborhood better? What are their needs and the neighborhood's needs? Are there any new initiatives being considered?

Gospel Justice Group Sponsors Townhall Meeting with Councilman Burnett *(continued)*

- How safe will I be if I'm reporting a crime in my neighborhood? The concern: DAs have released 911 recordings to drug offenders.
- Why does it take so long for Police response, reporting a crime or the victim of a crime?
- The 911 response is often a busy signal. City Hall now runs the department, and the number of dispatchers has decreased from 30-60 to 8.
- Does the Neighborhood Block Program still exist? How do I start one in my neighborhood?
- Explain Baltimore City's low homicide clearing rate, i.e., arrest and court conviction rate. It's 30% now. It used to be 90%, a rate heralded by England's Scotland Yard, who approached BCPD for training in this regard.
- Can you give me some steps on how to stay safe in my area?
- There are fewer community service meetings. What plans are there to increase the frequency of these, and to publicize the upcoming meetings?
- There's no longer omnipresent community policing. Cops on the streets have been replaced by ineffective, non-relational tactics, e.g., the spy plane financed by external agencies. What plans are there to reinstate community policing?
- The Fraternal Union of Police is the governing body that holds the cards, and is mainly comprised of white men. Are there any plans to diversify this body to more accurately represent the city's populace and that of current police officers?
- Why are outside contractors employed to read our meters? This is not a difficult skill to train, and there are many eligible unemployed City residents.
- How many of the CCTV cameras are still operational?

Mental Health:

- What free mental services can the City promote for its resident population, particularly in this COVID era, for teens and up? Any resources or programs that can be more prominently promoted?

COVID vaccinations:

- Are you confident that the City will thoroughly distribute vaccinations throughout the city neighborhoods? Can you speak to the planning? Communications?
- What can we do to be helpful?

Term limits:

- Should city government officials be allowed to serve more than two terms in office? Do you think that removing career politicians can bring new and fresh ideas to effectively run Baltimore City?

Edmondson Village Shopping Center:

- What is happening with Edmondson Village Shopping Center? It is an important place in our neighborhood

Other:

- What do you see as the top three concerns in our part of your district? What do you want help with?

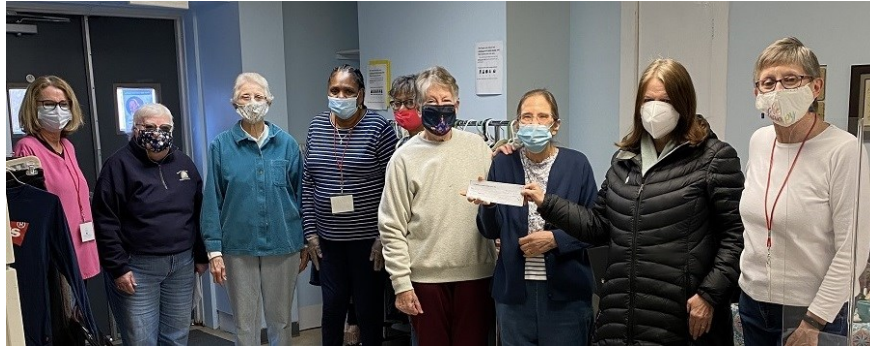
Obviously, there was not nearly enough time to get through this extensive list! We are already planning our next Town Hall, and would love to receive suggestions for topics from parishioners.

— Gospel Justice Group members include
Charles Flexner and Amanda Harris, Co-chairs;
Daphne Cover, Tamar Murdock Jennings,
Willis Keeling, Heather Neil, Dana Rose,
and Michael Sarbanes

40 West Receives Grants

by *Glorius M. Sullivan*

I am pleased to announce that the Catonsville Women's Giving Circle presented 40 West with a \$3,000 grant on February 10! Those receiving the check pictured



above are some of our volunteer staff and Board members (left to right) are Fran Finley (neighborhood resident), Carol Bailey (Board member and Treasurer) and Barbara Knauf (both of Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church), Peggy Dorsey (neighborhood volunteer), Cheryl Murdock (Board member from The New Hope Christian Church), Susan Lundin (our Food Manager, of St. Bartholomew's), Glorius Sullivan (Chairman, from St. Bartholomew's) Jackie Graves of the Catonsville Women's Giving Circle, and Director Peggy McMillan (Board member, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church).

The Maryland Food Bank, through their CARES and other grants, awarded 40 West a TEFAP Flash Grant of \$4,000 to assist with equipment related to food distribution. TEFAP is The Emergency Food Assistance Program — a federal food program that we supplement and distribute monthly through 40 West. In addition, the Maryland Food Bank is also providing grants through March 31, as credits to the food we order in bulk through their organization. They have been extraordinary in providing assistance to agencies in these pandemic times.

We are delighted to share the news that the MLK virtual Food Drive and Raffle — donations of money this year due to the COVID pandemic — raised \$4,525! Sponsored each year by St. Bartholomew's Outreach Committee, we especially give thanks to Committee members Kim Flash and David Mountain, co-chairs, and Charles Flexner, MLK Food Drive Coordinator extraordinaire, for their vision and organizing skills for planning this event. Donations came from many St. B's folks and other supporters

new to us. And, TADA, our raffle prize winners were Inez Haynie Dodson, Daphne Cover, Nicete Moodie, Dan & Carla McGrain and Felicia Holloway. It is

heartwarming to know how important this ministry is to so many!

When we changed from our outside drive-through process due to winter weather in November and returned to our usual inside office hours, we had a slower than expected volume of clients. The pandemic caused many people to curtail pre-COVID routines. Our Director Peggy McMillan reports that many of our 40 West clients are starting to return to our inside venue. We have been reaching out into the neighborhood and publicizing our service and hours, and stating how we have made 40 West safe by sanitizing the offices, wearing masks, keeping a six-foot distance between people, asking every client to sanitize their hands, and only allowing one person in the lobby at a time. For our TEFAP distribution in February, 40 households came in for food on one day! And with Spring will come warmer weather and "Pantry on the Go", our outside food distribution. These monthly events will begin on April 27, and afterwards we plan to be distributing outside again. Hopefully, the climate and COVID situation will be much improved.

We are truly blessed to have so very many supporters from numerous areas and all the various grants we have received as well as the amazing number of willing hands to help in this ministry! We give thanks for all the wonderful gifts — donations of money, volunteering time in the office, and receiving and packing and distributing the food — from all who share in this ministry through 40 West!

— *Glorius is Chair of the 40 West Assistance and Referral Center Board of Directors*

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).

Hope Harbor Presents "The Power of Play"

THE POWER OF PLAY

UNDERSTANDING, COMMUNICATING, AND CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN THROUGH PLAY

WHO?

THIS EVENT IS INTENDED FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS, COMMUNITY WORKERS, AND ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING ABOUT CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN AND UNDERSTANDING THEIR MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH PLAY, ESPECIALLY DURING THIS ONGOING PANDEMIC.

WHEN?

THURSDAY
MARCH 18, 2021
7-8PM

WHERE?

ZOOM
TEXT (443) 353-7432
FOR THE MEETING LINK



WITH SPECIAL GUEST:

Dr. Rachel Attwater

CHILD PSYCHOLOGIST & PLAY THERAPIST
OWNER, CREATIVE PSYCHOLOGICAL HEALTH SERVICES

More Virtual BINGO with Hope Harbor!



Tired of not being able to go out and socialize?
Want to interact with others in a safe environment?
Interested in supporting a good cause?

Join Hope Harbor as we have fun playing Bingo virtually
Saturday March 20, 2021
2:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Tickets are \$20.00 (plus processing fee) for one card
Additional cards are \$10.00 apiece
Purchase tickets at Eventbrite through this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-bingo-tickets-143000974765>



*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; 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; Michele Pearson; Melody Pitts; Anne Lane; Tim Wolf; Steven Johnson; Pam Hall and family; James Graham; Cathy Brookman; 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; 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; Dee Beilstein; Sara Fox Robinson; Sean Fitzsimmons; Dan Toomey; Gerry Ash; Timmy Johnson; Rick and Janet M.; Cheryl Horton; Kevin, Janice, and their family; 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.

Refreshing the Prayer List

We will be creating a fresh Prayer List on Easter Sunday, April 4. If you wish to have a name remain on the Prayer List, or if you wish to add a name, please email the Office (Office@stbs-md.org). Thank you.

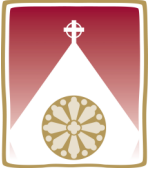
**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the April issue of *The Apostle* is Monday, March 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.
