



The APOSTLE

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

December 2021

Transitions

by Kathleen Schotto

Transitions happen throughout our lives. We transition from baby to toddler to preschooler without even knowing that it is happening. Sometimes transitions are marked with fanfare and ceremony in graduations, weddings, and parties. I've been thinking quite a bit about all of these, as I am soon to participate in a new transition; a next step along the path. On December 4, I will be ordained a Deacon in the Church of God. It is breathtaking to know that this is happening.

This is the next step on my path to priesthood. A path that started way back in the fog of time. The fog began to clear four years ago when I entered discernment and faded entirely three years ago when I was an intern at St. B's. I will be a "transitional" deacon; meaning that, God willing and the people consenting, I will be ordained as a priest sometime in mid-2022. As our Rector reminds me frequently, however, I will forever be a deacon — it is not truly a transition as it is something that will never leave me.

A portion of the charge of the deacon, as indicated in the ordination service, is "to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, work, and worship." (BCP 543) It is a charge that, to quote our baptismal covenant, requires us to "seek and serve Christ in all people." The community here at St. Bartholomew's does this work extraordinarily well.

The deep beauty for me is that my time at St. B's as intern and member has formed me in ways that I will always carry with me. The joy and love with which this community, both clergy and lay people, move through the world and find ways to bring God's presence to all people is inspiring and truly Spirit-filled.

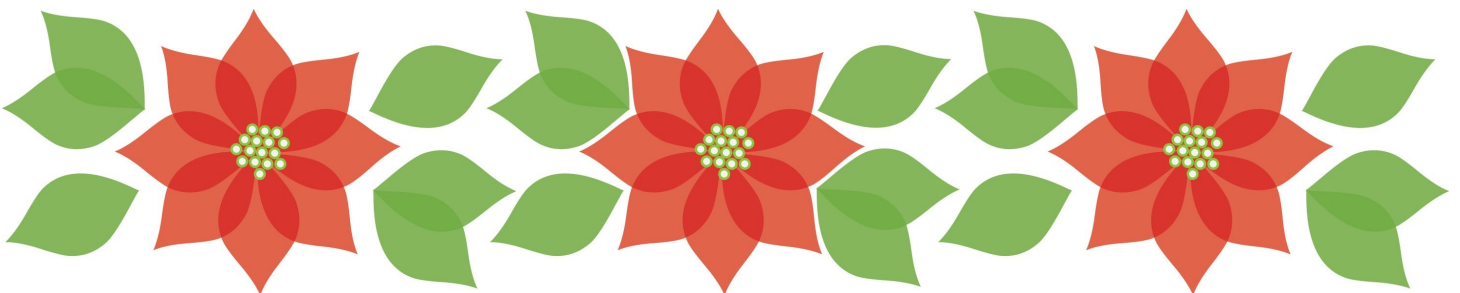
Thank you, St. Bartholomew's, for all you have been to me these last three years. While I believe I would be where I am without this community I am so very grateful that to have all of you with me.

— Kathleen is St. B's Senior Year Seminarian
at Virginia Theological Seminary

Please see Kathleen's invitation on page 2!

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An Addendum from Kathleen:

Please celebrate this transition with me! On Saturday, December 4 at 11:00 am, five of us will be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. Expect a full house! The service takes place at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore and will be livestreamed (at <http://bit.ly/edomlive>). It is expected that those who attend in person be fully vaccinated and masked.



Worship at St. B's

Join us for worship! We worship in the Church at 8:00 and 10:30 am. Please wear a mask and practice compassionate distancing. **You can also join us for our 10:30 am worship on Zoom.**

Here's how you can join us on Zoom at 10:30 am:

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: (301)-715-8592

AND, you can come early to have some fun at our Zoom Coffee Hour.

"Take Out @ St. B's"



On Saturday, December 18, 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 Christmas, Epiphany, and the First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ, 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.

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

Please email names — and indicate whether “In Memory of” or “In Thanksgiving for” — to Maggie (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org) by Wednesday, December 15.

Contributions may be mailed to the office or given online at <https://www.osvhub.com/stbs-md/funds>.



Christmas Eve 2021 — Let's Do This Again!

by Kathleen Schotto

Hello all! I am back again — for the fourth year! — to direct the Christmas Pageant. Given vaccines, and numbers dropping at least at the moment, we have been giving a good deal of thought to what the pageant should look like.

Since last year's video pageant was such a smashing success we have decided to do it this way again! In this way, kids from near and far will be able to participate, families do not have to make decisions about attending worship in person, parts can be videoed on families' own time, and if plans are made to travel all the children can still participate!

There are even plans being made for those local to come and borrow some of the costumes to use in your video recording. We hope that this will again be a fun and impactful experience for the kids.

So, be on the lookout for an email from me with more details, and start thinking about kids you know (yours, neighbors, nieces, nephews, cousins, grandkids....the floor is wide open!) who might want to participate. Feel free to reach out to me at any point with names or questions! I can always be reached at kmschotto@yahoo.com.

— Kathleen is St. B's Senior Year Seminarian at Virginia Theological Seminary and Pageant Director



Join in on the **Greening of the Church** after the 10:30 service on Sunday, December 19.

All hands are welcomed to help prepare the church for Christmas services.

Christmas Worship at St. B's in the Church and on Zoom



Friday, December 24
Christmas Eve Family Service
and Children's Pageant at 4:00 pm

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

Saturday, December 25
Christmas Eucharist at 10:30 am

Sunday, December 26
Holy Eucharist with Christmas Lessons at 8:00 am.
Holy Eucharist with Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10:30 am

Available Online . . .

On Our [Website](https://stbs-md.org/media/) (https://stbs-md.org/media/):

- ~ "A Moment of Peace and Quiet" — a digital devotion.
- ~ Recordings of St. B's worship services.

And on our ["Music at St. Bartholomew's -Baltimore" YouTube Channel](#):

- ~ Virtual Choral Evensong (recorded June 13)
- ~ The 14th edition of Bach at St. Bartholomew's

A Note from the Worship Committee

by Glorius Sullivan

I am very pleased to announce that Keith and Adrienne Haynie will be the new Co-Directors for scheduling readers and communion assistants for the 10:30 am worship services beginning January 1, 2022!

It has been my pleasure to serve in this capacity for the past two years. Please welcome them as they begin their new ministry!

— Glorius is Chair of the Worship Committee

Sweet Darkness

Shared by Janet Aldrich

How lovely to think of darkness as sweet! So often we avoid it, burning our lamps late into the night; blazing the flashlights on our gadgets; setting our clocks ahead one hour to preserve daylight (not now, but again next year, perhaps for good?!). In essence, depriving our senses of true introspection in lieu of outward satisfaction. Like Time, the perception of which we often warp with the pace of our daily lives (see poem choice from last month!), Night can be our “womb.” It can “give [us] a horizon/further than [we] can see.” This is the Great Paradox, again! Darkness strips us of many distractions and causes us to rely on our innate senses. It invites us to “Give up all the other worlds...” (artificial light, fear, impatience) to settle into the “sweet/confinement of [our]aleness” to feel (and trust!) deep within ourselves the profound sense(s) of being ALIVE. David Whyte is among my favorite poets for his invitation to pilgrimage. Be a pilgrim into the dark this Advent. Keep your Advent wreath handy, but give the candles a rest once in a while to savor sweet darkness.

Sweet Darkness

When your eyes are tired
the world is tired also.

When your vision has gone
no part of the world can find you.

Time to go into the dark
where the night has eyes
to recognize its own.

There you can be sure
you are not beyond love.

The dark will be your womb
The night will give you a horizon
further than you can see.

You must learn one thing.
The world was made to be free in.

Give up all the other worlds
except the one to which you belong.

Sometimes it takes darkness and the sweet
confinement of your aleness
to learn

anything or anyone
that does not bring you alive

is too small for you.

~~ David Whyte, from *The House of Belonging*

Choir School of West Baltimore

Do you know a child who likes to sing?

A new free choral and music education program at
St. Bartholomew's Church, 4711 Edmondson Avenue,
Baltimore, MD 21229

(church membership at St. B's or any faith-based organization is not required)

Open to all children in grades 3 - 8



- Professional vocal training. No previous training required.
- Piano lessons
- Development of leadership and social skills
- Opportunities to perform in the community
- Engagement in music appreciation and a wider world
- Having fun and making new friends

After-school and weekend classes start soon. Tuition-free.

If interested, contact Dr. Ted Davis, 410-241-1585 or ted@stbs-md.org

Virtual Advent Lessons and Carols Is Coming December 5

by *Ted Davis*

Invite a friend, whether near or far, to join us for Advent Lessons & Carols on YouTube Live on Sunday December 5!

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. Advent is a particularly good season to carve out a moment for prayer. And Advent Lessons and Carols has a special aura that many report is soul-enriching, and a lovely way to close the weekend and spiritually fortify for the week and season 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 St. B's Organist and Choirmaster*

The solemnity
and beauty of *Advent*
Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 5

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 November 16:

- The Vestry approved a motion regarding the annual distribution of the Endowment Fund presented by the Funds Committee.
- The Welcome Taskforce presented ideas for extending efforts to welcome visitors into the St. B's community
- The Vestry approved a motion supporting payment of the Diocesan annual assessment in full.

At their meeting on November 23:

- Michael Mountain presented a report on the Church's efforts to live-stream services.
- The Vestry approved a motion for the purchase of additional audio and visual equipment to enhance the Church's ability to broadcast worship services.
- Jason Benkoski presented a report on the proceedings of the Diocesan Convention.

The next regular meetings, scheduled on December 21 and 28 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.

Diocesan Convention Highlights

by Laura Brady

The 237th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland was originally scheduled via Zoom on November 13, 2021, and in person on November 14th, 2021. Due to the ongoing pandemic, a small quorum of people met onsite at the Diocesan Center while others joined via zoom on Saturday, November 14th, 2021.

Voting took place in advance via ElectionBuddy. Laurie Brady (Lay Delegate), Jason Benkoski (Alternate Lay Delegate), Florence Ledyard (Rector) and Neva Brown (Deacon) met in advance via Zoom to discuss the slate of candidates. This is extremely helpful! In some cases, one of us may know a candidate or the person making the nomination. This allows us to share insight not included on the bio and/or nomination information that is published. Of

course, each of us still makes their own decision on who to vote for!

Here is a recap of the election results along with those still serving:

- *Diocesan Chancellor and Parliamentarian*
- *Dispatcher of Business*
- *Chief Teller*
- *Sergeant of Arms*
- *Archivist*
- *Historiographer*
- *Secretary*

APPOINTMENTS BY BISHOP to be confirmed by convention

- *Committee on Canons and Other Business*
- *Middendorf Revolving Fund*

Diocesan Convention Highlights *(continued)*

- *Commission on Ministry*
- *Claggett Center Board of Trustee*

NOMINATIONS BY DIOCESAN COUNCIL to be elected by convention: (this group is listed as elected by convention, but not a true election as there are not multiple candidates – these selections are put forth by council).

- *Treasurer*
- *Assistant Treasurer*
- *Auditors*
- *Investment Committee*

Elections were held for positions on the following committees:

- *Compensation and Benefits Committee*
Convention elected one lay person and one cleric until 2024
- *Diocesan Council Member at Large: Convention elected two lay persons and one cleric until 2024*
- *Disciplinary Board: Convention elected two lay persons and one cleric until 2024*
- *Standing Committee: Convention elected one lay person and one cleric until 2025 (also, one cleric to fill vacant seat)*

Convention opened with morning prayer with a homily given by Bishop Ihloff about truth and justice

Five resolutions were presented for consideration by Convention. These were considered using a modified Robert's Rules of Order (to account for Zoom participation). All resolutions passed with no modifications.

- ✓ Resolution 2021-01 Title: Clergy and Lay Employee Compensation
- ✓ Resolution 2021-2 Title: Amendments to the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. (This was put forth in order to assist with holding convention via Zoom.)
- ✓ Resolution 2021-3 Title: Regarding the Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment
- ✓ Resolution 2021-04 Title: Regarding African American History in Public Schools – Development of Content Standards and implementation

- ✓ Resolution 2021-05 Title: Regarding House Resolution 40 – Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act

Additional business transacted at convention:

- A certificate was given to The Rev. Phebe McPherson to honor her as the first woman ordained in the diocese.
- Convention was given an opportunity to ask questions on the Treasurers Report, which was provided in Convention Journals.
- Convention was provided an update on the Standing Committee and the Bishop Coadjutor Search Committee. The actions taken by the Standing Committee in the last year are listed in the Convention Journals. Information on the search can be found on the Diocesan website: <https://episcopalmaryland.org/bishop-search/>.
- A report on General Convention was given by Caroline Bomgardner. General Convention will be held in Baltimore in 2022. Sign-ups for volunteers will be open in January.
- A motion was presented to change the name of the newly combined Hoy Apostles Arbutus and St Stephens Lutheran Arbutus to Holy Apostles and St Stephens Arbutus.
- A motion was presented to allow for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor in 2023.

Convention closed with an address from Bishop Sutton regarding the change in the world and how the Diocese of Maryland is doing. The theme was "We have good bones."

Additional Convention information can be found on the Diocesan website: <https://episcopalmaryland.org/diocesan-governance/diocesan-convention/>

Diocesan Convention Dates for 2022 are November 11th & 12th at Turf Valley.

— *Laura is St. B's Lay Delegate*

Welcome!

Almost every week, even in these pandemic times, new faces join us for worship here at St. B's — some in person and others on Zoom. 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 Kate Riley, Dylan Barnard, and Beric Barnard!

by Bryan MacKay

A warm St. B's welcome to Kate Riley and Dylan Barnard, and their son Beric! Kate and Dylan first came to St. B's in 2019 after the start of the pandemic, so not everyone may have met them yet. However, if they look familiar, it may be because Beric was baptized a few weeks ago.

Kate is employed as the Diocese Youth Missioner, and came to know St. B's through our youth program. (The Diocese often holds youth events at our centrally located Youth House.) She formed warm relationships with Rev. Flo, the Clarks, Amanda Harris, Maggie Caldwell, and members of our "D group." Once she and Dylan started a family, they wanted to belong to a parish with a commitment to outreach and Christian mission, and St. B's filled the bill. Both Kate and Dylan sometimes have to work on Sundays, so you may see Beric at church with the Schottos or Clarks, but otherwise the family will make the trek to St. B's from their home in Parkville.

Dylan is a chef at a rehab center and has a heart for all things sci-fi and fantasy. Their dog Neffi is more like a gargoyle than a dog, but very sweet. Dylan and Kate have been together for almost ten years.

A photo is included with this article, so be sure to introduce yourself to Kate, Dylan, and Beric when you next see them in church. Welcome!



— *Bryan is Chair of the Newcomers Committee*

From the Daughters of the King

by Dana Rose

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"... The season of Advent and Christmas is a time to hope, give thanks, share, pray, rejoice and reflect.

During this time, the Daughters will be reaching out in the spirit of the season to members of St. B's and to our friends and neighbors in West Baltimore. And we request and welcome your participation!

We will be collecting new mittens and gloves for the children and youth of 40 West through **Monday, December 13**. The collection basket will be in the Tower Room and labeled accordingly.

New Mitten & Glove Drive!

Benefiting the Children & Youth of 40 West

Please place your donation here

Thank you! The Margaret Rollo Chapter of the Daughters of the King.



A virtual "**Quiet Day**" has been scheduled for **Thursday, December 30 from 10:00 am to 12 noon**. During this two hour period, you will be guided through a series of meditations, prayers, and group discussions by a skilled leader. It is a cherished time of reflection and renewal in preparation for the New Year. The Quiet Day theme and the leader will be revealed shortly...stay tuned!

Your **special prayer requests** are always welcome and held in confidence by our Daughters. Please send your prayer request to Glorius Sullivan via phone (410-644-8110) or email (chgl@verizon.net).

"Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel"...

— Dana is President of the Margaret Rollo Chapter of the Daughters of the King



2022 Women's Retreat led by Katharine Armentrout and Flo Ledyard

Friday, January 28 and Saturday, January 29, 2022

The Edge of the World: Return, Stay, Go A Celtic Perspective

Do you ever feel like you are standing on the edge of the world - on a precipice between what is familiar and what the future will be? Do you ever feel overwhelmed by the choices we have before us? If so, you are not alone! Our Women's Retreat will give us a chance to share our thoughts, fears, and excitement about where we are standing in the world right now and what choices we can make.

We will learn about an exquisite Celtic spiritual notion called the Edge of the World, meet people who have exemplified each possible response, and then explore our own choices .

And then we will examine spiritual practices to support wherever we choose to journey.

The retreat this year will be at St Bartholomew's Church — and via Zoom.

Please register!!! It will be really helpful and important for us to know who is coming and how.

You can register by contacting Maggie Caldwell at mcaldwell@stbs-md.org or call the Office (410-945-7263) and leave a message. And please let us know if you will be attending in person or on Zoom.

We will begin Friday at 7:30 pm. (Dinner will be available for those who will be on site starting at 6:30 pm.)

Saturday we will begin at 9:00 am. (Breakfast will be available at 8:00 am for those attending on site).

We will end Saturday evening.

Meals will be catered for those on site.

Men's Retreat at the Claggett Center

"Reconnect, Regather, Restore"

Friday, February 11 — Sunday, February 13, 2022

Join men from throughout the dioceses of Maryland and Washington for a weekend retreat designed to grow relationships with God and neighbor. Featuring keynote speaker the Rev. Rick Laribee, joyful music, home-cooked meals, fellowship around the fireplace, and more! The Men's Retreat is anchored by large-group worship, including a special Saturday Healing Service and small groups where attendees build trusting relationships and grow in their faith. Throughout the weekend, there is ample time for rest and fellowship (including the favorite all-weather cornhole tournament!)

The Rev. Rick Laribee, priest-in-charge at Christ Church, West River will offer this year's keynote sessions, celebrating a return to gathering at Claggett, in churches, and elsewhere in our lives. Explore where God has been at work in the last years, and where God is moving now.

Rick grew up on the Florida Keys — where he served as deckhand for his father, a fishing and diving guide. Thus began his life-long love for the sea.

Pastoring churches in two denominations gave Rick the opportunity to study, explore, and deeply experience the classic spiritual disciplines in community from different perspectives. In addition to teaching in American colleges, his teaching at the American University of Iraq (Sulaimania, Iraq) gave him the opportunity to study, explore, and experience the three Abrahamic religions from within birthplace in the Middle East.

A passionate traveler, Rick has explored and photographed natural, cultural, historical and religious sites in Israel, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, Greece, Italy, China, Mexico, Central America, South America, Wales, Scotland, England, Spain, Canada, the US, and the Caribbean.

In retirement, Rick continues to enjoy sailing, speaking, writing, exploration, and discovery.

2021 Rates

- Single-occupancy lodging in the Christiane Inn: \$275
- Double-occupancy lodging in the Christiane Inn: \$240
- Single-occupancy Inn (one night): \$223
- Double-occupancy Inn (one night): \$208
- ****NEW**** Online access to keynote sessions: \$25

You may click [here](#) to register.

Additional information about payments, scholarships, or cancellations may be found [here](#).



Epiphany Sankofa Circles Are Coming!

by Diane Mountain

St. Bartholomew's offers small groups for sermon discussion and fellowship -- We call them Sankofa Circles.

You'll be hearing more about them during the Advent and Christmas seasons. Look for signups at the start of 2022!

— Diane is a member of the Sankofa Circle Planning Team



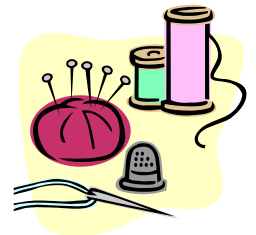
Prayer Shawls and Sewing Bees

The Prayer Shawls Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Parish House and on Zoom. We 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.



Please contact Leigh Snowden at lsnowde1@msn.com for more information or for the Zoom link.

St. B's Sewing Bees meet on the 2nd Monday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Hardy home for crafting and fellowship. Any sort of handwork is encouraged—knitting, quilting, cross-stitch, scrapbooking, etc.



For information about the St. B's Sewing Bees, please contact Sharon Selleck at scobleselleck@gmail.com.

Take Time to Learn, People!

by Flo Ledyard

Our faith is full of wonder and intrigue. Learning about it is fun and soul catching. It also makes our faith more alive and interesting. So that's why we offer Christian Formation/Education to everyone in different ways.

Even in our **Cribbery**, Dona and our wee ones are learning stuff. The Cribbery is open on Sunday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon for infants and children up through age 5.

Children's Word is awesome for Elephants and Kangaroos. During the Sequence Hymn, children ages 3 to grade 5 are invited to follow their teachers to the Undercroft. Children at home may join us on Zoom. Kangaroos (age 3—grade 2) meet in the Rector's Office; Elephants (grades 3—5) meet in the Copier Room. The [Kangaroo Zoom link is here](#). And the [Elephant Zoom link is here](#). Newcomers, friends, and parents are welcome to come along.

The **D Group** is uniquely attentive to our youth. Young people in grades 6 through 12 meet 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. Come for fun, fellowship, and faith -- and invite a friend

As adults, we have

Faith Forum on Sundays between the services. We gather via Zoom on alternate Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:00 am. You can find the Zoom link for Faith Forum [here](#) on our website.

So here are our offerings for the month of December:

On December 5th - The DuBois Circle with the Reverend Canon Sandye Wilson

The DuBois Circle is the oldest black women's organization in Baltimore. It was founded in 1906. Sandye Wilson is a member of this organization. She is presently serving in the US Virgin Islands. She will join us to share this group's fascinating ministry.

On December 19th - The Reverend George Bragg with Corinne Bowmaker

An Episcopal priest, he served as Rector of St James Church in Baltimore from 1891 'til his death in 1940. His legacy is intriguing and amazing.

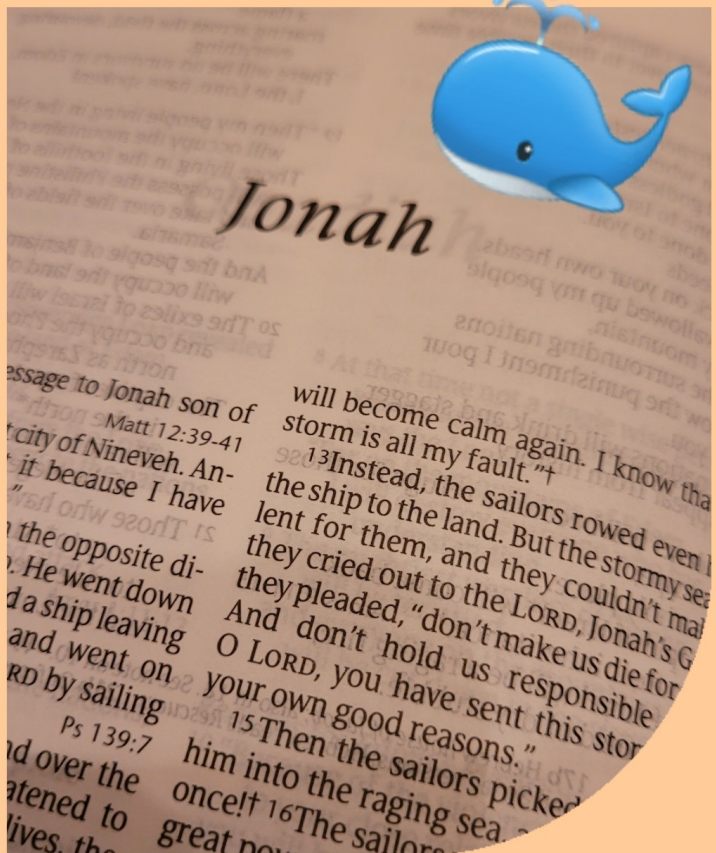
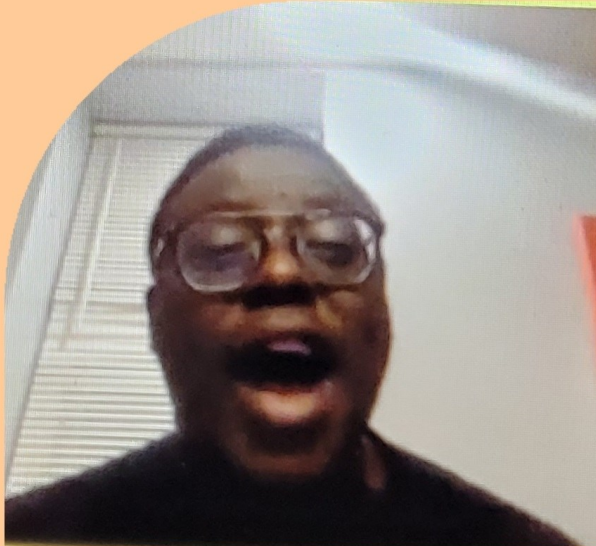
Episcopal 102 which has 2 parts: one for Bible Study and one to learn about the Episcopal Church because we are actually pretty interesting. The "Scripture" group meets on Mondays from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. And the "Church" group meets on Wednesdays, also from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Contact The Reverend Carol Burnside at shinyredtruck@msn.com or text/call at 410-440-7394, or email Maggie Caldwell (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org) for the Zoom link.

Sankofa Circles which are small groups that meet once a week to share thoughts about the sermon. New groups will be forming in January!

So, lots of ways to learn and grow as people of faith. Hope you will find one you will like during the month of December. All are Zoom-possible (well, except the Cribbery).

— Flo is St. B's Rector

D-Group!





GROUP SCOOP

Get Ready for D-Group!

St. B's D-Group meets on Sundays from 5:00 to 6:30 pm. We met outdoors at the Youth House while the weather was nice. And now we're meeting on Zoom. If you need the Zoom link, please contact Leaders Kathie or Marty Clark (peaceclark1@gmail.com). Gather for fun, fellowship, and faith. Invite a friend!

Weekly Online Gathering

Youth in 6th grade through recent high school graduates are invited to join friends from around the Diocese at the **Weekly Online Gathering** on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Come for games, check-ins, prayers, and fellowship! Come for any or all! We're at <https://bit.ly/episcotime>.

Happening 15!

Faith Is a Highway — I Wanna Live It All Life Long

February 11 to 13

Happening is a national program for youth in grades 9 through 12, designed, staffed, and run by Episcopal youth! This weekend will deepen your relationship with Jesus and connections with those on similar spiritual journeys. Happening takes place at the Claggett Center. Click [here](#) to register.



Eli — Samuel — Saul — and the Great King David

by *The Reverend Thelma Smullen and Chuck Sullivan*

On September 28, 2021, 17 faithful souls began an 8-week Bible Study of two of the most intriguing books of the Old Testament — 1st and 2nd Samuel. These two books continue to impact history up to and including the present day.

What follows is a short reflection about our study written by Ms. Judy Schneider, a faithful participant of our group:

“Then the Lord said to Samuel, ‘do as they say and give them a king.’” 1 Sam. 8:21

Murder, mass slaughter, adultery, rape, incest — not a Greek or Shakespearean tragedy — not even reruns of that old 80s soap opera, *Peyton Place*. Rather, these mark just some of the events in the Old Testament books of 1 and 2 Samuel.

The Tuesday Bible Study group has been discussing and dissecting these books over the past eight weeks. The books of Samuel outline how Israel transitioned from a tribal society to monarchical society. They document the rise of David from shepherd boy who slays Goliath, to become King of all Israel. Both books are rife with human sin and God’s forgiveness, albeit not without consequences.

Helen Langa (retired Art History professor) further enriched our study by presenting sculptures and paintings, with commentary, of several key figures - David, Bathsheba, Amnon, and Tamar.

During our time together we engaged in lively debate and discussion. But one take away on which the group would probably unanimously agree: Old Testament study is not for the faint of heart!

— *Thelma and Chuck are Facilitators
of the Tuesday Zoom Bible Study*

Financial Position as of October 31, 2021

— *Financial information is provided by John Schroeder, Treasurer*

October 31, 2021	Current Month Actual	Current Month Budget	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget
Total Income	75,074.91	48,613.91	526,075.10	486,139.18
Total Expenses	(47,286.22)	(51,258.76)	(489,284.09)	(512,587.82)
Difference	27,788.69	(2,644.85)	36,791.01	(26,448.64)

One Candle at a Time

by Sara Schroeder

Here we are again, at the beginning of the liturgical year. Welcome Advent! Welcome all of the anticipation that you bring! That's really what it is all about, isn't it? Anticipation and hope. Anticipation of the wonderful gift that Christ is to us. Hope in all of the possibilities that Christ's love for us brings.

In the context of stewardship, that has real meaning. The way that we care for our gifts, for each other, for the world makes us agents of that hope. In a real way we welcome in the Christ every day in our lives by the way that we offer ourselves to each other and to the work that is meaningful to us. This Advent, perhaps that is one way to think of the lights on the Advent Wreath. Lighting the candles one by one, week by week, anticipating the ways that we might be agents of hope in the coming Christmas season and in the year ahead.



Welcome Advent!

— Sara is Chair of the Stewardship Committee

Some Property Updates

by Dave Murray

1. All roof repairs on both the Church and the Parish House have been completed.
2. Walls were scraped and painted in the Church stairway where water leaks had deteriorated the paint.
3. The stairs by the red, back door of the church have been painted.
4. Chair rails were installed in the 40 West hallway.
5. Ted built new shelving for the music library and choir robe racks in his office.
6. Work has been proceeding to prep the office level of the Undercroft for "move-in." This includes hanging bulletin boards & pictures, connecting phones, staining woodwork, and setting up desks and furniture.
7. Boiler repairs have been made and a maintenance schedule is being prepared to ensure it stays operational.
8. The closing mechanisms on several doors in the church have been repaired.

Next Up: Finish preparations on the office level for move-in, and patch the driveway west of the Parish House.

— Dave is a member of the Property Committee

Finance Committee Update

by Mike Haynie

Nine months ago, the Vestry passed the St. Bartholomew's 2021 faith budget. The Finance Committee followed with an Apostle article which spoke of the importance of putting financial faith into action. The 2021 budget was built on the premise we would be fully operational as a parish by late spring. Unfortunately, we needed to wait a bit longer to be able to come back to church in person in late June. GOD intervened and guided us in community together.

“GOD IS GREAT.” The conscientious effort and concern each of you have displayed in your commitment to the church financially has been amazing. Not only in pledges, but the support of the annual Flea Market which enjoyed one of its best years on record.

- Our pledge income (which is over 90% of income) is within \$6,000 dollars of what we expected this year to date. \$415,482.75 (actual) of \$421,250.00 (budget).
- Given how we worshipped virtually much of the year, operational expenses were not as significant as they would be if we were fully operational, so we are stable at the bottom line.
- It is important to note the Payroll Protection Program monies (PPP) were applied in 2020, but were forgiven in April of this year. This created a positive year-to-date balance in our budget. However, I ask you not to consider this in your financial commitment as much of this forgiven loan was used to address the capital needs of the church, including a new roof.

The Finance Committee is expecting the 2021 budget to come in close to break-even. (I have NOT calculated the PPP monies as part of this scenario.) It is the support of pledge and open plate income which we rely on and our ask is:

- Pay your 2021 pledges prior to December 31st if you can do so. You may contact John DeVale if there is a need to communicate any concerns regarding your 2021 pledge.

- If you can give more than your pledge amount for 2021 to help assist with our continually outreach needs, please consider doing so.
- If you were not able to pledge this year, open plate is an option for giving what you can. I also ask you prayerfully consider pledging for 2022. Pledge cards are available on the stewardship page of our website. <https://stbs-md.org/stewardship/>

Finally, your Finance Committee has been diligently meeting this entire year and has taken on two significant projects in a subcommittee format:

- Defining Major Maintenance and Capital Expenses has been identified as an imperative as we begin to address the physical needs of our church and how to fund the ever-growing list of projects.
- Developing a formula for doing multiple year budgets so we can better anticipate our operational and capital needs. This should allow us to communicate well in advance the financial needs of the church and opportunity to develop strategies of funding.

We thank each one of you for your pledges and offerings in support of our beloved St. B's.

— Mike is Chair of the Finance Committee

Finance Committee Members:

Drew Brown

Corinne Bowmaker

Bates Churchill

Robin Murray

The Rev. Flo Ledyard, Rector

Angel Jackson- Senior Warden

Michael Sarbanes- Junior Warden

John Schroeder- Treasurer

John DeVale- Assistant Treasurer

Bonnie Kutch (Vestry Rep.)

Dick Parker- (Vestry Rep.)

Gordon Piché (Vestry Rep.)

Hard Choices for Trash Disposal

by Leah Kulp

When it comes to trash disposal, there are only hard choices. For Baltimore County, its sole landfill, the Eastern Sanitary Landfill in White Marsh, is reaching capacity and will become inoperable by 2027. Below is a link to a Baltimore Sun article from November 5, 2021 about it, and the County's plan for a three-pronged efforts to address the issue:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/baltimore-county/bs-md-co-eastern-sanitary-landfill-future-20211105-vlvbq5b6zhoxh6qgoady24lvi-story.html>

The county's long-term solid waste strategy must deal with these hard considerations:

- The current landfill in White Marsh is so close to residences already that expanding laterally would wipe out scores of homes.
- Baltimore County is already fourth among Maryland landfills for emitting the largest amount of greenhouse gasses (methane). [Fact: burying trash creates greenhouse gasses and contribute significantly to climate warming.]
- The local trash incinerator, BRESCO, is Baltimore's single source for air pollution. [Fact: incinerating trash contributes seriously to air pollution.]
- Transporting trash elsewhere pollutes the air, and, anyway, who wants to accept it?

Among its considerations of ways of trash disposal, "Baltimore County is seeking to improve its sustainability, reducing the total amount of trash created," writes Taylor DeVille. The article lists three recommendations from Baltimore County's work group:

- Ban plastic bags for yard waste, effective April 2021. Rationale: Yard waste cannot be composted when mixed with plastic bags.
- Build and establish a mixed-waste processing facility to divert organic materials and food from the landfill into compost.
- Highest priority: set up an enterprise fund through user fees based on volume of trash the user is disposing of. Rationale: incentivize users to aggressively reduce their waste and fund solid waste management.

Among others, work group members included a consulting firm, a representative from the adjacent waterfront community, Councilwoman Cathy Bevins, and Shane Robinson, director of Trash Free Maryland, an advocacy group.

— Leah is Chair of the Creation Caretakers

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Outreach Committee News

by Kim Flash

Many thanks to the St. B's parishioners who donated **14 Thanksgiving Day baskets** for give-away to the clients who utilize 40 West Assistance and Referral Center! ! (See separate article on page 23 for more details on this experience.) Our traditional Thanksgiving basket donation looked a little different this year, due to the continued presence of Covid19, but we do hope that Outreach and St. B's can get back to full-on support in 2022

Christmas "Angel Tree"

Are you interested in helping to make sure that local families have what they need for Christmas, and are able to provide gifts for their children? Participate in this year's "reformatted" Angel Tree.

Rather than taking a tag off a tree and returning a gift to the Parish House (as we have done in past years,



but which requires a physical presence), parishioners are asked to donate \$25.00 Walmart gift cards, which will be given directly to families for Christmas shopping. We ask specifically for Walmart cards (not other stores) because Walmart is on the bus lines and has items ranging from toys and household or sporting good, to food. Cards need to be dropped off or mailed to the church or to Glorius Sullivan's home by December 14th. For questions, contact Glorius by email (chgl@verizon.net) or a member of the Outreach Committee.

Looking ahead:

Keep your eye on this space in the Apostle and in "What's Happening" for information regarding our church's participation in a Martin Luther King Jr food drive.

The next Outreach Committee meeting: Tuesday, December 7th, 7:00 pm, by Zoom.

Ornaments for Outreach!

Don DeVale, our parishioner who created the Advent Wreaths, has donated 20 Christmas ornaments that he made of white Corian®. These lovely, delicate ornaments each have a carving of the Nativity Scene on the front; "St Bartholomew's Church 2021" is carved into the back.

The ornaments are available for \$10 each. Everything earned from the sale of the ornaments supports St. B's Outreach projects.

If you are interested in purchasing an ornament, please contact Maggie Caldwell at mcaldwell@stbs-md.org.



Happy Holidays!

by *Glorius Sullivan*

40 West is very pleased to announce that Thanksgiving Holiday Meals were distributed on the parking lot on November 18! We had 64 turkeys and meal boxes given to us from our total allotment of 132 meals from the Maryland Food Bank, plus 10 turkeys donated from Robert Young (to which 40 West added a full bag of sides) and St. B's folks donated another 14 baskets brimming with turkeys and sides! Truly a blessed day!

Some of those receiving baskets were already lined up in our parking lot when I arrived at 6:50 am that morning! We are grateful for St. B's generosity in providing more baskets so we could give additional folks a bountiful Thanksgiving!

In addition, 40 West was provided with a grant of 100 turkeys, which were a donation from the Giant Food store in Edmondson Avenue to the Maryland Food Bank, who then offered them to 40 West!

Approximately 52 of those turkeys were delivered to Abundant Towers II residents on November 22, and 8 more turkeys were given to families in our neighborhood.

Our plans are to distribute our remaining allotment of 68 Holiday Meals from the Maryland Food Bank as Christmas meals on December 14 on the parking lot, again on a first come, first serve basis. We will also be distributing the remaining 40 turkeys to residents of the Allendale Apartment complex on December 16 from the grant given by the Edmondson Avenue Giant.

As our days move swiftly towards Christmas, we will distribute the \$25.00 Walmart gift cards from the collection that our Outreach Committee is sponsoring on behalf of 40 West, and the gloves and mittens that the St. B's Daughters of the King are collecting for 40 West children, and the gently used warm winter coats and sweaters that are coming to our clothes racks from many donations.

We are truly gratefully for the opportunity to provide our neighbors with Holiday Meals at this season and warm winter clothing and we thank you for your generosity! Your caring for your neighbors though 40 West is truly remarkable!

— *Glorius is Chair of 40 West Assistance and Referral Center, Inc.*



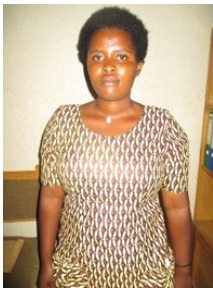
“Bmore2gether” with KIVA

by Margaret Schotto

KIVA Committee meets bi-monthly to designate funds for micro-loans lent to a wide variety of people and countries. Since this group started in 2015, 226 loans have been made by St. Bartholomew’s KIVA group. Any repayments made by those who receive these micro-loans are then re-loaned to other individuals or groups. While funds deposited by St. Bartholomew’s totals \$25,850, our 226 loans totals \$76,725 in lending!

We have funded loans in 37 different countries supporting predominately women or single parents in endeavors that will help provide them with a sustainable income after their loan is repaid. The top 5 funded activities have been dairy, farming, general store, agriculture, and cattle. The top 5 countries that we have contributed to have been Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, and Uganda.

At our meeting in November, we chose 3 individuals/groups to lend to and their information is shared below.



Rhwanda - Twizerane Acb Group: Bernadette is a young, unmarried entrepreneur aged twenty years. She is the leader of the group called Twizerane Acb which in English means “People who are joyful.” These eight group members sell different items and own a variety of businesses. For the past three years Bernadette has owned a hardware shop. She will use her portion of this loan to buy more cement and paint to sell in her community and so meet customer demand. With the profits from her sales she hopes to increase her savings. She is thankful for your support.

* Due to the global pandemic, Urwego was not able to get a photograph of all the group members, but was able to photograph one representative. Also in this group: Jerome, David , Janvier, Yves, Bernadette, David, Francois, & Eric.

Guatemala – Saquilla Group: Lesly, an enterprising 20-year-old married entrepreneur, began her business 5 years ago weaving colorful traditional fabric. She now has 5 employees and is able to deliver an average of 4 large pieces on a weekly basis. Her husband weaves traditional colorful wrap-around skirts called “cortes.” With her 6th Kiva loan, Lesly will be able to buy a large quantity of thread.

Most Maya women have little or no formal education. Lesly was fortunate to attend school



for 6 years. Along with 6 other Maya K’iche women, who live in the department/state of Quiche, she participates in monthly educational sessions, designed by a facilitator who uses pictures, diagrams, role playing, and games to share the information. Topics are relevant to their lives and are drawn from 4 areas: business, health, family matters (nutrition, hygiene, nutrition) and women’s issues (empowerment, self-esteem, rights/roles). The business training sessions (planning, budgeting, investing) help them with their traditional textile businesses. Every other month, they have access to basic health care services that include consults, exams and more. The program is called “Health for Life” and is a critical component of “Microcredit Plus.” Friendship Bridge believes that if women are not empowered physically, then they are not able to lead successful productive lives. Kiva lenders, partnering with Friendship Bridge, are highly appreciated by Lesly and her friends. Thank you to each of you!

In this group: Sebastiana, Rosita, Juana, Josefa, Juana, Alicia, Lesly Ofelia

“Bmore2gether” with KIVA (*continued*)



Tonga – This is Lewis. She is a 23-year-old single mother to her only son. Lewis and her parents came up with the idea of

putting up a retail store to help with their living. She took her first loan and start the business right away.

This second loan is to improve the store by purchasing chest freezer for the meat and more stocks for the store. The store locates at their own front yard, and it opens from Monday to Saturday of every

week, except for the important holidays. Lewis can make a living for her son and take care of him at the same time. She wants her son to grow up in a different life where his needs are meet through the work of her own hand.

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, January 19, 2022, at 7pm. Please contact Mary Buchanan Maryhb3820@gmail.com for more information and to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome!

— Margaret is a member of the KIVA Committee

November Ceasefire

by Brigit Molony

We are filled with great sadness that we lost 5 people during the November Ceasefire weekend. The pandemic has limited the activities we have been able to do, but it has not limited the causes of gun violence in our city. In fact, across the country, as people have spent more time at home, more time isolated, more time in unhealthy situations, this has been a trigger for violence. We approach yet another year where Baltimore will experience above 300 murders.

But how, then, to respond? Do we just say, “It’s hopeless.” No, because the reality is we need to do more, not less. Last week’s reading was so on point that we shared it at our prayer gathering in Edmondson Village. We were blessed to have a young man from the neighborhood join us in prayer.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.” And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Then he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.”



Revelation 21:3-6

Thank You, Peggy!

by *Glorius Sullivan*

As of December 31, 2021, Peggy McMillan will be resigning from her position as the Director of the 40 West Assistance and Referral Center, Inc. We deeply appreciate and thank Peggy for her time with us.

Peggy was hired as Director in August, 2019. She was a semi-retired social worker (LCSW-C) with 25 years of experience in her field. She was truly moved by the situations and needs of our clients, and indeed our clients themselves.

After about 6 months in this position, COVID became a major threat, and Peggy dealt with the many changes and health requirements admirably. Also, a part of her time at 40 West were the many property repair issues, and more recently, the move to and back from, our temporary location in the Parish House so that the work through Project Jigsaw could be completed in our area. I am sure she would agree that it was — and is — a “challenging” and “interesting” time at 40 West! We were fortunate to have her at the helm during this time.

Peggy increased the number of volunteers trained and helping in the Center’s office, as well as those helping with Pantry on the Go and food pickup and delivery, Last year, Peggy initiated a relationship with Mt. St. Joseph High School (MSJ) to engage student volunteers to help at 40 West, and that program continues this year with two twice-weekly students. Our very first MSJ student volunteer, now away at college, continues to keep in touch.

Peggy has made quite an impact on those who come to us for assistance. Many know her as “Peggy” and know she is willing to go that extra mile for them. They know that Peggy cares about them and their needs and they have expressed their thankfulness for her service to them. She has been a welcoming and compassionate presence at the Center.

As Peggy moves on to the next chapter in her life, we offer her our prayers and best wishes for her future! Thank you for a job well done!

— *Glorius is Chair of 40 West Assistance and Referral Center, Inc.*





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

Lucy Marshall; Vince Marsiglia; Donna Cartwright; Janet Churchill; Shirley Nathan Pulliam; Lillian Thomas; Celia Vismale; Ray Zeigler; Larry Brown; Sandra DeSilva; Mary Warfield; Jim Wright; Phoenix DeVale; Dana Przybyszewski; Cathy Brookman; Brad Schlegel; Margaret Schotto; Kate Henshall; Celeste Thurston; Peter Lee; Irene Hardy; Bonnie Kutch; Connie Lee; Bates Churchill; Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins; Carole Novian; Tijon Cox and family; Susan Lundin; Corinne Bowmaker; Martin Schotto; 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; Amanda Ash Freeland; Barry and Peggy McCormick; Cathy Cain; Lynne Cain; Joan Clinton; Denise Kirkley-Cain; Dan Barr; James Cooper; Pamela Stanton; Ricky Walston; Mary Warren; Diane McPhillips; Alison Jones; Williams and Kim Williams; Matt P. and family; Roland Daniels; Angie Arellano; Susan Clarke; Glenn Wightman; Yana Anderson; Kirk; Camille Gustis; Sue Fralic; Michele Mueller; Andrea Barnard; Amanda Sanders, Darren and Ingrid; Barbara and Danny Honaker; Richard; Terry McIntosh; Art Smith; Jane Jeffrey; Bernard Keels; Nancy Maziarcyk; Young Sam; Sherry; Natalie Conway; Suzanne Zaremba; Bert Halverstadt; Katrina Keeling; Elaine Collins; Pat Blume; Greg and Bonnie Golden; John and Janice; Jan Addison; Shelley Wiley; 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

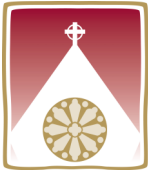
We will be creating a fresh Prayer List on January 1. If you wish to have a name remain on the Prayer List, or if you wish to add a name, please email the Office (Office@stbs-md.org) or leave a note on the desk in the Office with the name neatly printed by Sunday, December 19. (We want to be sure all names are spelled correctly.) Thank you.

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the January issue of *The Apostle* is Wednesday, December 15.

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

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



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

4711 Edmondson Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21229-1440

office phone: 410-945-7263

☞ Worship & Christian Formation ☞

Sunday Worship & Formation

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

The 10:30 services are also available on Zoom. Please visit our [website](#) to learn how you can join us.

Beginning November 7, **childcare** will be available for children up to age 5

in the Parish House from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday Christian Formation

Faith Forum for Adults and Older Youth: Alternate Sundays from 9:15—10:00 am on Zoom.

Fall dates include September 26, October 19 & 24, November 7 & 21, and December 5 & 19

Children's Word for Children Age 3 (by 09/01) — Grade 5:

During the 10:30 am service; in church or on Zoom.

Youth Group for Grades 6—12: Meet on Sundays at 5:00 pm—on Zoom or in person.

Weekday Worship & Formation

Noonday Prayer is said every weekday and Saturdays at 12 noon by parishioners (at home).

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.