



St. Bartholomew's Anglican Church

Our Vision: *Transforming lives through a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Our Mission: *To share Christ's love and His Word with our community and the world through Christ-centered outreach, worship, prayer, and biblical study.*

VOLUME 62, NUMBER 12

The Chatter

DECEMBER 2019

In last month's Chatter, we told you about the *why* and *purpose* for Bethlehem Groups. This month we want to tell you about what you can expect to find in one.

The timing of this discussion works out well, almost like we planned it. This month we enter into the season of Advent in preparation for Christmastide – the twelve days, beginning with Christmas Day, set aside to celebrate and remember the arrival of Jesus in...wait for it...*Bethlehem!* It was in that little town that God entered into history in order to heal our relationship with him. He did this in a real way by uniting our nature with his and living amongst us in community. In coming to us, Jesus was also able to reveal the fullness of God as Trinity, which culminates in Jesus sending the Holy Spirit so that we can have continued fellowship with him. Amazingly, the goal of all of this is to remake (or transform) us into what we were created to be so that we can have *eternal* relationship with him!

You may notice a few themes emerging. **First**, we should notice that God in Jesus is concerned with relationship, what we at St. Bart's have called *Belonging* in our core values. Our Bethlehem Groups are designed to foster belonging by offering opportunity to build relationship with other members of St. Bart's. So we spend time talking, especially with some sort of food (Bethlehem means "house of bread" in Hebrew, and Jesus is the Bread of Life, so food is built into the DNA). And because we always want to keep Jesus at the center, the meetings are organized around Evening Prayer. **Second**, we should notice that Jesus came to teach us by revealing the fullness of God in himself for the sake of our relationship. We might say he *Equipped* us, which is our second core value. And so at every meeting we have a time of teaching and discussion aimed at equipping you for deeper relationship with God and your neighbor.

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St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

Also see our [Facebook](#) page for more!



St. Bartholomew's
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Tonawanda, NY 14150
Phone: (716) 831-1777

Third, Jesus came to us, and he did so in an actual city, Bethlehem. Not only does Jesus care about us individually, but he cares about us as a people living in community, like a city. In following his example (and commandment), we have made *Reach* our third core value. Our *Bethlehem* Groups are a place where you can invite your unchurched loved ones to belong. *Bethlehem* Groups are a side door into St. Bart's. They are also a place we can engage our community from. It is easier for us to mobilize a group of 10-15 than a group of 350+. But these groups aren't only about reaching *out*, they are also about reaching *in*. As we grow in love and friendship together, we will naturally begin to care for each other's needs. And just as importantly, we will continue to invite other members of St. Bart's to join our *Bethlehem* Groups!

Fr. Ward and Fr. Thebeau invite and encourage all of you to join a *Bethlehem* Group! We will have more information in the coming weeks about who to contact and how to join. Also, be on the look out for fellow members of St. Bart's who will share their testimonies about *Bethlehem* Groups.



VESTRY



ANNUAL CHURCH ELECTIONS FOR VESTRY will be held on Dec. 7 & 8th, before and after all services. One thing that has changed is you do not have to vote for four candidates. Now you can vote for up to 4 candidates. Also, other than when the ballot box is being emptied, it will be out so you can vote at any time. Candidates are: Lori Abramo, Mike Brylinkski, Carl Hoffman, Tony Luckoski, Lou Oliveri, and Peter Passino.

2020 BUDGET has been unanimously approved by the vestry.

THANKSGIVING DINNER CELEBRATION at St. Bart's has been cancelled. We would like to thank David & Judy Curtis (and everyone else who supported them) for all their effort in putting this affair together for the past (many) years.

MANGER SUNDAY: This Christmas we would like to bless our Sudanese families with the toys that are collected on Manger Sunday (December 15). In the next two weeks we will have a Christmas tree with angels that have the gender and age of each child and youth in our Sudanese family. Please take an angel as a guide to what you will purchase, **wrap your present**, and put the angel on it as a label. These gifts will be given to the families at their Christmas service.



PRAY for those in the MILITARY

Please keep those from our Parish Family who are serving our country in the Armed Forces in your prayers.

Please let the church office know if there is anyone that should be added to or removed from this prayer list.

Virginia Boy– US Navy

Jason Driscoll– US Army

James Kerins– US Army

A.J. Matteliano– US Army

Matthew Prohaska– US Air Force

Andrew Rebl– US Army

Michael Wassinger Jr. –US Army

Andrew Welkley– US Air Force



BISHOP SCAIFE GUILD

The proceeds of the Soup Sale will be in the January Chatter.



COOKIE INGATHERING: will be on December 14. Please bring cookies for our shut-in's to the kitchen by Saturday so the boxes can be made up. There will be a table marked for them so they won't be used for the coffee hours. The boxes will be in the hall across from the Gift Shop if you can deliver them to a shut-in.



CORNERSTONE MANOR: Please leave and label baby items in good condition in the Gift Shop.



THREADS OF HOPE: Please label items in good condition (kitchen, linens, etc.) and leave in the Gift Shop.

DON'T FORGET TO DROP YOUR DASH'S RECEIPTS IN THE BAG ON THE GIFT SHOP DOOR!



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH TOWN OF TONAWANDA, NY

The Very Rev. Fr. Arthur W. Ward, Jr.
The Rev. Fr. Andrew J. Thebeau
Dean & Rector
Curate

Dn. Jacob Bush, Dn. John Reitz, Dn. Gary Wisniewski

THE HOLY SEASON OF CHRISTMAS LASTS FOR 12 DAYS! - from December 25 - January 5, and is called the Twelve Days of Christmas. As the somber reflection and joyful expectation of the Advent Season ends, the members of Christ's Church are to break out with exuberant rejoicing and celebration in knowing that God has visited us in the Lord Jesus Christ! **Remember Christmas does not end on December 25, it only begins!**

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Tuesday, December 24, 2019

4 PM FAMILY HOLY EUCHARIST (with incense)

There will be a special Sunday School Children's Program for Pre K through 4th grade *upstairs* in the resource room.

7 PM HOLY EUCHARIST (with incense)

9:40PM Special Music- Terry Gamble

10 PM HOLY EUCHARIST (with incense)

*****Note the earlier starting time.*****

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE (No choir or incense)

10am Wednesday, December 25, 2019

THE ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPE may be returned at any time during the Advent/Christmas season through any of the Christmas services, 12/24 - 12/30/19.

BUDGET FOR 2020. Please turn in your pledge card if you haven't already done so. Offering envelopes for 2020 will be mailed directly to the homes of all who desire them.. Thank you!

BISHOP SCAIFE GUILD COOKIE INGATHERING will be held on December 14 & 15. See Chatter for more details.

ADVENT MANGER SUNDAY is scheduled for December 15. Families are asked to bring a **wrapped gift** with an Angel Tree tag. See the information about this elsewhere in this Chatter.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All material for the **JANUARY Chatter** should be submitted no later than **DECEMBER 17. Chatter deadline is ALWAYS the 3rd Tuesday of the month.**

Thank you.

GriefShare grief support group— Help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, family member or friend. Meet Wednesday,s at 7pm at St. Bartholomew's. This is a 13-week video seminar/workbook ministry facilitated by Albert and Linda Matuch, who lost a daughter, Lydia, to cancer. Join us as we bless the Father and God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies and the God of all consola-



FOOD PANTRY: 40 bags of food were donated in November. **Please try to remember** the collection is the **first weekend** of each month. Thank you for your continued support.

Tuesday Night Women's Bible Study

Our Mission: To grow ever closer to the Lord through a greater understanding of His Word with study, prayer and praise, and through fellowship with our sisters in Christ.



We meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in the fellowship room and will be continuing our study of The Acts of the Apostles. Our next meeting will be on December 10 ONLY, 6:30pm. Please consider joining us for prayer, praise and fellowship. Any questions, call Louise Jones, (716)874-0526.



PRAYER FOR REVIVAL

will meet Monday, December 16 at 7pm. Please join us as we pray for our church, our community, our nation, and the world.

LADIES LUNCHEON

Wednesday, December 11 12 Noon

My Tomato Pie 3035 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Sign-up in the Gift Shop with your menu selection.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

EMOJI CHRISTMAS



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Children's Christmas Program!

Sunday, December 15th
at 4:30pm
In Father Amend Hall

Be sure to invite your friends and family for the free family dinner and activities following the Christmas program.

For questions please contact Liz at dce@stbartston.org



Join us on Saturday
December 14th as we take part
in Boxes of Love at the
Belle Center.
For more info see Dn. Reitz



Generation Next News

December 2019

Events For grades 6th -12th

Wednesdays— from 6:30-8:00pm. A time of interactive Bible lessons and fun games.

December 4th—Parent and youth meeting about our special January Lock-in Event at 6:00pm

December 11th—Gingerbread House Assembly at St. Barts from 6:30-8:00pm

December 15th — Christmas Program at 4:30pm—6:30pm with dinner and gingerbread fun to follow program.

December 18th—Salvation Army Bell Ringer Servant Event 6:30-8:00pm

Save the Date—Youth Lock-in Night January 17 starting at 7pm and ending at 10:30am on the 18th .

Save the Date —Awaken Youth Event February 14th-15th

No Generation Next— Dec 25th and Jan 1st

For more information contact:

Liz Burkett (Director of Christian Education)
Call or text me at —716-861-9911
Email - dce@stbartston.org

We hope you can join us on December 4th for our parent meeting to discuss plans for our Special Lock-in Event happening at St. Bart's on January 17th. We will be having fun playing games, looking into God's Word and baking cookies for our Bake Sale Fundraiser to help support the Let them LOL Food Packaging Event occurring in March.

On December 11th we will be helping prepare Gingerbread houses for families to decorate together on the night of the Christmas Program. So come join us for some delicious fun that night. Our goal is to prep 20 houses for families to decorate.



The Christmas Program is on December 15th and I am asking any of our youth who are able to come out and support those who are involved in the Program this year. After the program we will be having dinner and Gingerbread house decorating in the Large Fellowship Hall. So if you are available to help pass out Gingerbread house supplies and bring a dessert for the dinner that would be greatly appreciated.



We will be delivering Tim Hortons Hot Coco and Timbits to the Tonawanda and North Tonawanda Salvation Army Kettle



Volunteers to show how much we care about those who are out there in the cold working to help those in need.

We will need at least 6 vehicles to go to the various Kettle Locations, so if you can drive please let me know.

St. Bart's will provide the money necessary for each carload to purchase the hot coco and timbits for the Volunteers. The drivers will then go to a few Kettle Locations and have the youth hand out the treats and a card to the Kettle Volunteers. Then drivers will return the youth back to St. Barts to talk about how the experience went.

In February we will be going to a youth event called Awaken. This is a youth conference presented by Kingdom Bound. Featuring Reggie Dabbs, NorthPointInsideOut, Mike Gordon and more!



Awaken 2020 is a conference specifically geared for students in grades 7-12 and their leaders to encounter the overwhelming love of Christ. We'll tackle real issues facing today's students with Biblical truth while also equipping and empowering leaders to impact their students like never before. Awaken 2020, Awakening Hope. Go to awakencon.com for more information.

Hope you can join us for all these great events.
In Christ, Liz

Fall Festival





PRAYER CORNER

The Holy Spirit is our “Helper” By: Mary Gamble

The Holy Spirit helps you win the spiritual battle against Satan. We are surrounded by evil every day. Satan uses that evil trying to break down our belief in the truth of Jesus Christ, weaken our faith in God as our mighty fortress, and cripple our pursuit to live righteously. When you live a life of walking in step with the Holy Spirit, when you pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit's power each day, God will cause you to triumph. Remember as you are praying, you are not fighting against flesh and blood but against spiritual beings who use human agents to fulfill their purpose on the earth. Your weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God. You do not fight spiritual battles in your own strength; you fight them in the strength of the Lord.

Prayer: Father God, You have placed Satan and his cohorts under my feet. With the power of the Holy Spirit, I will stand firm against his attacks and take the victory in Jesus' Name. I am praying this prayer from my heavenly position in Christ Jesus who has been exalted above all principalities and powers. It is in Him I live and move and have my being. In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Rules of Engagement, Volume One, Dr. N. Cindy Trimm

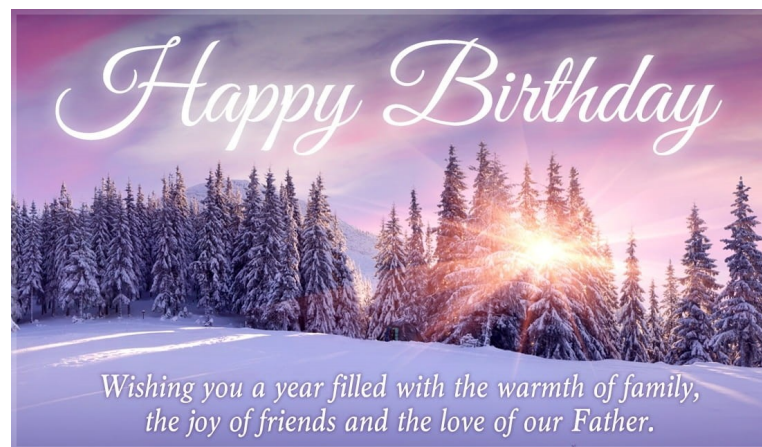
Luke 10:19 Eph 1:21 Eph 2:6 Acts 17:28



December Birthdays

December 1 Marcia Brock, Khloe Kibby
December 2 Lucas Fish
December 5 Richard Herrmann, Lindsay Tobin,
Carol Woepfel
December 6 Thomas MacLeay
December 8 Audrey Simmons, Kathleen Ward
December 9 Debra Allen, Marilyn Alliger
December 10 Dorothy Bamberg, Joan Brown,
Patrick Dake, Karen Zuefle
December 11 Russell Ballaro, Amanda Daniele,
Susan Tobin
December 12 Lori Abramo, Robert Fish Jr.,
Catherine Hawthorn, John Hillestad II
December 14 Joan Amend, , Jim Hubbard,
James Kibby, Peter Passino
December 15 Louise Jones
December 16 Ronald Horvath, Patricia Scheier
December 17 Kathy George
December 18 Francis Ballaro, Emily Small
December 19 Jean DiMaria
December 20 Joshua Merrick
December 21 Justin Dibble, Jennifer Marcinelli,
Caitlin Reed
December 24 Carol Krieger
DECEMBER 25 **OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST**
December 26 Ann Miller
December 27 Janina Heacock, Kristie Kibby,
Margaret Wahl

December 28 Sarah Scibetta, Madeline Wahl
December 29 David Buckley, Molly Delisanti,
Sarah Delisanti, Nicholas Jones
December 30 Anne Karam, Diane Lobdell
December 31 Lisa Boyle, Julie Ciccarelli,
Marietta Lipomi, Edward Reichard



January 1 Heather Craig, Aguil Dut, Lual Dut,
Robert Kyser, Deborah Ryan
January 2 Joseph Calamita
January 3 Paul Etienne, David Lapp
January 4 Hadassah Bush, Grace Delisanti,
David Morrison
January 5 Mary DeLuca

If you notice a mistake in the birthday list please call (831-1777) or email the secretaries: secretaries@stbartston.org

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8, 9:15 & 11am HE 9:15 & 11am SS 1pm Sudanese service	2 7pm Persecuted Church	3 9:30am Anglican Pastor's Meeting 6:30pm Men's Disc. 7pm Vestry	4 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's B.S 6pm Jr. Choir 6:30 Youth Group 6:45pm Missionettes 7pm Sr. Choir, Griefshare	5 6:30pm Worship Team	6	7 4:30pm HE PARISH ELECTION
8 8, 9:15 & 11am HE 9:15 & 11am SS PARISH ELECTION 1pm Sudanese Service	9 8pm Fr. Thebeau pocast in Sanctuary	10 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Women's bible study	11 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's B.S 6:30 Youth Group 7pm Sr. Choir, Griefshare	12 6pm Cont. Choir, Traveler's Club Dinner 6:30 pm Worship Team	13	14 11am Boxes of Love Guild Cookie Ingathering 4:30pm HE
15 8, 9:15 & 11am HE 9:15 & 11am SS MANGER SUNDAY 1pm Sudanese Service 4:30pm Christmas Program & Dinner	16 6:30pm BARRA 7pm Prayer for Revival	17 6:30pm Men's Discipleship	18 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's B.S 6pm Jr. Choir 6:45pm Missionettes 7pm Sr. Choir, Griefshare	19 6:30pm Worship Team	20	21 8:30am Men's Breakfast 4:30pm HE
22 8, 9:15 & 11am HE 9:15 & 11am SS 1pm Sudanese Service	23	24 4,7 & 10pm HE	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 10am HE	26	27 11am Intercessory Prayer	28 4:30pm HE
29 8, 9:15 & 11am HE No SS 1pm Sudanese Service	30 6pm Family Movie Night	31				

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

December

Children of Martyrs

The smiling faces on some of these Nigerian children belie the fact that they are all children of martyrs. Each of these children has lost one or more family members in anti-Christian violence by Boko Haram militants or Muslim Fulani herdsmen. Their mothers are learning new skills at this VOM-supported training center.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 SAUDI ARABIA Pray that members of the royal family will raise their faith in Jesus as Savior.	2 COLOMBIA Pray that the formal peace process will result in lasting peace for Colombians.	3 EGYPT Pray that the church in Egypt will continue to send workers throughout the Middle East.	4 MEXICO Pray that kids receiving children's Bibles will grow in faith and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.	5 MALAYSIA Pray for justice in the case of abducted believer Raymond Moh.	6 NIGERIA Pray for Christians who have lost homes and family members in attacks by Fulani herdsmen.	SRI LANKA Pray for the nation's complete recovery from 30-year civil war.
8 JORDAN Pray that Muslims who have dreams and visions of Christ will come to know Him.	9 PHILIPPINES Pray that believers will boldly engage Muslims with discussions about spiritual truth.	10 ETHIOPIA Pray for evangelical believers who are persecuted by Orthodox Christians in northern Ethiopia.	11 LIBYA Pray that Libyans who have left their country will have a chance to hear the gospel.	12 SYRIA Pray that Syrian Christians will continue to minister to those suffering around them.	13 BRUNEI Pray for the success of media efforts to reach the Malay of Brunei with the gospel.	CUBA Pray that the new law Cuba, Miguel Diaz-Ci will make goodly decisions.
15 SRI LANKA Pray that children will have godly mentors to help them develop into faithful believers.	16 JORDAN "Pray that my family can be back together." —Christian refugee	17 COMOROS Pray that Christians will have improved access to Bibles.	18 TURKEY Pray for boldness among Turkish believers, especially pastors and church leaders.	19 QATAR Pray that the Holy Spirit will lead many Qataris to saving faith in Jesus.	20 IRAN Pray that God will protect the work of His people from the eyes of authorities.	LAOS Pray that new believers facing angry relatives will not waver in their faith.
22 MAURITANIA Pray that Christians will have access to God's Word, despite government restrictions on Bibles.	23 LIBYA Pray that many will be reached by Christian satellite TV programs and internet evangelism.	24 EGYPT Pray that Christian converts from Islam will be accepted by existing churches.	25 MALI Pray that the church will share the gospel and be Christ's ambassadors to Muslim neighbors.	26 NEPAL Pray that local believers will help and share the gospel with those affected by natural disasters.	27 TANZANIA Pray for youth who are being targeted by radical Muslim clerics to carry out jihad.	MALAYSIA "Pray for harmony among Christians." —Front-line
29 NIGERIA Pray for Fulani evangelists who bring the gospel to their tribesmen at great risk.	30 QATAR Pray that Christian workers will serve the Qatari people faithfully, producing abundant fruit.	31 ISRAEL Pray that the Good News of Christ will flow through the growing Ethiopian Jewish community.				



icommit/rop

Our next meeting will be Monday, December 2 at 7pm.
All are invited to join us.

Christmas Blessings

