



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 63, NUMBER 10

The Chatter

OCTOBER 2020

DEACON JOHN REITZ RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS OF MINISTRY!

At the end of September Deacon Reitz will be riding off into the sunset of retirement in his sleek hot rod red Camaro. Deacon John has served full-time the past seventeen years, first as our Youth Ministries Leader and then as our Building Engineer, and Sound and Computer Technician. He also was involved in numerous other ministries like Sunday School, Men's Discipleship, and Bible Study Groups. In short, he helped keep St. Bart's running like a well-oiled machine.

Deacon John first came to St. Bart's in 1975 but due to work obligations, stopped attending the following year. In 1984, following the tragic death of his six day old daughter Kimberly Lynn, Deacon Reitz decided to come back to church. This terrible event had a major impact on his life and he wanted to give God another chance. He decided to join the ushers' ministry and then proceeded to get involved as a Sunday School teacher. He went on to work with the Youth Group, served on the Vestry, and became a lay minister, Through it all, it was the transformation of knowing Jesus as His Lord and Savior that made all the difference.

Deacon John's impact on the life of our parish and community will be long lasting. Hundreds of youth and adults have been positively affected by his life and example.

Although he will no longer serve full-time, he remains one of our deacons and after driving off into the sunset, he doesn't plan on fading away! He will return to still be involved in the life of our parish family, but in a more limited capacity. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Cathy.



St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

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



St. Bartholomew's
Anglican Church
2368 Eggert Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150
Phone: (716) 831-1777

A Message from Deacon Reitz

Fr. Ward asked me to share a little bit about my experiences working at St. Bartholomew's for this month's Chatter, so here it is. I tried to keep it short but it was just impossible to do, so I apologize for its length.

In April of 2003 the church decided to take a chance by hiring me as their full time youth leader. My first event was taking our youth, with the youth from Kenmore United Methodist Church (KUMC,) on a mission's trip to North Carolina (my daughter was KUMC's youth director). Our trip was going to be a fourteen hour bus ride leaving at 5am. We decided to meet at KUMC, keep the youth up all night so they would sleep on the bus ride during the day. Yah, that did not work. As part of our plan that night we watched a movie titled "Extreme Days." That movie quickly became a favorite of the St. Bart's youth group. There was a line in the movie that went something like this, "**When life throws you a curve ball don't duck, you might just miss something great.**" Little did I know how much that line would impact my life. I had been teaching Sunday school and helping in youth ministry as a volunteer since the mid 80's when my girls were part of youth group and Sunday school here at the church. In February of 2003 I was offered the job as the full time youth ministry leader and I started in April of that year. Prior to that I had worked at Jorgensen Steel. My plan was to retire from there when I turned 58 after working there for 25 years and collect my pension. However, that all changed when they decided to close their warehouse and I was without a job. I then applied to a continuing education course on computers through The Private Industry Council. This led to a job at Ingram Micro in computer tech support. It was during this time that I felt God calling me into Ministry. After talking with Fr. Ward we felt that God was calling me to the Deaconate. While working at Ingram I worked on following God's call to the Deaconate in the old Episcopal Church. Then in 2003 I left Ingram to become the youth director here at St. Bart's and was ordained to the Deaconate in 2006. This has been an awesome journey. One that I have cherished, loved and will never forget.

To all the **parents**, I want to say thank you. Thank you for trusting me with your children. I have always said I will treat your child as I would my own, because for the time they were in my care they were my children and I would never do anything to them that I would not have done with my own child. You have all been a blessing to me and I can never say thank you enough for all of your support.

To all the **volunteers** that have helped me throughout the years I say thank you. Whether it was helping plan our lessons, music, retreats, chaperoning, cooking meals or mission trips, your help was greatly appreciated. You made youth group possible and I could never, never have done it without all of your support. All of you are a blessing to me and to every youth whose life you touched. There is so much more I could say but space limits me from doing so but please feel free to ask me to elaborate whenever you see me.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2 —Dn. Reitz

To all of the **youth** of St. Bartholomew's I say wow. We have had an incredible journey throughout all of these years, one that I thank God I got to share with all of you. We have had our shares of laughs and tears. I have had the privilege to see so many of you grow in your faith. I have been blessed to be a part in some of your weddings, even celebrating in your service. I have baptized some of your children. I have watched you grow and I have never been more proud of all of you. You made this ministry the blessing it was. I may be retiring but I will always be a phone call, email or text message away if you ever need me.

Finally, to the **vestry, staff** and **congregation** of St. Bartholomew's I again say thank you for taking a chance on me. I never took a class on how to do youth ministry, all I had was a passion to share the love of Christ with young people, to pour my passion for Christ into their lives. Your faith in me greatly blessed me more than you can ever know. And when it was time to pass the torch in youth ministry to someone else you gave me the opportunity to oversee the day to day operations of the church. They say if you love the work you do you will never work a day in your life. Those words have never been truer for me than the last seventeen years that I have been here at St. Bart's. This has never felt like a job to me, it has been a ministry. One that I had the blessing of doing every day the last seventeen years and I will miss. I have always said I will do what I do until God calls me to something else. While I will miss doing what I am doing now, I feel God is calling me to the next chapter of my life. Where that will lead only He knows, but I am ok with that. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for everything. I close with this **"When life throws you a curve ball don't duck, you might just miss something great!"**

God Bless

Deacon Reitz, aka "D" to the youth



VESTRY

VESTRY NOTES: Sept. 2020

Sunday School & Nursery: Will be available at the 10 am Sunday services. All the CDC protocols and guidelines will be strictly followed. Sunday school classes will be held in person every other week, with live-streaming classes being aired on the opposite weeks. Fr. Ward's confirmation classes and adult new member classes will begin Sunday, Oct. 3rd.

2020 Vestry Elections: Due to the Covid pandemic and following the social-distancing protocols, the vestry unanimously voted to have only mail-in voting for the upcoming vestry elections. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voting members in the first part of November. Ballots need to be returned by the first weekend in December, either by mailing your vote in the stamped, self-addressed return envelope sent with the ballots or by dropping the ballot in the "voting drop box" that will be located in the Fr. Amend Hall.

Fr. Thebeau's resignation & Dec. Reitz is retiring: It is with a sad heart we will be saying "farewell" to Fr. Thebeau and his family because he has accepted a Rector's position with a parish in Arlington, TX. He is hopeful things will fall into place for them to be settled in Texas by Nov. 21, 2020. Please keep Fr. Thebeau and his family in your thoughts and prayers that they have a smooth and uneventful move to their new home.

Unfortunately, we are losing a second member of our clergy. Dec. Reitz is retiring the end of September. John Reitz has been an integral part of keeping everything running smoothly inside and outside our building on Eggert Road. If you'll recall, before that, he was our Youth Director for many years, helping to lead our future youth into adulthood.

Both Dec. Reitz and Fr. Thebeau will be sorely missed and we wish them all the best on the new paths God has directed them to!



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

James Kerins– US Army

A.J. Matteliano– US Army

Matthew Prohaska– US Air Force

Andrew Rebl– US Army



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

All material for the **November Chatter** should be submitted no later than **October 20. Chatter deadline is USUALLY the 3rd Tuesday of the month.**

Thank you.

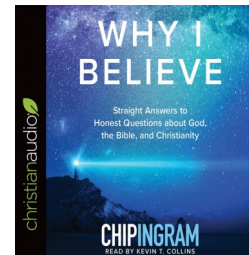
Ladies Tuesday night Bible Study

will meet at 6:30pm October 13 and 27. We will finish the “Acts of the Apostles” and then begin a study of the Psalms. All are welcome to join us. Contact Louise Jones for more information.



Men's Tuesday Night Discipleship

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm. All men of the church are encouraged to join us. Contact John Krull for more information.



FOOD PANTRY

North Tonawanda Food Pantry
100 Ridge Road
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

We will collect food the first weekend of October. Please leave your bags in the front hall as you enter the building.

30 bags of food were donated in September. Thank you to all those who remembered.



THE CAN-DO and JOYOUS CHRISTIAN:

A Study of Philipians

Join Fr. Ward every Friday from 7 - 8 PM as he unpacks this powerful letter from the Apostle Paul. Paul's letter gives us key insights on how we can face the challenges and disappointments in life through our relationship with God in Christ. It is a continuation of Fr. Ward's Joy series of looking at ways we can increase our joy and more effectively move in the power of the Holy Spirit. If you can't join us live, the study will be livestreamed and available online for future viewing. The Study will be from October 9 - November 13.



With only 1 month until our very momentous election, the Intercessory Prayer Team of St. Bart's asks that all members and friends of St. Bart's commit themselves to daily prayer for our nation and this election. Please pray for wisdom for all voters, protection of candidates, an honest and peaceful election process, and that God will be glorified by the election of leaders of integrity and goodness.

From the ACNA Prayer Book, p. 655: FOR AN ELECTION

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide and direct, we humbly pray, the minds of all those who are called to elect fit persons to serve in the Presidency, in Congress, and in state and local positions. Grant that in the exercise of our choice we may promote your glory, and the welfare of this nation. This we ask for the sake of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen

October Birthdays

October 1 Ephraim Bush, Scott Stolz

October 2 Victoria Smith

October 3 Dona Fenzel, Elaine Kyser

October 4 Alessia Craig, Pamela Fish,
Sarah Hillery, Joanna Jones,
Fr. Albert Montanari

October 6 Andrew Kyser,
Benjamin Wojnowski

October 7 Fr. Andrew Thebeau,
Karen Wheaton

October 8 Abigail Weber, Juliet Wilkowski,
Mark Wojnowski

October 10 Jessica Johnson, James Thebeau,
Timothy VanLente

October 11 Robert Derrett Jr., Micah Gray,
Art Ward Sr., Betty Williams

October 12 Carla McNamara, Richard Nelson,
Mary Nowak

October 13 Rocco Brindisi, Kellie Shotwell,
Dana Weber, Jacob Woitas

October 14 Dr. Kendall Davis,
Steven Gradzewicz

October 15 Andrea Bainbridge

October 16 Cassandra Emmons

October 17 Charles Ward

October 18 John McGee, Susan Osberg,
John-Paul Thebeau

October 19 Terry Storey

October 20 Eli Kibby, Tammy Krull,
Dorothy Ruhland

October 21 Ruth Brinkerhoff, Gwendolyn Hill

October 22 Kimberley Hill, Denise Simon

October 23 Laurie Socha, Rebecca Thebeau

October 24 Stephen Delisanti

October 25 Kenneth Johnson

October 26 Adam Kowalyk

October 28 Clare Hillery, Brianna Spence

October 29 Elaine Henzler, Cheryl MacDonald,
Linda Matuch

October 30 Gary Bainbridge, Paul Marcinelli



November 1 Andrew LaDuca,
Margaret McCarthy

November 2 Brianna Hayes

November 3 Patricia Emmons, Sarah McCarthy

November 4 David Kisloski, Mark LaDuca,
Riley McAndrews, Cathy Reitz,
Renee Szymanski

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

OCTOBER CALENDAR

October 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	
4 8 & 10am HE	5 6:30pm Men's Discipleship	6 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study	7 10:30am Women's Bible Study	8 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study	9 10:30am Conf. class 4:30pm HE	10 10:30am Conf. class 4:30pm HE
11 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School	12 Columbus Day - Office closed	13 6:30pm Men's Discipleship 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	14 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study	15 10:30am Women's Bible Study	16 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study	17 10:30am Conf. class 4:30pm HE
18 8 & 10am HE	19 6:00pm BARRA	20 6:30pm Men's Discipleship	21 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study	22 10:30am Women's Bible Study	23 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study	24 10:30am Conf. class 4:30pm HE
25 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School	26	27 6:30pm Men's Discipleship 6:30pm Women's Bible Study	28 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study	29 10:30am Women's Bible Study	30 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study	31 10:30am Conf. class 4:30pm HE

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

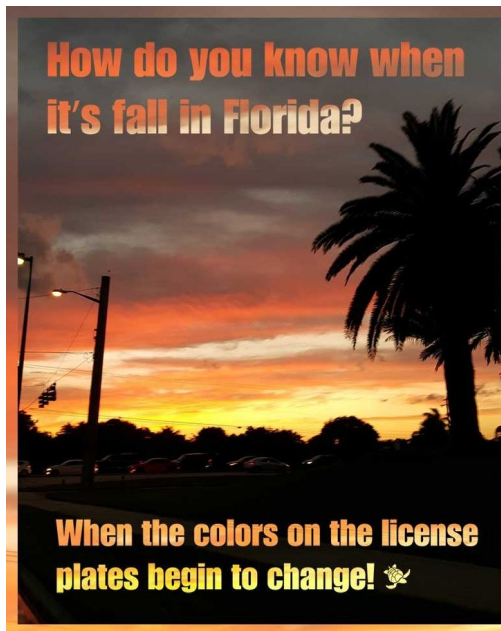
October

Responding to Persecution

VOM distributed critical aid to Christians in southeastern Central African Republic who were driven from their villages by armed Muslim rebels.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 AZERBAIJAN Pray for Christian unity among different churches and denominations.	2 NIGERIA Pray for the many believers in northern Nigeria who do not own a Bible.	3 SYRIA Pray that God will open the eyes of extremists to the truth of Jesus Christ.
4 UZBEKISTAN Pray that legal reforms provide more opportunities for preaching the gospel.	5 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray that Christians among the Zande tribe will display Christ's love to their persecutors.	6 EGYPT Pray for small church plants that struggle to survive various pressures.	7 SOUTHERN MEXICO Pray for the successful distribution of Bibles in minority languages.	8 SUDAN Pray that peace will reign in the hearts of Sudanese Christians during uncertain times.	9 VIETNAM Pray for the wisdom and safety of front-line workers who deliver Bibles to remote villages.	10 TUNISIA Pray for house churches in Tunisia.
11 TAJIKISTAN Pray for church leaders who get visited by the police because they share their faith.	12 BANGLADESH Pray for Bishakh as he disciples believers to follow the Lord.	13 SRI LANKA Pray for an increase in Bible distributions in the country.	14 SOMALIA Pray for the development of open, established churches.	15 IRAQ Pray that the hearts of Iraqi pastors will be filled with joy, despite uncertainty.	16 SYRIA Pray for church leaders and their families, who often endure separation because of ministry work.	17 IRAN Pray that increasing difficulties in Iran will drive many to seek the Savior.
18 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray that Bible schools closed as a result of the war will reopen.	19 UGANDA Pray that Ugandan churches will find ways to support persecuted believers.	20 MALAYSIA Pray for Pastor Raymond Koh, who was kidnapped by state police in 2017.	21 KYRGYZSTAN Pray that Christians will maintain a witness for Christ in their villages despite death threats.	22 QATAR Pray for the protection and encouragement of the few believers in the country.	23 KENYA Pray for the protection of Christian minorities along the coast.	24 BRUNEI Pray that believers at the University of Brunei will maintain a bold witness.
25 BHUTAN Pray that more missionaries will be sent to reach this nation.	26 MOROCCO Pray that Bibles will become more accessible throughout the country.	27 UZBEKISTAN Pray that the government will officially recognize every Christian church.	28 UGANDA Pray for those being trained to minister to Christian converts from Islam.	29 LAOS Pray that shortwave radio broadcasts will reach more hearts and encourage believers.	30 DJIBOUTI Pray that the gospel will continue to spread among the Afar people.	31 IRAQ Pray that Christian media will effectively challenge the Islamic narrative.

Ah, yes— it's autumn!



Safe & happy travelling to all of the Snow-birds that will be leaving us soon. You will be missed!!