



# 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 66 NUMBER 12

## The Chatter

DECEMBER 2023

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO JoAn BEDDOME**

#### **for 40 YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE!**

JoAn Beddome, longtime parish secretary is retiring after forty years of serving the clergy and people of St. Bartholomew's. She was hired by Fr. Amend in August 1983 to work alongside fellow secretary Diane Neil. After Diane's departure in 1984, Fr. Amend hired Mary Krurnowski. Both JoAn and Mary became an outstanding "dynamic duo" keeping the parish office running smoothly and taking care of all the details that come with administrative needs.

When Fr. Ward arrived in September of 1995, JoAn and Mary helped the young curate become familiar with the parish and its ministries. Upon Fr. Amend's retirement in 1998 and Fr. Ward becoming rector, JoAn and Mary's presence insured a smooth transition. Fr. Ward could always depend upon them. Never once did they "miss a beat."

Mary retired in 2012 but JoAn continued her administrative duties. Since that time, St. Bartholomew's has been blessed with additional members (Cathy Reitz, Karen Wheaton, and Debbie Geis) who also serve part-time in a secretarial role. But it has been JoAn's experience and leadership that has enabled the others to become proficient in their work.

JoAn will continue to reside in the city of Tonawanda, close to her many family members. She may even "sub" from time to time for our current secretaries. Regardless, JoAn will be deeply missed and St. Bartholomew's will be forever grateful for the role she played in making our parish a welcoming place and enabling the clergy to minister effectively and efficiently for the Lord and His Kingdom!

**THANK YOU JoAn!**



St. Bart's Web Information

[www.stbartston.org](http://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

# VESTRY

## November 2023

The **Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas Offerings** will be given to CRU staff member Jill Meacham, SonRays Ministries, the Anglican Church in the Sudan (ministry to refugees displaced due to the current civil war, and CMJ (Christian Ministries for Jews). A \$1,000 gift will be sent to *Set Free Ministries* (Pastor Al & Debbie Warner) from the Parish Mission Fund.

The **2024 Annual Church Election** will be **December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>**, before and after all services. So far, four candidates (Rocco Brindisi, Mike Brylinski, Linda Doran, and Cheryl MacDonald) are running for three Vestry positions. More information will be given as we near these dates.

**St. Bart's Annual Church Meeting** will be held after the **January 14, 2024, 10 AM service**. All members are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided.

*Christmas*  
BEGINS WITH  
*Christ*

**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER CHATTER is  
Tuesday, November 21. Thank you.**



# FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Please keep those from our Parish Family who are serving our country in the Military 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– Navy*

*James Kerins– Army*

*Andrew Rebl– Army*

*Matthew Prohaska\_ Air Force*



## FOOD PANTRY:

Remember that we collect for the Food Pantry the **first weekend of every month**. **NIACAP** is so appreciative. Please remember that they also can use personal care items, paper products and soap, etc..



**36** bags and boxes of food were taken to the Food Pantry in November. **PRAISE THE LORD!!!**

*Let's continue to show them  
St. Bart's generosity.*

T



**Prayer Night**  
**Thursday, December 21 at 7pm**

# ***BIBLE STUDIES***



## **Men's Discipleship Bible Study**

meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. We are currently using a video series hosted by Mark Correll, studying the book of Revelation.

All men are welcome to join us.

And don't forget that a group of men meet every Tuesday at noon for **LUNCH** at various restaurants around town. All men are welcome to join us for this too. See John Krull

## **TUESDAY NIGHT LADIES**

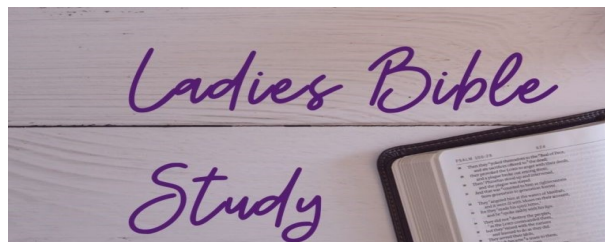
### **BIBLE STUDY**

We meet from 6:30-8:00pm every other Tuesday, in the large fellowship hall. We are finishing our study of Matthew and will begin studying the book of JOHN in the new year.

We would love to welcome you at our meetings!

Contact Louise Jones for more information.

**December meetings will be the 5th and 19th.**



## **WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES**

### **BIBLE STUDY**

meets at 10:30am. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Galatians.

All ladies are welcome to join us.

See Barbara Molison for more information.



**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH**  
**TOWN OF TONAWANDA, NY**

The Very Rev. Fr. Arthur W. Ward, Jr.  
The Rev. Fr. Jacob Bush  
Dn. Gary Wisniewski, Dn. James Kibby

Dean & Rector  
Associate Rector

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023**  
*(no morning services!)*

**4PM FAMILY HOLY EUCHARIST** *(without incense)*

There will be a special Sunday School Children's Program for pre-K through 4<sup>th</sup> grade upstairs in the large Resource Room.

**7PM HOLY EUCHARIST** *(with incense)*

**CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**10AM Holy Eucharist** *(no choir or incense)*

**THE HOLY SEASON OF CHRISTMAS** lasts from December 25 through 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!**

**The Wednesday AM Ladies Bible Study Group** is collecting **WARM** coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, socks, blankets, etc. for Buffalo City Mission and Cornerstone Manor through December 3rd. New or clean, gently used items are appreciated. Donations can be placed on tables in the Fr. Amend Hall.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL'S MANGER SUNDAY** is scheduled for December 17th. Families are asked to bring an unwrapped child's gift to be donated to local ministries that support the needy.

**Join us for an evening of music and fun on Sunday, December 17th at 4:30 pm** in Fr. Amend Hall Christmas pageant titled "**A Twist in Time**," Afterward, we will have dinner and gingerbread house decorating! *If you would like to participate in the festivities **after** the screening, please visit [stbartston.org](http://stbartston.org) to register.* (You do not need to register if you're just attending the play.) **For questions please contact our Director Liz Burkett at [dce@stbartston.org](mailto:dce@stbartston.org)**

**THE ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPE** may be returned at any time during the Advent/Christmas season, through December 31, 2023.

**BUDGET FOR 2024.** The annual pledge letter and pledge card have been sent out via US Mail. Please turn in your pledge card at your earliest convenience. Offering envelopes for 2024 are mailed directly to the homes of all who desire them. Thank you!



# Music Notes from Margaret Bukkosy

December 2023

As we begin Advent, the first season of the Christian year, let's think about our ministry. How can we become more involved?

Did you ever consider that there is a certain power in routine and in the small things that we create? Did you ever consider that there is value in commitment, patience, and in developing ideas?

Singing has a creative power. Choir membership provides an opportunity to commit to a rehearsal and establish a routine. Learning takes a certain amount of patience. Music gives us the power to help us develop ideas. I hope these amazing traits inspire you to keep showing up, to celebrate the small achievements in your life as they come, knowing that they are part of a greater legacy.

Creating music in a choir is a unique group experience. We hope that you will consider joining our music ministry by singing in one of our choirs, and encouraging children and young people to get involved.

The Adult Choir will be singing the first two Sundays of the month during December, January and February. Can you include 1 ½ hours of rehearsal time over two Wednesdays at 7 p.m. with two 10:00 a.m. Sunday worship services in your routine? I hope so! If you are available for Christmas Eve for the 7 p.m. service you can consider adding that to your routine as well! Questions? Ask me or a choir member! We welcome everyone who enjoys singing praises to God!

The Cherub and Children's Choirs will participate in the Christmas Pageant on December 17 and the family service at 4 p.m. on December 24, Christmas Eve.

The Adult Choir will sing on December 3rd, 10th and at the 7 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

A blessed Christmas to everyone  
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!



## Christmas Pageant Event!

Sunday, December 17th  
at 4:30pm  
In Father Amend Hall

With dinner and Gingerbread  
House decorating to follow  
the performance.

For questions please contact Liz  
at [dce@stbartston.org](mailto:dce@stbartston.org)





# Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

December 2023

## Angelic Happenings



**When someone mentions Christmas, what do you think about?** Is it the lights, the decorations, ever-green trees, cookies, presents, carols, or Jesus? How about angels? You can find them everywhere during Christmas: they're on Christmas trees, ornaments, and greeting cards, in Christmas carols, movies, and nativity sets! That's because God used angels to announce the birth of His Son, Jesus. You could say that the angels were the first evangelists.

In this series, we'll learn that the message the angels shared, that God's timing is always right, that we can always share God's story, and that God is always ready to rescue, still matters today.

### Next Happenings

#### Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us for our regular meetings filled with engaging lessons and activities  
Dinner provided

#### Sunday, December 17th

4:30 pm "A Twist in Time"  
Christmas Pageant

#### Wednesday, December 20th

6:00 pm Reindeer Games

#### Dec. 27th & Jan. 3rd

NO YOUTH GROUP due to  
Christmas Break

#### Save the Date: Feb. 2nd

7:00 pm Winter Comps Event

"For nothing  
will be impossible  
with God."

Luke 1:37 NASB



## A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

*“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” – Isaiah 9:6*

*This Christmas, I challenge you to reflect on who Jesus is to you? Is He your Savior, or Lord? Is He your friend? What do you really believe? This is an important question, especially as we remember and celebrate His incarnation. During this season, you will hear many claims about who Jesus is from verses like this one from Isaiah. You will say some of them in the liturgy and even sing about them through hymns, but the reality they reveal will have little to no impact on our lives if we personally do not believe them to be true. There is much peace and consolation to find in the Nativity of our Lord, and it comes when our hearts, by faith, are in harmony with the Word of God, resounding with the angelic heralds who sing,*

*“Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.” - Luke 2:14*

*As you reflect on who Jesus is to you, allow the Word to penetrate your heart. Let go of what is false and cling to what is good. Draw near to Him as He draws near to us once more, as a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.*

*In Christ,  
Liz*

**Come out and support your friends in Youth Group as they perform in our Christmas Pageant Titled “A Twist In Time” This is going to be a great evening of time traveling fun and music on Sunday, December 17th at 4:30pm in Fr. Amend Hall. Afterward, we will have dinner and gingerbread house decorating! If you would like to participate in the festivities after the live performance, please contact me to register!**



**Come test your reindeer skills as you try to ender to the end at this awesome game night on December 20th from 6-8pm. We'll have fun as we dance and prance through a 10 game blitz that will be sure and test your wits. Dinner and treats will be provided.**

**Save the Date: Friday, February 2nd, 7-10pm, Location to be determined. Join youth groups across the Buffalo area as we enjoy a night of friendly competition at the Winter Comps Event. Cost is only \$5 a person and is due at the door. Registration for the event will take place online. A link for the registration will be emailed once it is available. If any parents are interested in helping at this event please let me know. With fun team games, pizza and worship, this is sure to be a night everyone will be talking about.**



### Preparing for Christmas by praying the “O” antiphons

You may not be familiar with the term “O antiphons” but you probably heard/sung them at some point, and know them as the verses that make up “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” There are seven of these antiphons and each one focuses on a specific title attributed to Jesus, and most end with a specific request. Take time this Advent to pray through each antiphon, reflecting on who Jesus is and our need for Him.

# December Birthdays

- 1 Marcia Brock, Khloe Kibby
- 2 Lucas Fish
- 4 Grace Ward
- 5 Richard Herrmann, Lindsay Tobin,  
Carol Woepfel
- 8 Audrey Simmons, Kathleen Ward
- 9 Debra Allen
- 10 Dorothy Bamberg, Joan Brown,  
Karen Zuefle
- 11 Russell Ballaro, Amanda Daniele,  
Susan Tobin
- 12 Scott Calhoun, Robert Fish Jr.,  
John Hillestad II, Fr. Bryan Wandel
- 14 James Hubbard, James Kibby,  
Peter Passino
- 15 Louise Jones
- 16 Patricia Scheier
- 17 Kathy George, John Matuch
- 18 Francis Ballaro
- 20 Joshua Merrick
- 21 Justin Dibble
- 23 Paul Whissel
- 24 Carol Krieger
- 25 **OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,**  
Alessio Baldi

- 27 Janina Heacock, Kristie Kibby,  
Evangelina Wandel
- 28 Sarah Scibetta
- 29 David Buckley, Molly Delisanti,  
Sarah Delisanti
- 30 Thomas Callea, Anne Karam
- 31 Julie Ciccarelli



## JANUARY

- 1 Robert Kyser, Deborah Ryan
- 2 Joseph Calamita
- 3 Paul Etienne
- 4 Hadassah Bush, Grace Delisanti
- 6 George Brock, Nicholas Horvath

If you notice a mistake in the birthday list please call (716) 831-1777 or email  
the secretaries: [secretaries@stbartston.org](mailto:secretaries@stbartston.org)

# December Calendar

## DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7pm "Daring Faith" Men's event	2 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
3 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal	4	5 6:30pm Men's Disc./Ladies Bible Study 7pm Vestry Meeting	6 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	7	8	9 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
10 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal	11	12 6:30pm Men's Disc.	13 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	14	15	16 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
17 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal 4:30pm Children's Christmas Pageant	18 6:45pm BARRA	19 6:30pm Men's Disc./Ladies Bible Study	20 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group NO Adult Choir	21 7pm Prayer Night	22	23 4:30 pm HE
24 CHRISTMAS EVE NO 8 & 10 am HE 4 & 7pm HE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 10am HE	26	27 NO 9:30am HE NO 10:30am Bible Study NO Adult Choir	28	29	30 4:30 pm HE
NEW YEAR'S EVE 8 & 10 am HE						



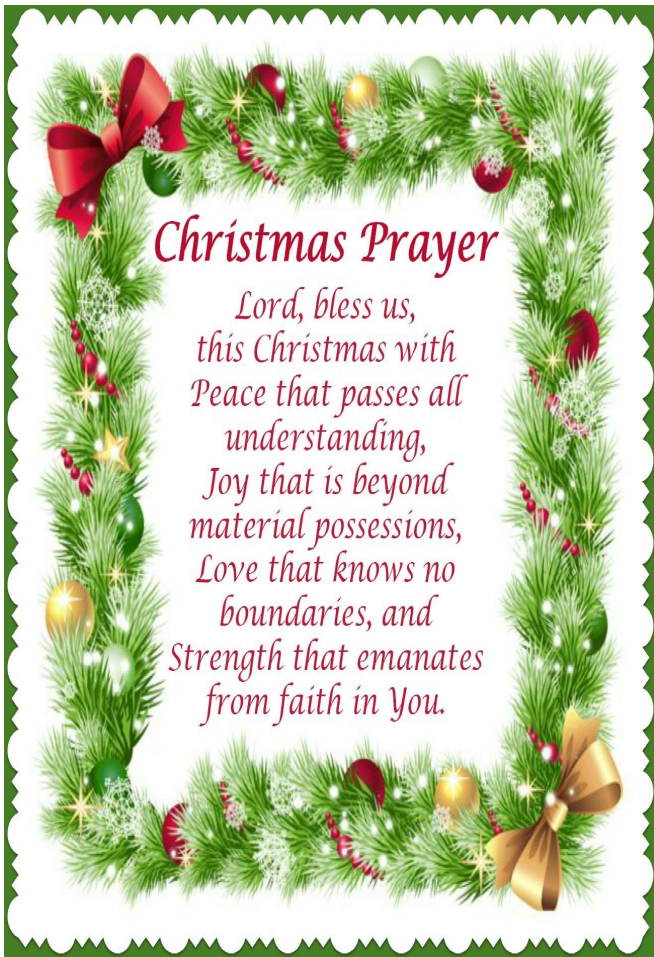
# PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><b>NOTES:</b></p> <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">December</h1>						
<b>3</b> <b>AFGHANISTAN</b> Pray that the needs of all Afghan Christians will be met.	<b>4</b> <b>INDIA</b> Pray for Christian families that were attacked by villagers while pumping water.	<b>5</b> <b>UNITED ARAB EMIRATES</b> Pray that those who relocate from more restricted nations will have opportunities to hear the gospel.	<b>6</b> <b>UGANDA</b> Pray that God will hinder the spread of Islam in the country.	<b>7</b> <b>CAMEROON</b> Pray that God will raise up Christian leaders who are rooted in biblical knowledge and wisdom.	<b>8</b> <b>LIBYA</b> Pray that those using digital Bible formats will remain undiscovered by authorities.	<b>9</b> <b>NORTH KOREA</b> Pray for a Christian in China who runs a discipleship center for trafficked North Korean women.
<b>10</b> <b>TUNISIA</b> Pray that Bibles will become widely available and accessible to Christians and seekers.	<b>11</b> <b>PAKISTAN</b> Pray for Christian ministries reaching out to Afghans who have taken refuge in Pakistan.	<b>12</b> <b>MAURITANIA</b> Pray that Christian leaders will remain above reproach for the sake of the gospel.	<b>13</b> <b>INDONESIA</b> Pray for front-line workers like Mina and Mehri as they proclaim Christ to Muslims.	<b>14</b> <b>SRI LANKA</b> Pray for pastors who are planting house churches in unreached villages.	<b>15</b> <b>TANZANIA</b> Pray for the encouragement of pastors and evangelists who receive outreach tools.	<b>16</b> <b>IRAN</b> Pray that those following false ideologies will be open to the gospel.
<b>17</b> <b>SOMALIA</b> Pray that the many young people currently disillusioned with Islam will turn to Christ.	<b>18</b> <b>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</b> Pray that Christians will reflect Christ's love and forgiveness to their persecutors.	<b>19</b> <b>UZBEKISTAN</b> Pray for creative ways to gather, as Christians can be fined for meeting in unregistered churches.	<b>20</b> <b>SUDAN</b> Pray that believers in the Nuba Mountains who are receiving Action Packs and other practical aid.	<b>21</b> <b>OMAN</b> Pray that new believers will find a thriving community to help them grow in Christ.	<b>22</b> <b>ERITREA</b> Pray that Christians will continue to worship together despite the threat of arrest and imprisonment.	<b>23</b> <b>BURKINA FASO</b> Praise God for Christians in the south who boldly worship despite attacks on their churches.
<b>24</b> <b>ALGERIA</b> Pray that government efforts to close additional churches will fail.	<b>25</b> <b>IRAQ</b> Pray that God will provide for the many Christians forced to flee their homes.	<b>26</b> <b>MOZAMBIQUE</b> Pray for efforts to rebuild churches that were destroyed in Islamist attacks.	<b>27</b> <b>BANGLADESH</b> Pray that the love and boldness of the church will draw nonbelievers to Christ.	<b>28</b> <b>TURKMENISTAN</b> Pray for believers' integrity amid widespread corruption.	<b>29</b> <b>QATAR</b> Praise God for Christians who take great risks to share the gospel with Muslims.	<b>30</b> <b>EGYPT</b> Pray that women expelled from their families because of their Christian faith will find a home.
<b>31</b> <b>JORDAN</b> Pray that Christians receiving training will be emboldened in their witness.	<p><b>"Keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak."</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;">—Ephesians 6:18–20</p>					



The Voice of the Martyrs

vom.org



A CHRISTMAS PRAYER  
I said a Christmas Prayer for you  
Because the season's near.  
I didn't ask for riches  
But for gifts so much more dear.  
I asked for joyful gatherings  
With your family all round,  
And for carols to inspire you  
With their old familiar sound.  
I asked for quiet moments  
In your heart on Christmas morn,  
For a special time to celebrate  
The Savior who was born.  
I asked for friends to send their best  
That you might know they care;  
I asked for peace and love and hope,  
And I know God heard my prayer.  
~ Author Unknown

