



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 64, NUMBER 7

The Chatter

DECEMBER 2021

AN ADVENT CONSPIRACY?

Have you ever been taken in by any of the conspiracy theories out there? They're certainly all over social media. It doesn't matter which side of the fence you're on, everyone seems to have their own theories of why and how the world is going down the tubes! Inflation is up, government leadership is lacking, and there is turmoil at home and abroad. What are we to do? Well, I would like to suggest another conspiracy that is not doom and gloom, but is one full of hope and promise. It celebrates the true meaning of the season! It is the conspiracy of God's love in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.

Advent and Christmas mark the beginning of this grand conspiracy. With these first seasons of the Christian New Year, we remember both Christ's first and second comings. In other words, we celebrate what God has already done, what He continues to do, and what He will do in Christ Jesus. But the key to understanding and experiencing the blessing of these seasons is in our response. Our response is grounded in continued repentance from self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness. Moreover, God's power is best seen when we commit to doing things *together!* So I encourage you to join with me by committing to the following three responses this Advent: **1) Spend less 2) Give more and 3) Worship fully.** Let's be part of a worthwhile conspiracy that has promise in this life and the next!

Your Co-conspirator in Jesus! Fr. Ward

(Continued on Page 2)

St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

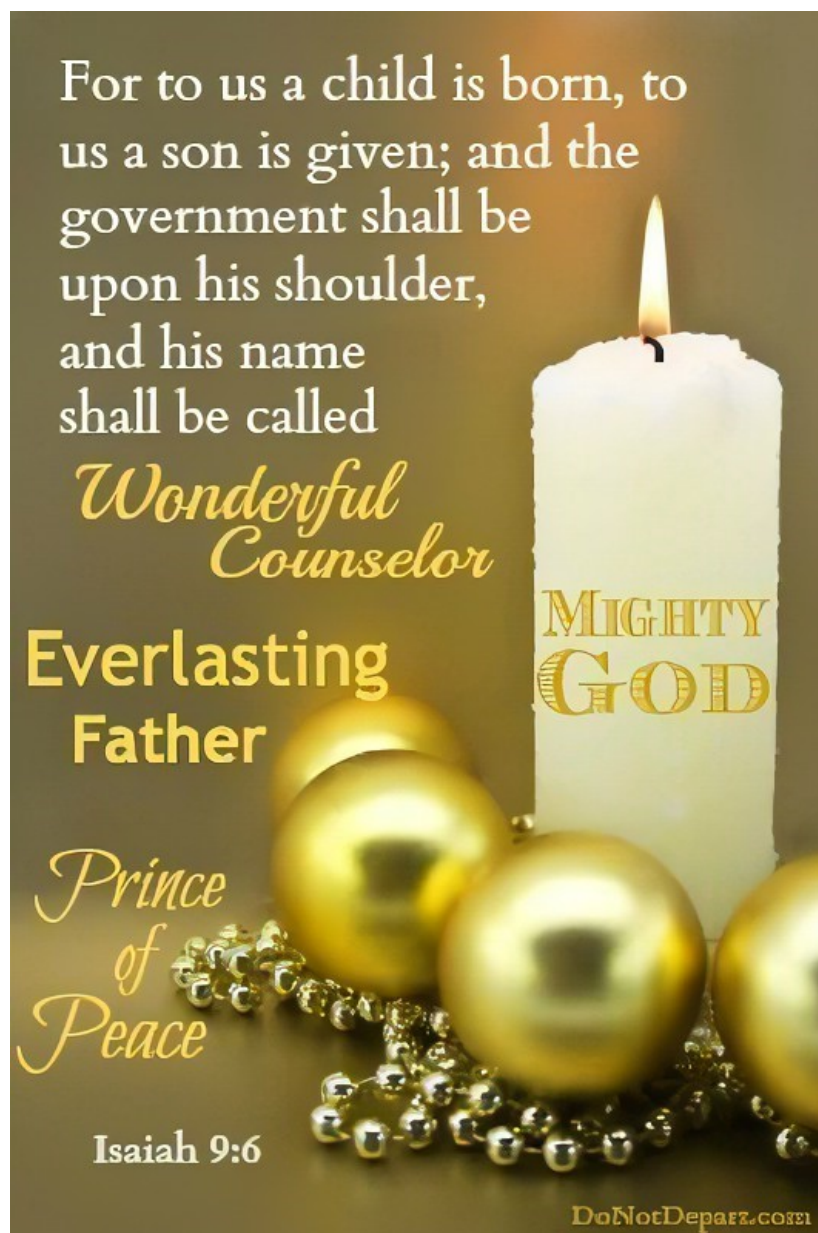
Also see our [Facebook](#) page for more!



St. Bartholomew's
Anglican Church
2368 Eggert Road
Tonawanda, NY 14150

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P. S. Many of you know of Fr. Jerry & Stacy's amazing ministry to the orphans and widows in N. Iraq and East Africa. If you are not familiar with their ministry please checkout www.lovefortheleast.org to learn more about ways to conspire with Jesus this Advent! Fr. Kramer is an Anglican priest from our diocese.



VESTRY

November 2021

Eggert Road Sign: Please take a moment to view our new electronic sign at the Eggert Road entrance! Special thanks to the Curtis family for their donation in memory of David Curtis that provided 50% of the digital sign's cost.

Weekly Announcements: Our vestry members have each volunteered to give the weekly announcements during the three services. It is hoped this will allow everyone to see who the vestry members are.

Ministry Designations for Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas Offerings: The following Christian ministries will equally share the offerings: *Love for the Least (Kramers), Buffalo Dream Center, Cornerstone Manor & the NY Family Research Council.*

The Church of the Atonement, the Anglican church plant, officially closed. Please welcome Fr. Bryan Wandel and his family to St. Bart's. Also, please make a special effort to introduce yourself and welcome any person, who was a member of the Church of the Atonement. We hope that many will make St. Bartholomew's their new church home.

Annual Church Elections: All members are encouraged to vote for 3 candidates for a 3-year term on the vestry. Due to COVID restrictions, this year's election will be mail-in only. Ballots will be sent to all members along with the 2022 pledge letter and approved budget. Return envelopes will be provided. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SIGN YOUR BALLOT AND PRINT YOUR NAME!



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH
TOWN OF TONAWANDA, NY

The Very Rev. Fr. Arthur W. Ward, Jr. Dean & Rector
The Rev. Fr. Jacob Bush Curate
Dn. Gary Wisniewski, Dn. John Reitz

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

4PM FAMILY HOLY EUCHARIST (without incense) There will be a special Sunday School Children's Program for Pre-K through 4th grade upstairs in the large Resource Room.

7PM HOLY EUCHARIST (with incense)

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE (No choir or incense)
10AM Saturday, December 25th, 2021



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!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL'S MANGER SUNDAY is scheduled for December 12th. 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 19th at 4:30 pm in Fr. Amend Hall as we screen the recording of our Christmas pageant titled **"The Promise,"** which tells the story of Christ's birth in a way that points back to the Old Testament, showing how Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises made by God. 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 to register.* (You do not need to register if you're just attending the screening.) Also, for the health and safety of all who attend we are asking for everyone to wear masks at this event except while seated at family tables. **For questions please contact our Director Liz Burkett at dce@stbartston.org**

THE ADVENT OFFERING ENVELOPE may be returned at any time during the Advent/Christmas season, through December 31, 2021.

BUDGET FOR 2022. Please turn in your pledge card if you haven't already done so. Offering envelopes for 2022 are mailed directly to the homes of all who desire them.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



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– Navy

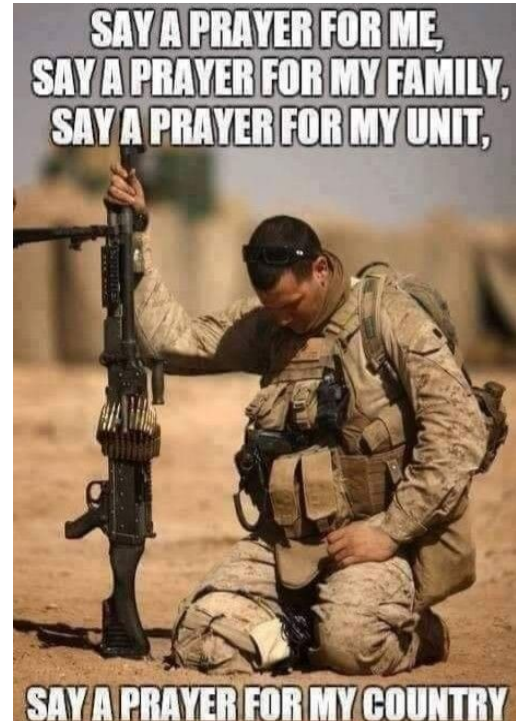
Amanda Brzeczowski– Reserves

James Kerins– Army

A.J. Matteliano– Army

Matthew Prohaska– Air Force

Andrew Rebl– US Army



FOOD PANTRY:

Remember, we collect for the Food Pantry the first weekend of every month. Leave your bags in the front hall as you enter the building. Or, consider making a financial donation to:

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



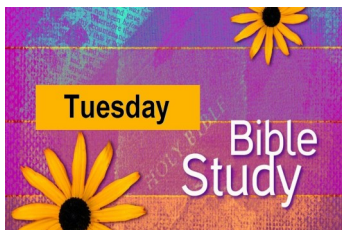
**January Chatter deadline is
Tuesday, December 21.
Thank you.**

BIBLE STUDIES

Women's Tuesday Night Bible Study

Our mission is to grow ever closer to the Lord through better understanding of His Word with study, prayer and praise, and through fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

We meet every other Tuesday, December 7 and 21, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Large Fellowship Room



We are currently studying the book of **Esther**. Study materials are provided, but bring your Bible - a study Bible if you have one. We would love to have you join us for fellowship and the study of God's word.

Questions: call Louise Jones at 874-0526

The Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study Group

Invites you to join us in a study for Advent. We will follow the video study INCARNATION, led by Adam Hamilton, as he sits by his Advent Wreath discussing the meaning of the 4 weeks- HOPE, LOVE, JOY, PEACE.

Our study begins December 1st at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign the registration sheet located on the Information Center in the Fr. Amend Hall.



Men's Discipleship meets every **Tuesday at 6:30pm** .

All men of the church are encouraged to join us. See John Krull for more information.

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

Wow, November was filled with some great discussions about the monster within called anger and how to deal with it without spewing, stuffing, or leaking out our emotions in a negative way. I'm looking forward to continuing that discussion in January and discovering how to make our anger work for us instead of against us. Also, I'm super excited to dress up and have fun playing Christmas games at our Mystery Dinner Party! Don't forget to invite your friends to this fun night of puzzles and pizza!

In Christ,
Liz

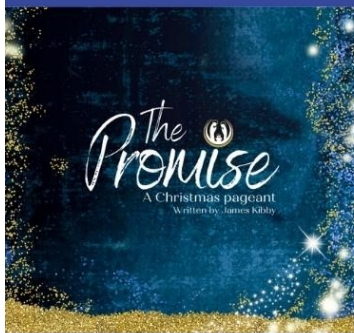


Come join us on December 15th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., for a night of fun discovering who kidnapped Rudy the Rosy-Nosed Reindeer. Everyone will be assigned a character to play and during the party, you will be handed an envelope that contains the clues necessary for your character. The clues provide everything that you need to solve the mystery. With wacky games and characters, this is sure to be a night to remember.

December 17th, from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m., Gingerbread House Assembly. I am asking for youth and their families to come and help prepare Gingerbread houses for families to decorate together on the night of the Christmas Pageant. I hope you can join us for some delicious fun that night. Our goal is to prep 16 houses for families to decorate.



December 19th, Christmas Pageant at 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., with dinner and gingerbread fun to follow Pageant. The Christmas Pageant is being shown on December 19th and I am asking for you to help support this event by passing out food and the Gingerbread houses at the event. Also, if you can bring a dessert for the dinner that would be greatly appreciated.



Friday January 21st, 6 - 8 p.m., Join us as we watch the film An Interview with God. A mystery/drama about a renowned Christian Journalist in a life crisis who finds his world becoming increasingly challenged when he's granted the interview of a lifetime – with someone who claims to be God. Come and enjoy popcorn and candy with your friends and family as we ponder the question. What would I ask God, if I had the chance?





Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

December 2021

Make Jesus your focus this Christmas



Christmas is getting closer and if you're anything like me, you're listening to Christmas Music non-stop and waiting in anticipation for those Christmas cookies your mom makes every year. Or, maybe you're excited about the gifts you're hoping to receive. The Christmas season is so much fun! However, in all the gifts and hype, sometimes it's easy to let Jesus become a side thing instead of the main thing. God gave us an amazing gift, His son Jesus, and over the next few weeks, we're going to take a look at Jesus, what His coming to the earth meant for us and how we can strive to make Jesus the main focus in our hearts this Christmas season!

Next Happenings

Wednesdays 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Join us for our regular meetings filled with engaging Bible lessons and fun activities

Mystery Game Night December 15th
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Christmas Mystery Party Game Night fully equipped with pizza and other goodies

Gingerbread Houses December 17th
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Asking for youth and families to help assemble gingerbread houses

Christmas Pageant December 19th
All are invited to attend the screening!

No Meeting December 22nd & 29th
Due to Christmas Break

Save the Date! January 21st
6 p.m. - 8 p.m. Screening of *An Interview with God*

"This is the Lord For whom we have waited; Let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation."

Isaiah 25:9b NASB

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Marcia Brock, Khloe Kibby
- 2 Lucas Fish
- 4 Grace Ward
- 5 Richard Herrmann, Lindsay Tobin,
Carol Woepfel
- 6 Thomas MacLeay
- 8 Audrey Simmons, Kathleen Ward
- 9 Debra Allen, Marilyn Alliger
- 10 Dorothy Bamberg, Joan Brown,
Karen Zuefle
- 11 Russell Ballaro, Amanda Daniele,
Susan Tobin
- 12 Scott Calhoun, Robert Fish Jr.,
John Hillestad II
- 14 James Hubbard, James Kibby,
Peter Passino
- 15 Louise Jones
- 16 Patricia Scheier, Carlie Schwartzmyer
- 17 Kathleen George
- 18 Francis Ballaro
- 19 Jean DiMaria
- 20 Joshua Merrick
- 21 Justin Dibble
- 22 Mary Schwartzmyer
- 23 Paul Whissel

24 Carol Krieger

25 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

27 Janina Heacock, Kristie Kibby,
Margaret Wahl

28 Sarah Scibetta, Madeline Wahl

29 David Buckley, Molly Delisanti,
Sarah Delisanti, Nicholas Jones

30 Thomas Callea, Anne Karam, Diane Lobdell

31 Julie Ciccarelli, Marietta Lipomi



JANUARY

- 1 Robert Kyser, Deborah Ryan
- 2 Joseph Calamita
- 3 Paul Etienne
- 4 Hadassah Bush, Grace Delisanti
- 5 Mary DeLuca

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

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>NOTES:</p> <h1>December</h1>						
<p>5 TURKEY Pray for the success of numerous ongoing evangelistic efforts.</p>	<p>6 TANZANIA Pray that more Tanzanian Christians will become missionaries.</p>	<p>7 CHINA Pray for God's protection of the few house churches that are still meeting.</p>	<p>8 MALI Pray that Christians in Mali will be spiritually prepared for persecution.</p>	<p>9 JORDAN Pray for revival within the Jordanian church.</p>	<p>10 TUNISIA Pray for Christians who are geographically isolated from other Christians.</p>	<p>11 IRAQ Pray that Christian workers will take advantage of new outreach opportunities.</p>
<p>12 KENYA Pray for those sharing the gospel with Somalis living in Kenya.</p>	<p>13 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray for pastors who refuse to flee, staying behind to shepherd the remaining believers.</p>	<p>14 PAKISTAN Pray for victims of recent church bombings who are still suffering from injuries and trauma.</p>	<p>15 INDONESIA Pray that front-line workers will find creative ways to carry out their ministry.</p>	<p>16 SYRIA Pray through Col. 3:14 for the churches and Christians.</p>	<p>17 SOMALIA Pray for unity among Somali believers and those working with them.</p>	<p>18 YEMEN Pray for believers who have been forced from their homes and have nowhere to go.</p>
<p>19 QATAR Pray that culture and tradition will not hinder people from coming to Christ.</p>	<p>20 VIETNAM Pray for ethnic-minority believers who continue to face persecution from local authorities.</p>	<p>21 BANGLADESH Pray for Christians continuing to work among the 1.3 million Rohingya refugees.</p>	<p>22 CAMEROON Pray for perseverance of the church in areas where Boko Haram remains active.</p>	<p>23 SAUDI ARABIA Pray for the protection and growth of the few indigenous Christians in the country.</p>	<p>24 COMOROS Pray for new believers who are persecuted and ostracized when they come to faith.</p>	<p>25 NORTH KOREA Pray for North Korean defectors who are training to be missionaries.</p>
<p>26 AZERBAIJAN Pray that all believers will be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>27 ERITREA Pray for a VOM-sponsored radio ministry reaching out to Eritreans.</p>	<p>28 BRUNEI Pray that secret believers will wisely witness for Christ to their friends and family.</p>	<p>29 INDIA Pray that believers in India will have access to Bibles and grow in faith.</p>	<p>30 COLOMBIA Pray for pastors in "red zones" that have been retaken by rebel groups.</p>	<p>31 BAHRAIN Pray for the encouragement and strength of women who worship in secret.</p>	

DECEMBER CALENDAR

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School			1 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	2	3	4 10:30am Griefshare 4:30pm HE
6 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School		7 6pm Men's Disc. & Women's Bible Study 7pm VESTRY	8 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	9	10	11 10:30am Griefshare 4:30pm HE
12 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School	13	14 6:30pm Men's Disc.	15 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group	16	17 6pm Youth Group Gingerbread House Assembly	18 10:30am Griefshare 4:30pm HE
19 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School 4:30pm Christmas Pageant	20 6:30pm BARRA	21 6:30 pm Men's Disc. & Women's Bible Study	22 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4 & 7pm Services	25 CHRISTMAS 10am Service
26 8 & 10am HE	27	28 6:30pm Men's Disc.	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Office closed	

