



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 67 NUMBER 2

The Chatter

FEBRUARY 2024

ISRAEL, PALESTINE, & THE RETURN OF CHRIST

This Year's Lenten Bible Study!

What happened on October 7, 2023 was another watershed moment in human history. Believe it or not, the evil and barbaric attack by Hamas on the citizens of Israel was one more sign that our world is coming closer to the Return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every Sunday, millions of Christians around the world confess in the Nicene Creed, **"He (Christ) will come again in glory to the judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end."** These words are in the Creed because they are in God's Word! When people ask, "What is the world coming to?" the answer is simply, "the world is coming to Jesus because Jesus is coming back to the world!" The Second Coming of Christ will finish the work He began some 2000 years ago, and will inaugurate God's kingdom reign forever. But before He returns, there are a number of signs that need to take place.

It's why Jesus highlighted the importance of being ready for His return by watching for those signs. He warned us numerous times in all four gospels to keep watch and to stay on the alert. How so? By being aware of what is going on in our world and learning what God's Word says about such things. Like knowing the prophecies found throughout many of the books of the Hebrew Scriptures (the Old Testament). Or the signs which the Apostles Paul and Peter give us in their epistles (New Testament). And then not shying away from the signs Jesus gives us in His *Revelation* to the Apostle John, the last book of the Bible.

Many of the signs of Christ's Return are related to the people of Israel and the covenants God made with His people in the Old Testament. Therefore, what happens in Israel and Jerusalem today is often directly related to those signs and covenants.

St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

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



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Would you like to make sense of what is going on in the Middle East and in our nation? Do you want to understand the difference between Israel and Palestine and why there seems to be no end to the conflict between Jew and Arab? Do you want to know how the plan of human history has already been predicted by God's Word? What should our response be as the Body of Christ? This year's Lenten Friday Night Bible Study will answer such questions and provide a framework for how we can be used by God to further His Kingdom despite the evil and chaos in our world.

So during Lent, which begins on **Ash Wednesday February 14**, **I invite you to join us every Friday (beginning Feb. 16) from 7-8:30 PM** as we study God's Word and look at the reasons for the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and how what is happening in Israel today is setting the stage for Christ's return. **I hope to see you in person (preferably) or online!**

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Ward

VESTRY



January 2024

There are no Vestry notes for this month.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes

6:45am 9:30am 7pm



**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH CHATTER is
Tuesday, February 20. 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 of our donations. They also can use personal care items, paper products and soap, etc.

ONLY 20 bags and boxes were taken to the Food Pantry in January. This is much lower than the past few months. Please remember that the need never goes away, and be as generous as you can!

Thank you.



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Prayer Night

Thursday, February 15 at 7pm

Please join us.



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 17 at 9am.

All men are invited.



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 or Dn. John Reitz for more information.

TUESDAY NIGHT LADIES

BIBLE STUDY

We meet from 6:30-8:00pm every other Tuesday, in the large fellowship hall. We are currently studying the book of JOHN.

We would love to welcome you to our meetings!

Contact Louise Jones for more information.

**February meetings will be
The 6th and 20th.**



THE WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY

We are close to the end of our study of Galatians, and will be choosing our Lenten Study soon.

Watch for the announcement at our tri-fold on the table in the Fr. Amend Hall. We always welcome new study sisters, and would love to see you!



OPEN REHEARSALS

During the month of February all choirs will have Open Rehearsals! What is an Open Rehearsal? It is an opportunity to revisit or experience singing with a choir, no strings attached! If you have ever thought about joining a choir, or have children or youth who would benefit? Now is the time to check out what the music program has to offer! Come to a rehearsal!

Adult Choir (High School and up)

Open Rehearsals January 31, February 7 at 7 p.m. in the choir room

Singing in 10:00 a.m. Worship February 4, 11

and Ash Wednesday, February 14

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: PREPARING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC FOR LENT AND EASTER

High School Singers. (8th through 12th grade)

This group meets on selected Monday evenings. Check with me about the next scheduled rehearsal and worship service.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: SING SOLO AND GROUP PRAISE AND TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Cherub Choir (Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade)

Children's Choir (Grades 2 through 7)

Open Rehearsals February 4, 11, 18, 25 immediately following 10:00 a.m. worship for approximately for 30 minutes.

Singing in Worship at the 10:00 a.m. service February 25

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: PREPARE A MUSICAL ABOUT NOAH AND THE ARK:

"100% CHANCE OF RAIN."

Contemporary Group - Singers and Instrumentalists

Open Rehearsal February 21 at 6 p.m. for singers

and 6:30 for instrumentalists.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: LEADING MUSIC WORSHIP FOR THE FEBRUARY 25TH 10 a.m. SERVICE

DO YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? Let's enrich our musical offerings in praise to God. See me after church or email me at mbukkosy@yahoo.com.



Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

February 2024

Wait... What?



Whether it's your favorite movie, book, or reality show, you know there's nothing like a good plot twist! Those storytelling surprises can keep us entertained, but they can do a lot more than that too. A good plot twist can make us rethink everything we thought we knew, see things in a brand-new light, and get excited about what might happen next. That's never more true than in the most surprising and significant plot twist in history – Jesus' death and resurrection.

In this six-week series (starting Feb 21st), we'll look at six surprising stories from Jesus' death, resurrection, and last days on earth. These stories will show us that, when life takes unexpected turns, God gives us help. And even when we've messed up or are ready to give up, Jesus never turns away from us, but gives us life, gives us hope, is with us, and gives us another chance.

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

No Meeting Feb. 14th

due to Ash Wednesday

Friday, February 2nd

6:30 pm Winter Comps Event

Sunday, February 4th

11:30 am Kingdom Bound
information meeting

Friday, March 22nd

6:00 pm Urban Air Adventure
Park

*"Wait For the Lord:
Be strong and let
your heart take
courage."*

Psalm 27:14 NASB

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

We often think of Valentine's Day as the day for couples to show their love to one another, but rarely do we use the day to remind us of God's unmatched love for us, His children. For many single people, Valentine's Day can be a bitter reminder of their singleness and desire for a relationship. Luckily, God doesn't leave anyone, single or in a relationship, out of His unending love and grace.

In 1 John 4:8, the author says, "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. "God is love itself. We wouldn't have any conception of "love" at all if it weren't for God, the definition of love.

God further defines in John 3:16 when it says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." He gave up His only son for us. He gave us eternal life because of His great and unmatched love for each of us.

The theologian C.S. Lewis once said, "He died not for men, but for each man. If each man had been the only man made, He would have done no less." God loves you so much. If you were the only one on earth He still would have sent His son for you.

So this Valentine's Day, remember to set your sights not on earthy relationships, but on the God above who loves far more fully and abundantly than we could ever imagine.

In Christ,
Liz

Friday, February 2nd, 6:30-10pm, Join youth groups across the Buffalo area as we enjoy a night of friendly competition at the Winter Comps Event at The Chapel Apex Building (2435 Hopkins Rd. Getzville, NY 14068) We will meet at The Apex at 6:15pm to check in and pickup will also be at the Apex at 10pm. Cost is only \$7 a person and can be given at the online Registration Website for the event or it will be \$10 at the door. Here is the Registration site. <https://thechapel.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2075474> With fun team games, Chick-Fil-A and worship, this is sure to be a night everyone will be talking about



Sunday, February 4th at 11:30am in the Double Room Upstairs. Kingdom Bound information meeting. There you will receive an information packet and all the other paperwork needed to be completed for the event. The event cost is \$250, and that includes tickets for the event, food, and lodging. A \$50 registration fee is due by Sunday, February 25th. Financial assistance is available, so let me or Fr. Ward know whom we can help to make sure no one is left out of this great event

Friday March 22nd - Urban Air Adventure Park Event. Come climb, jump and soar with us at this awesome trampoline park in the Walden Galleria Mall. We will meet at the event center at 6:00 pm and pickup will be at 8:00 pm. Cost is \$25 per person and is due by March 15th. Pizza will be provided. A waiver form must be signed in order to participate in this event. You can fill out a form online at urbanair.com. Just go to the my park tab and click on sign waiver



Don't forget! 2024 is a Leap Year!

FEBRUARY

29

February Birthdays

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Allison Hillery | 21 Marie Crosby, Minor McCorkle |
| 3 Barbara Chiaravalle, Brittany Wilkowski | 22 Tyler Delisanti, Brooke Ganci |
| 4 Carol Brock, Dorothea Haas,
Connie Prohaska | 23 Laina Morgante, Lorna Williams |
| 5 Daniel Arnold | 25 Brenna Luckoski |
| 7 Earl Farley Jr. | 27 Scott Socha |
| 8 David Suanders | 28 Sonia Delisanti, Jessica Passino |
| 9 Margaret Bukkosy, Linda Doran,
Connor Moyer, Theresa Shipman | |
| 10 Judi Curtis, Lauren Gradzewicz,
Maddelena Prohaska | |
| 11 Jason Simon, Lauren Sluyter | |
| 12 Michael Hilliker, Doris Hurren,
Ezekiel Wandel | |
| 13 Colton Machelor | |
| 14 Anthony Horvath | |
| 15 Emma Hillery | |
| 16 Gertrude Hedges | |
| 17 Peter Militello Jr. | |
| 18 Mark Rieman | |
| 19 Donald Symons | |
| 20 Mary Gray, Sharon Tarapata,
AnnaLee Wilkinson | |



MARCH

- 1 Tina Gwizdowski
- 2 Morgan Simon
- 3 Linda Cadena, Lynn Farley
- 4 Richard Storey
- 5 Donna Daniele, Rosemary Taber,
Connie Weigen

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

FEBRUARY 2024

February Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4</p> <p>8 & 10 am HE 10am SS Children's & Cherub Choir practice 11:45am New Member's Class</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6pm Neighborhood Crime Watch 6:30pm Men's Disc/Ladies Bible Study 7pm VESTRY</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Choir</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6pm-8pm Game Night- Rivendell & Fr. Wandel</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE</p>
<p>11</p> <p>8 & 10 am HE 10am SS Children's & Cherub Choir practice 11:45am New Member's Class</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30pm Men's Disc</p>	<p>14</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY 6:45 & 9:30 am HE 7pm HE NO YOUTH GROUP</p>	<p>15</p> <p>7pm Prayer Night</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study: <u>Israel, Palestine & the Return of Christ</u></p>	<p>17</p> <p>9am Men's Break- fast 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8 & 10am HE 10am SS Children's & Cherub Choir practice 11:45am New Member's Class</p>	<p>19</p> <p>President's Day OFFICE CLOSED 630pm BARRA Swap Meet</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm Men's Disc/Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 6pm Contemp. Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study: <u>Israel, Palestine & the Return of Christ</u></p>	<p>24</p> <p>10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE</p>
<p>25</p> <p>8 & 10 am HE 10am SS Children's & Cherub Choir practice 11:45am New Member's Class</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm Men's Disc</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Choir</p>	<p>29</p>		

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOTES: <h1>February</h1>						
4 UZBEKISTAN Biblical Christianity is viewed as extremism. Pray that Christians' gentleness and love will change this perception.	5 ETHIOPIA Pray for Christians like Makda, whose husband and family rejected her because of her newfound faith.	6 CAMEROON Pray for effective evangelism efforts among members of the terrorist group Boko Haram.	7 JORDAN Pray that Christian converts from Islam will be able to worship openly without persecution by family members.	8 TANZANIA Pray that Bibles will reach people living in remote Muslim-dominated areas.	9 COMOROS Pray that the imprisonment of Christians for sharing the gospel will serve only to embolden their witness.	10 VIETNAM Pray for Anh, a Vietnamese teenager who was attacked with a machete because of her Christian witness.
11 SRI LANKA Pray that local authorities will grant favor to Christians seeking permission to construct church buildings.	12 SAUDI ARABIA Pray for those who face imprisonment or death for following Jesus Christ.	13 MALAYSIA Pray for Susanna, whose husband, Raymond, was abducted on this day in 2017 and is still missing.	14 MALI Pray for Jacques, who helps distribute Bibles to pastors in Mali, where God's Word is in great demand.	15 KYRGYZSTAN Pray that the church will be a supportive, loving community for those rejected because of their faith in Christ.	16 SUDAN Pray for a pastor who was arrested for disturbing the peace after Muslim extremists attacked his church.	17 BHUTAN Pray for a gospel breakthrough in this strongly Buddhist nation.
18 TAJIKISTAN Pray that as corruption and the opium trade compound the country's difficulties, Tajiks will seek stability in Christ.	19 COLOMBIA Pray that front-line workers in "red zones" will be refreshed and strengthened at the pastors' conferences.	20 NIGER Pray that Christians who are unable to read will have access to audio Bibles in their native language.	21 INDONESIA While it is illegal to share the gospel, pray for Christians who are willing to pay the price.	22 ERITREA Pray for Meron, Mussie, Kiflu, Kidane, Halle and hundreds of others who are imprisoned for their faith in Christ.	23 YEMEN Pray that Christians will find ways to help their neighbors who are suffering from the food crisis.	24 CUBA Praise God that Pastor David's church gathers for worship despite the destruction of their building by authorities.
25 PAKISTAN Pray for the protection and encouragement of Christian converts from Islam, who are often rejected by their families.	26 UGANDA Praise God that biblical churches have responded to the rise in radical Islam by reaching out with the gospel!	27 SOUTHERN MEXICO Pray that the Chiapas Outreach Bases will continue to bear eternal fruit in the lives of children.	28 NORTH KOREA Pray for the estimated 30,000 Christians serving sentences in prisons and labor camps.	29 INDIA Pray for Christian organizations, many of which have been shut down by new government regulations.		

vom.org



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Campbell.

"My parents are giving up desserts for Lent. So I'm balancing the family diet by giving up vegetables."

CS553287

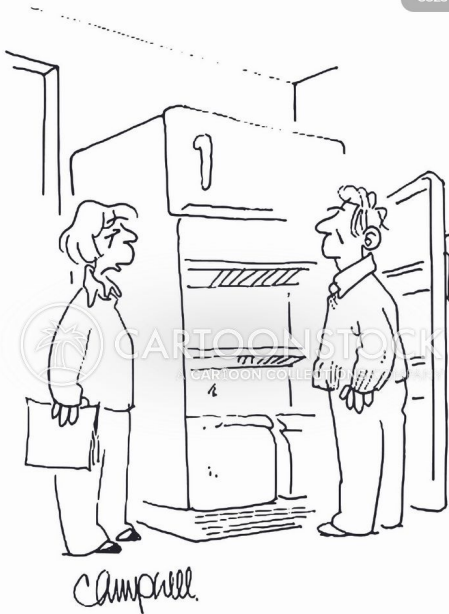


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Campbell.

"We always have pizza for Easter dinner because that's what my mom gives up for Lent."

CS251499



Campbell.

"I couldn't decide what to give up for Lent, so I gave it all up."

Remember, it's not always about what you give up. What can you add to your day to better yourself or help someone else? More time reading the Bible, attend one of our many Bible studies, more acts of kindness, more helping out in church or the community....