



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 1

The Chatter

JANUARY 2024

Hello St. Bart's family! Once again we flip the calendar to a new year. This next year might seem longer than the year we just went through, because it is by one day. But that just means we have an extra day this year to listen to God, to obey God, and to allow Him to work in us and through us. Spending the extra time with the Lord will make 2024 be better than 2023 by "leap's and bounds!" So lets hop to it!

In my reflections on the past year and the prospect of the new year, two Scriptures came to mind. The first is **Acts 3:19**. In Acts 3 we see the Apostle Peter preaching in the Temple about Jesus. And he tells his fellow Jews that the proper response to Jesus' death and resurrection is to "*repent and return.*" What are the benefits of this? Peter states that the benefits are, "*that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.*" Having our sins wiped away is probably the more obvious benefit of repentance. Less obvious is those times of refreshing that come from the presence of the Lord.

We all experience times in our lives where a little refresh feels needed. But here Peter tells us that the times of refreshing that we need most come from having the presence of the Lord in our lives. It is the Lord that gives us the proper perspective on whatever situation we find ourselves in. It is in the presence of the Lord that the things of earth grow strangely dim. It is in the presence of the Lord that we find real encouragement to continue on in the faith knowing that He will meet our needs. This is the true refreshment that all of us need.

The second Scripture is **Philippians 3:13-14**. "*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*" We can be tempted to look back at mistakes and sins we have committed in the past and repented from already and allow them to shape our attitude and perspective now. **(Continued on Page 2)**

St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

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



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We can be tempted to look at what we once had and think that better than what we have now, as the Israelites did in the desert when they desired to return to Egypt. But we must avoid both of those. Forget what lies behind. It is done and over with. When we repent, God forgives our sin. It is as far from us as the east is from the west. Forget what we once had. We need to look at what we have now in Christ and look forward to what we will have in the future because of what Jesus has done for us. Let us strive for that prize.

No matter our perspective on it, let us not dwell on 2023. May we instead move always forward in Christ Jesus our Lord. Seeking Him, spending time with Him, that each day we may experience the refreshment to our souls provided for us only because of the presence of Almighty God in our lives. Amen!

Fr. Bush
Associate Rector



VESTRY



December 2023

All are invited to attend the Annual Church Meeting after the 10 AM service on January 14, 2024, chaired by our outgoing Warden, MJ Brzeczowski. A lunch of subs, chips and soda, as well as cake to celebrate our 15th anniversary at our Eggert Road location, will be provided for all who attend. Fr. Ward will give a recap of what took place in 2023, including a financial report provided by our Treasurer, Gary Wisniewski, who will not be able to attend. Brief presentations will also be given by Liz Burkett, our Youth Director and Margaret Bukkosy, our Choir Director and Organist.

Fr. Ward was pleased to announce to the Vestry that our **2024 Warden and Jr. Warden** will be Jim Thompson and Jeff Westerman, respectively.

Although John Krull is (trying to) “retire” as the coordinator for the **Men’s Breakfasts**, he announced he has made arrangements to have guest speakers for the months of January, February and March 2024. More information will be forthcoming.

It is hard to believe it’s that time of year again, but by now you should have received your **annual budget and pledge letter**. Just as a reminder, please remember to turn in your pledge cards. This helps the vestry and budget committee to plan for the upcoming year.



**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY CHATTER is
Tuesday, January 16. 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..

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

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



A BIG THANK YOU!!! to all who helped keep the church grounds and gardens looking good during the Spring and summer months: Tom Brown, Steven Gradzewicz, Laurie-Anne Hammond, Dee Jackman, Caroline Rudin, Brenda & Mike Wisz and especially new member Joshua Jackson who oversaw the group.



Prayer Night
Thursday, January 18 at 7pm

Please join us.



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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

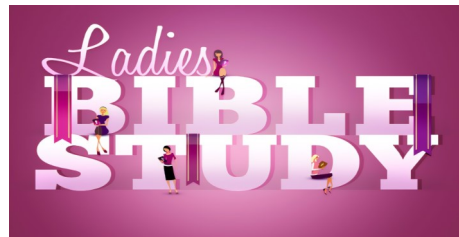
We meet from 6:30-8:00pm every other Tuesday, in the large fellowship hall. We will begin studying the book of JOHN in this new year.

We would love to welcome you at our meetings!

Contact Louise Jones for more information.

January meetings will be

The 9th and 23rd.



THE WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY

thank you all so very much for your support in our efforts to SHARE THE WARMTH in December. May God bless each of you, and each of those who will benefit from your generosity. Two truck-loads of warmth have been delivered to men at City Mission and to women and children at Cornerstone.



Music Notes from Margaret Bukkosy

TO THE OUTSIDE IT IS A CHOIR REHEARSAL!

On the inside it is so much more!

The first breath that a choir takes together is filled with

Focus

Intention

Emotion

Anticipation

*A breath unified for no other reason
than to make something beautiful together.*

On the inside it is

A sense of belonging

An uplifting change of mood

A confidence booster

A creative outlet

An extended family support system

A place to discover your best self

An opportunity to change people's lives through music.

An opportunity to experience the Holy Spirit within.

An opportunity to praise God without reservation.

THAT IS THE REASON WE DO WHAT WE DO!

WHERE ARE YOU? AND YOU? AND YOU?

*Join one of our choirs and experience
the beauty of singing in a group.*



Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

January 2024

Waiting on the Future



Does life ever feel like a never-ending waiting game? Like you're always waiting to get a little older, to gain a little more freedom, or to find a little more clarity about your future? When you think about the person you're becoming and what your future holds, do you ever just want to skip ahead in your story to see how it all turns out, who you'll become, what you'll do, or what kind of difference you'll make?

In this four-week series, we'll talk about all the questions, fear, frustration, and excitement that thinking about our futures can bring. As we explore passages from Ecclesiastes, Revelation, and more, we'll discover four truths about what God has in store for us: we're all a work in progress, your purpose is to be like Jesus, God's plans for you are good, and your next step is to get closer to God.

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

No Meeting Jan. 3rd & 31st

First meeting of 2024 is Jan. 10th

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

Hey there everyone! Wow, what an outstanding Christmas Pageant this year! Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication in the production of "A Twist in Time." I was very impressed by your performances, and I hope you all had an extraordinary Christmas Break. We have some great events coming up in the next few months, so be sure to put them on your calendars! I am very excited about the Winter Comps event coming up on February 2nd! This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends to a night of fun with lots of other youth groups!

In Christ,
Liz

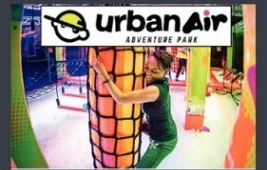
Friday, February 2nd , 6:30pm - 10:00pm, Join youth groups across the Buffalo area as we enjoy a night of friendly competition at the Winter Comps Event at The Apex Building on 2435 Hopkins Road in Getzville, NY 14068. This is the youth building of the Chapel at Crosspoint. We will meet at 6:30pm at the Apex to check in and pickup will also be at the Apex at 10:00pm. 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, food 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 throw out your Christmas tree on December 26th!

(Unless it's all dried up and looks like something out of a horror movie, hold on to your tree for all twelve days of Christmas!)

By the time December 25th rolls around, most of us are just about done with Christmas. After all, we've been listening to Christmas music since Thanksgiving, attended parties, bought and exchanged gifts, baked cookies, decorated our house, and watched every one of our favorite holiday movies. It's been Christmas non-stop, and we're ready for it to be over, even though we understand that Christmas day is the first day of the season. Why the burn out?

You may have heard someone at one time describe people as "creatures of habit." For example, you eat the same breakfast every morning, or keep the same schedule, or maintain certain family traditions. We all have habits, or routines, that inform the minutes and hours of each day, with some habits so entrenched that we have difficulty when it comes to changing them. Undergirding our habits and routines is a basic rhythm. When we're locked in with the rhythm of our lives, we feel focused, joyful, maybe energized, like we're moving forward. When we're "out of step," then we feel stressed, flustered, and overwhelmed. Whoever, or whatever, sets our life's rhythm, will form the habits and routines that it supports and, ultimately, the outcome that results.

This is why we become so burned out by December 25th, and why we throw out our trees on the 26th. Our rhythms have been set by our secular, consumer-driven society and not by the Church. The world tells us to "run, run, Rudolph" because Santa is in a hurry, while the Church says, "God rest ye merry, gentlemen," because the Lord, the Prince of Peace, has come. If we want to experience the peace and joy that is ours in Christ, we need to disconnect from the world's rhythms and get in sync with Christ's.

One tool designed to help us in this regard is the Church calendar. Each season points to a specific event in the life of Christ and calls us to joyous celebration or deeper reflection as it pertains to us both personally and corporately. Following the Church calendar will help us lock in to better heavenly rhythms, so start today by keeping up the Christmas cheer for all twelve days... and after you can throw out your tree.

January Birthdays

- 1 Robert Kyser, Deborah Ryan
- 2 Joseph Calamita
- 3 Paul Etienne
- 4 Hadassah Bush, Grace Delisanti
- 6 George Brock, Nicholas Horvath
- 7 Eric Weber
- 8 Thomas Crane, Kellen Matesic,
Amanda Waddington
- 10 Charlene Albanese, Jonathan Emmons,
Barbara Molison, Mitchell Simon
- 11 Elin Freeman, Marcia Hutt
- 12 Lori Abramo, Matthew Dibble,
Ruth Marcinelli
- 13 Logan Moyer
- 14 Kevin Batchen
- 15 Daniel Bunker, Lawrence Moyer
- 16 Claudia Fries, John Krull
- 19 Kylie Derrett, Erica Weber
- 20 Robert Hughes, Carmello Pitruzella
- 22 Karen Bunker, Donovan Heacock
- 25 Patricia Dyviniak, Fred Garrasi Jr.,
Carol Loucks, Parker Waddington
- 26 Matthew Prohaska
- 28 Fr. Richard Molison

30 Kacy Wandel

31 James Kissel



FEBRUARY

- 2 Allison Hillery
- 3 Barbara Chiaravalle, Brittany Wilkowski
- 4 Carol Brock, Dorothea Haas,
Connie Prohaska
- 5 Daniel Arnold

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

JANUARY 2024

January Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 NEW YEARS DAY (office closed)	2 6:30pm Men's Disc.	3 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study NO Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	4	5	6 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
7 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal	8	9 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study 7pm VESTRY	10 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	11	12	13 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
14 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal	15	16 6:30pm Men's Disc.	17 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Cont. Singers 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	18 7pm Prayer Night	19	20 9am Men's Breakfast 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE Bishops Breedlove & Hawkins visit
21 8 & 10 am HE Bishop Hawkins visit 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal	22	23 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study	24 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group	25	26	27 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
28 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal	29	30 6:30pm Men's Disc.	31 9:30am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study NO Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir			

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 PHILIPPINES Pray for Christians who have been driven from their homes on Mindanao by Islamic extremists.	2 NEPAL Pray for faithful believers like Bimala who boldly share the gospel with their neighbors despite hardships.	3 MOROCCO Pray that more Moroccans will hear the gospel through digital-media evangelism efforts.	4 ISRAEL (INCLUDING WEST BANK & GAZA) Pray for Messianic (Christian) Jews who are harassed because of their faith in Christ.	5 LEBANON More than 1 million Syrian refugees have entered Lebanon since 2012. Pray for church leaders as they minister to them.	6 IRAN Pray that Christians in Iran will continue to share the gospel and teach new believers despite civil unrest.	
7 AFGHANISTAN Pray that God will protect Christians being pursued by the Taliban.	8 CHINA Pray that study Bibles distributed to Christian leaders will enable them to teach and train their flocks well.	9 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray for Christians who have been beaten by militants. Ask the Lord for their physical, emotional and spiritual healing.	10 MOZAMBIQUE Pray that Christians who have lost everything in recent Islamist attacks will have every need met.	11 BANGLADESH Pray that media outreaches will effectively reach millions of people with the Good News.	12 TUNISIA Pray that Tunisian Christians will continue to have freedom to gather and worship.	13 BURKINA FASO Pray for the grieving families of Christians killed in targeted attacks by Islamic militants.
14 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that government observers monitoring unregistered churches will hear the gospel and turn to Christ.	15 EGYPT Pray that Christian converts from Islam like Duhra will see how God provides all their needs.	16 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray for Aung Hte and his family, who were driven from their land and home after placing their faith in Christ.	17 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Pray that Christians will be protected from violent attacks by militant Islamic groups.	18 MAURITANIA Pray that Christian missionaries will return to the country.	19 DJIBOUTI Pray that God's Word will permeate the country, despite the risk of harassment for owning a Bible.	20 AZERBAIJAN Pray that workers will find ways to import Bibles, which are difficult to obtain and cannot be printed legally.
21 KENYA Pray for Christians living in Muslim-majority areas of northeastern Kenya.	22 BAHRAIN Praise God for a new season of openness to the gospel! Pray that it continues.	23 MALDIVES There are very few known Christians in the Maldives. Pray that more Maldivians will come to know the Lord.	24 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Pray for foreign missionaries who are illegally sharing the gospel with Muslims.	25 IRAQ Pray for Nader, a Muslim teenager who asked for a Bible after having dreams about Christ.	26 LAOS Laos has more than 200 ethnic subgroups. Pray for loving unity in the church amid this diversity.	27 SOMALIA Pray for Christian converts from Islam who are accused of rejecting both their religion and their nationality.
28 KUWAIT Pray for wisdom for the few indigenous Kuwaiti believers, who practice their faith at great risk.	29 OMAN Bibles can be sold only to foreigners. Pray that many will also reach Omanis.	30 BENIN Pray for the salvation of Edoosa's brothers and sisters.	31 QATAR While it's not illegal to own a Bible, Qataris who own or distribute them are at great risk. Pray for their protection.	NOTES: <i>January</i>		

PRAYERS FOR THE NEW YEAR

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God our Father, we thank you for protecting us and bringing us safely through another year. Help us to grow not only in body, but also in heart and mind. May we look upon each new day as another chance to follow you more closely. As the new year unfolds, may we be more merciful towards others and more generous in serving you. Amen.

FamilyRosary.org



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.



Another Year

Another year is dawning!
Dear Master, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.

Another year of leaning;
Upon Thy loving breast,
Of ever-deepening trustfulness—
Of quiet, happy rest.

Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.

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A New Year's Blessing

May God make your year a happy one,
Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain,
But by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes;
Not by making your path easy,
But by making you sturdy to travel any path;
Not by taking hardships from you,
But by taking fear from your heart;
Not by granting you unbroken sunshine,
But by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows;
Not by making your life always pleasant,
But by showing you when people and their causes need you most,
and by making you anxious to be there to help.

God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

- Unknown

Rambings of the Clairy



The LORD bless thee, and keep thee:
The LORD make his face shine upon thee,
and be gracious unto thee:
The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee,
and give thee peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

DailyVerses.net

HOW C-C-COLD IS IT?



"THEY SAY TWO FEET OF SNOW
CAME DOWN LAST NIGHT!"



NO FUNNY STUFF...
HAND OVER THAT
COAT & SCARF.



SERIOUSLY, EVEN
I'M SICK OF WINTER
THIS YEAR.



LOOKS LIKE A
BAD
CASE OF
FROSTBITE.

STAHLER.



ALL THEY
TOOK WAS MY
SNOWBLOWER.



"HAVEN'T YOU FINISHED SHOVELLING
THAT DRIVEWAY YET?"



Man, that was some blizzard
last night. I bet I gained
fifty pounds.



WHEN! Done!
...OH, FOR
CRYIN' OUT LOUD!
YOU GOTTA BE
KIDDIN' ME!