



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 68 NUMBER 1

The Chatter

JANUARY 2025

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

How fitting that we begin the calendar year with Christmas! The world would have us believe that Christmas is over and done with. By New Year's Eve, the decorations and trees are starting to come down, the gifts have already been exchanged, out of town family are returning home, and everyone is recovering from the overindulgence of Christmas parties and dinners. However, in the Church we are only in the middle of the Christmas Season! Christmas is *twelve days* and serves to end the year AND usher in the new year! During a family trip to Spain two years ago I so appreciated that the people there celebrate Christmas all twelve days. Of course, Christmas is much more than a joyous celebration of many days. Christmas is the foundation not just for the New Year but for life itself.

Christmas proclaims the reality that God became flesh in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We read in **John 1:1-4** that "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**"

Further clarification is given later in **John 1:14-18**, "**And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15John testified about Him and cried out, saying, 'This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'**" **16For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.**"

(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
Phone: (716) 831-1777

(Continued from page 1)

The profound truth that God became flesh is called the *Incarnation*. Without the Incarnation, the world would still be in the dark. Without Christ coming to earth, there would be no "Light" - no truth, no grace, no mercy, no joy, no peace, no hope, no kingdom of God, no Holy Spirit, no eternal life! Christmas celebrates the reality that God loves us and desires to be in a perfect eternal relationship with us. God has done His part. Salvation has been revealed in God the Son, Jesus Christ. But we have to do our part. All must be born again and that comes only through responding to the Christ through repentance and faith. Repentance is turning away from a self-centered and self-directed life and turning to God in Christ. That's what happens when we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. However, the way we continue to grow in our relationship with the living God is to continue to walk by repentance and faith! And true repentance and faith will mean faithful obedience.

Let's face it, our New Year's resolutions come and go. The one that should always remain, however, is the resolution to continue to walk with the Lord in a spirit of **daily** repentance. It is precisely what Christmas opens the door for us to do. God did His part, now may we continue to do ours!

Merry Christmas and Happy Repentance Day!
Fr. Ward



A SPECIAL THANK YOU
to Margaret Bukkosy
for a job well-done!

Our organist and choir director is stepping down as of December 31, in order to attend to other commitments in her life. For the past three years Margaret has done an outstanding job revitalizing our music ministry especially spending time with soloists, young and old, and developing the Cherub and Children's Choirs. Deacon James Kibby will now oversee the music ministry.

VESTRY

December 2024

Annual Church Meeting & Ministry Fair: Mark your calendars to attend the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 19, 2025**, after the 10 AM service. Lunch will be provided for those who attend. Although it is not necessary, please sign up ahead of time so enough food can be ordered. Short presentations will be given from Fr. Ward, Fr. Bush, Liz Burkett, Gary Wisniewski (Treasurer's Report); lay members who head ministries will be invited to speak as well. In addition, please stop by each table to speak with a representative of the various ministries St. Bart's offers.

Annual Church Election: Because we only had three candidates to fill three vacancies, a "formal" election was not necessary. Mike Brylinski, MJ Brzeczowski and Tom Daniele have agreed be on the vestry for a 3-year term. Also, of note, long-time member of St. Bart's, Jeff Westerman, has agreed to be the Senior Warden, with Rocco Brindisi as the Junior Warden for 2025.

2025 Budget and Pledge Letters: If you have not received your letter, contact Fr. Ward. Please remember to send in your pledges as this helps the budget committee to stay on track.

Sheridan Parkside Ministry Needs Help: There are many ways you can help, even if you cannot physically go to their facility. All you need to do if you can help is call them. Pastor Eric Napoli or his staff would welcome your call.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Years: From all the outgoing vestry members (Senior Warden Jim Thompson, Donna Daniele, & Molly Sammarco) and the 2025 vestry members (Warden Jeff Westerman, Jr. Warden Rocco Brindisi, Mike Brylinski, MJ Brzeczowski, Tom Daniele, Linda Doran, John Hilestad, John Krull, Cheryl MacDonald, along with Clerk Lori Abramo, Treasurer Gary Wisniewski) all pray that you and yours have a very blessed holiday season!



ST. BART'S: CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF MINISTRY!



**DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY CHATTER is
Tuesday, January 21 Thank you.**

PRAYER MINISTRY

PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

Prayer Requests – If you, your family and/or your friends are in need of prayer there are prayer request cards in the pews and at the front church entrance. They can be deposited in the church box at the front entrance. They are picked up twice a week. Also, you can request prayers online through our website under the tab “Parish Life” or this link: <https://www.stbartston.org/prayer-requests>

Intercessory Prayer – Sundays at the 10 AM service during the ministration of communion. See the weekly bulletin for dates. Also, look for the **lavender** Intercessory Prayer tags on people willing to pray with/for you.

If you are in need of some quiet time the **Prayer Room** is open daily during office hours (from 9 am till 3pm) and can be used before, during or after the weekly Saturday and Sunday services.

When you have had **Prayers Answered** and, if you would like to (confidentially) share them with us, you can do that by dropping us a note in the prayer box at the church entrance. We would love to hear from you.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with the flocks, then the work of Christmas begins: To find the lost, to heal those broken in spirit, to feed the hungry, release the oppressed, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among all peoples, to make a little music with the heart. And to radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say. Then the work of Christmas begins.—Howard Thurman

Prayer Ministry: Intercessory Prayer

We are in God’s perfect will when we pray for others. **“And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us.”** 1 John 5:14. James 5:13 says, **“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray.”** Intercessory prayer is powerful. It’s about standing in the gap and seeking God’s intervention for someone else. There are many benefits to intercessory prayer. It deepens your relationship with God, it develops compassion and empathy, and it strengthens your own faith and hope as you see God working in the lives of those you pray with.



Every first and third Sunday at the 10:00 service each month, we have Intercessors who will pray with you during Communion. Please come and allow us to seek God together for your needs and glorify God as He answers our requests.

If you would like to know more about our Intercessor’s Ministry here at St. Bart’s, please see anyone wearing a purple intercessor lapel pin or see Mary Gamble or Brenda Wisz. You can also call the church at 716- 831-1777 and they will contact one of us.

****Anytime you want prayer (other than the Sundays mentioned above), please do not hesitate to find an Intercessor wearing the purple pin (there are seven of us). Our joy, our ministry, and our purpose is to be there for you in your time of need. **Phil 4:6 “Do not be anxious about anything , but in everything by PRAYER and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.”**

BIBLE STUDIES



Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study

meets at 6:30 pm ***every other*** Tuesday. Our current study is **COURAGEOUS HEROES OF FAITH** - men and women of the Bible who overcame extraordinary difficulties.

Our January meetings will be the 14th and 28th.

See Louise Jones if you wish to be a part of this study, so she can have needed materials ready for you.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

will resume January 8th at 10:30 am. We will be studying the book of Amos, using a study guide by Jennifer Rothschild called **Amos: An Invitation to the Good Life.**

See Sharon Scott for more information.

ALL women are invited to join one or both Bible Study groups.



Men's Discipleship Group

meets every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm. Contact John Krull for more information.

All men are invited to attend.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



The Annual Church Meeting

will be **January 19, 2025 at noon.**

Lunch will be provided for those who attend. There will also be a Ministry Fair highlighting the various ministries of St. Bartholomew's.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, January 18 at 9am.

Invite MALE family, friends & neighbors to join us.

If you would like to help with cooking, we begin at 7:30am.



FOOD PANTRY: 25 bags and boxes of food and other items were donated in December. An additional 19 bags were donated by the Wed. AM Ladies Bible Study group.

Remember that we collect for the NIACAP Food Pantry the **first weekend of every month.**

Why not make a New Year's Resolution to bring in a bag or box of food, paper products, and/or personal items each month!!

Your donation can bless numerous people!
Thank you.



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...
Matthew 25:35



Men's Lunch:

Every Tuesday at 12 noon, a group of men meet for lunch and fellowship at various restaurants around the area. See John Krull to get on their email list to see where they are going next !!

ALL men are welcome to join them!!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



The Meal Assist Ministry has **LOTS of HOMEMADE SOUPS** in our freezer. If you, or someone you know from the St. Bart's family, has an extended illness, or are dealing with a death in the family, or are stressed out with the arrival of a new baby, PLEASE let the office, one of our priests, or Brenda Wisz know. We'd love to help with some of soup and rolls, even sandwich meat if you'd like!

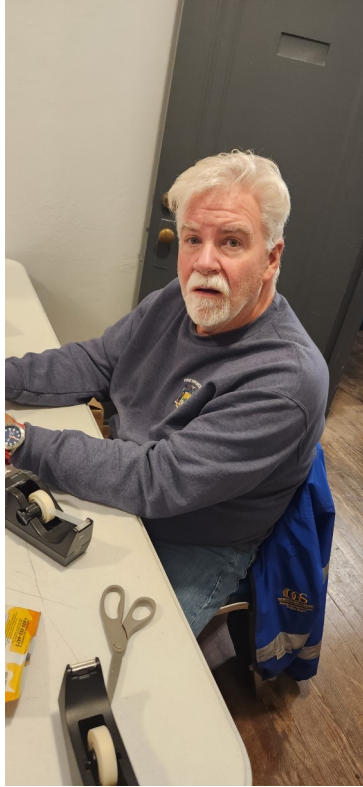


Please keep those from our Parish Family who are serving our country in the Military in your prayers. Please let the church office know if there is anyone that should be added to or removed from this prayer list.

Virginia Boy– Navy
James Kerins– Army
Sean MacLeay-Navy
Matthew Miller– Army
Matthew Prohaska– Air Force
Andrew Rebl– Army



Helping at the Buffalo Dream Center, wrap gifts and bag food.





Story Time!



GOOD stories are ones that we connect with. **BETTER** stories are those that teach us something important - something we can apply in our own lives. But the **BEST** stories are those that point to the reality of God. Stories that reflect true love, self-sacrifice, and trust – all of the things that point to God's love and goodness in our lives. In this 4-week teaching series we will discuss stories in popular films and discover how God's truth shows up in beautiful and sometimes surprising ways.

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

No YG Meeting Jan. 1st

Due to Christmas break

First YG Meeting Jan. 8th

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Wednesday, Jan. 22nd

6:00 pm Parent workshop

Save the Date: Feb. 2nd

11:30 am Kingdom Bound mtg.

Save the Date: Feb. 21st

6:00 pm Movie Night

Save the Date: March 28th

6:00 pm Urban Air

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

Matthew 3:17b NASB

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

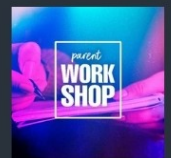


Hey there everyone! Wow, what an outstanding Christmas Program this year! Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication in the production of "The Circus Comes to Bethlehem." I was very impressed by your performances, and I hope you all had an extraordinary Christmas Break. We have some great events coming up in the next few months, so be sure to put them on your calendars! I am very excited about the Movie Night featuring "The Forge February 21st! This is an excellent opportunity to invite your friends to a fun and popcorn filled night!

In Christ,
Liz



On Wednesday January 22nd from 6 – 8 pm, we will have a Parent Workshop for parents and guardians of youth in grades 6-12. The workshop will focus on how to help middle and high school students grow spiritually through developing key spiritual habits essential for their relationship with Jesus. We encourage every parent to attend and take advantage of this valuable training. The workshop will be during a regular youth group night and childcare will be available for younger siblings.



Save the Date: Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30am in the Double Room Upstairs. Kingdom Bound information meeting. (Kingdom Bound is July 27th-31st.) There you will receive an information packet, and all the other paperwork needed to be completed for the event. The event cost is \$300, and that includes tickets for the event, food, and lodging. A \$50 registration fee is due by Sunday, February 9th. 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.

Save the Date: On Friday, February 21st at 6:00pm we will be watching the film "The Forge". In the film a young man Isaiah Wright has some growing up to do. A year out of high school with no plans for his future, Isaiah is challenged by his single mom and a successful businessman to start charting a better course for his life. Through the prayers of his mother and biblical discipleship from his new mentor, Isaiah begins to discover God's purpose for his life is so much more than he could hope for or imagine. Please feel free to bring your family and friends to watch this great film. To watch the trailer for the film go to <https://www.theforgemovie.com/> We will be having Pizza and Popcorn while we watch the film in Fr. Amend Hall.



Save the Date: Friday March 28th - 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 \$30 per person and is due by March 19th. 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.



January Birthdays

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 Robert Kyser, Deborah Ryan | 29 Sarah McGowan |
| 2 Joseph Calamita | 30 Kacy Wandel |
| 3 Paul Etienne | 31 James Kissel |
| 4 Hadassah Bush, Grace Delisanti | |
| 5 Thomas Callea, David Festa | |
| 6 George Brock, Nicholas Horvath | |
| 7 Eric Weber | |
| 8 Thomas Crane | |
| 10 Charlene Albanese, Barbara Molison, Jonathan Emmons | |
| 11 Elin Freeman, Marcia Hutt | |
| 12 Lori Abramo, Matthew Dibble, Ruth Marcinelli | |
| 13 Logan Moyer | |
| 14 Kevin Batchen | |
| 15 Lawrence Moyer | |
| 16 Claudia Fries, John Krull | |
| 19 Erica Weber, Kylie Derrett | |
| 20 Robert Hughes, Carmello Pitruzella | |
| 22 Donovan Heacock | |
| 25 Patricia Dyviniak, Carol Loucks, Fred Garrasi Jr. | |
| 26 Matthew Prohaska | |
| 28 Fr. Richard Molison | |



FEBRUARY

- 2 Allison Hillery
- 3 Barbra Chiaravalle, Brittany Wilkowski
- 4 Carol Brock

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

January Calendar

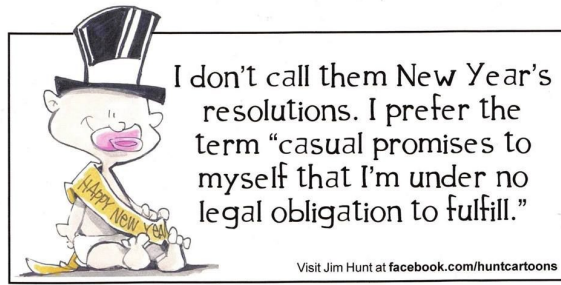
JANUARY 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|-----|--|
| | | | HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025 | | | |
| 5 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School | 6 | 7 6:30pm Men's Disc. 7pm Vestry | 8 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group | 9 6:30pm Contem- porary Music rehearsal | 10 | 11 10:30am Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE |
| 12 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir | 13 | 14 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study | 15 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group | 16 6:30pm Contem- porary Music rehearsal | 17 | 18 9am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE |
| 19 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir NOON: ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING & Ministry Fair | 20 Martin Luther King Day (OFFICE CLOSED) | 21 6:30pm Men's Disc. | 22 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group | 23 7pm Prayer Service | 24 | 25 10:30am Conf. Class 4:30 pm HE 6pm Sudanese Dinner |
| 26 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir | 27 | 28 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study | 29 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group | 30 6:30pm Contem- porary Music rehearsal | 31 | |

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>NOTES:</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-family: cursive;">January</p> | | | | | | |
| <p>5 GUINEA Pray that Christians who are persecuted by their families will draw near to Christ and experience his presence.</p> | <p>6 NIGERIA Pray for Sade and her children, who were driven from their home by militant Fulani Muslims.</p> | <p>7 BHUTAN Pray that God's Word will reach Christians and seekers like Pema and her family despite government restrictions.</p> | <p>8 PHILIPPINES Pray for God's peace among Christians living under threat of attack from Islamist rebels.</p> | <p>9 COLOMBIA Pray for gospel workers in "red zones," where Marxist guerrillas and paramilitaries exercise control through violence.</p> | <p>10 BENIN Today is National Voodoo Day in Benin. Pray that voodooists will find new life in Christ.</p> | <p>11 MEXICO Pray for Ruth's and Aurelio's emotional healing. They were abducted by masked gunmen because of their gospel ministry.</p> |
| <p>12 IRAG Pray that Christians will faithfully carry out the Great Commission, even reaching those who are opposed to the gospel.</p> | <p>13 UZBEKISTAN Praise God that fines and detentions are now rare and Christians have greater freedom to practice their faith.</p> | <p>14 SRI LANKA Pray that Anuradha will share her faith boldly when brought before police for her Christian witness.</p> | <p>15 AFGHANISTAN Pray that Bible translation work will make God's Word accessible to Afghanistans more than 40 people groups.</p> | <p>16 MAURITANIA Praise God that Christian workers are returning to Mauritania after a long pause in missionary efforts.</p> | <p>17 SOMALIA Pray for the advancement of the gospel in the regions of Hargeisa, Kismayo and Jigjiga.</p> | <p>18 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Pray for the survivors of a church bombing in Kasindi that killed 15 people.</p> |
| <p>19 CHINA Pray that Chinese pastors will be encouraged and stand firm in the face of government threats.</p> | <p>20 NEPAL Pray that Christians whose churches have been attacked by Hindu mobs will reflect God's love to their persecutors.</p> | <p>21 NORTH KOREA Pray for the wisdom of front-line workers ministering to North Korean defectors in South Korea.</p> | <p>22 SUDAN Pray for Christians affected by the fighting between Islamic factions vying for control of the country.</p> | <p>23 BRUNEI Pray for Christian children in grades 2-5, as they are required to attend one hour per day of Islamic instruction.</p> | <p>24 TURKMENISTAN Pray that Christians will continue to gather despite severe restrictions on Christian worship.</p> | <p>25 SYRIA Pray that God will abundantly supply the needs of Christians who have lost jobs because of their faith.</p> |
| <p>26 MOZAMBIQUE Pray for Christians who have lost family members in attacks by Islamist groups in northern Mozambique.</p> | <p>27 MALI Pray for Kalifa and his family, who have been attacked by their community because of their faith in Christ.</p> | <p>28 AZERBAIJAN Pray for Christians sharing the gospel through social media.</p> | <p>29 NIGER Pray for the effective distribution of audio Bibles among those whose hearts are ready to receive the gospel.</p> | <p>30 ALGERIA Pray for Bible distributors and recipients, as distributors are risky and government officials confiscate Bibles.</p> | <p>31 RUSSIA AND AREAS UNDER ITS CONTROL Pray that Christians worshipping outside the Russian Orthodox Church will boldly witness.</p> | |

New Year's Resolutions???



**New Year's Resolution:
to get more exercise!!**

Dear New Year's Resolution,

Well, it was fun while it lasted.

Sincerely,
January 2nd