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 1 **The Chatter** **JANUARY 2023**

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR!

It's easy to forget that the season of Christmas is twelve days, not two. How fitting that Christmas falls between Advent (the first season of the Church Year) and New Year's. We begin the New Year by remembering the Incarnation, when God became flesh in the person of His Son, Jesus Christ. In fact, the way we date our annual calendar is based on the birth of Christ. We are soon to be in the year 2023 AD. "A.D." is short for *Anno Domini* which means the *"Year of the Lord*."

This practice began in the sixth century when the Church had great influence over Europe. A Scythian monk named Dionysius Exiguus (470-544 AD) was commissioned by Pope John I to develop a dating system based on the birth of Christ rather than on the reign of Roman Emperor Diocletian who had severely persecuted Christians centuries earlier. Dionysius calculated Jesus' birth based on **Luke 3:1** (*"in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius*)*"* and **Lk. 3:23** (*"Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His ministry"*). Since Tiberius' reign began in 14 AD, Jesus' birth was calculated at year zero. However, since that time scholars have debated the accuracy of Dionysius' calculations due to historical (Josephus) and astronomical (Kepler) considerations, not to mention that Luke said *"about thirty years old."* Thus, the actual year of Jesus' birth can range anywhere from 5 -1 BC! Regardless, this way of yearly dating has become the one most used in our world today.

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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

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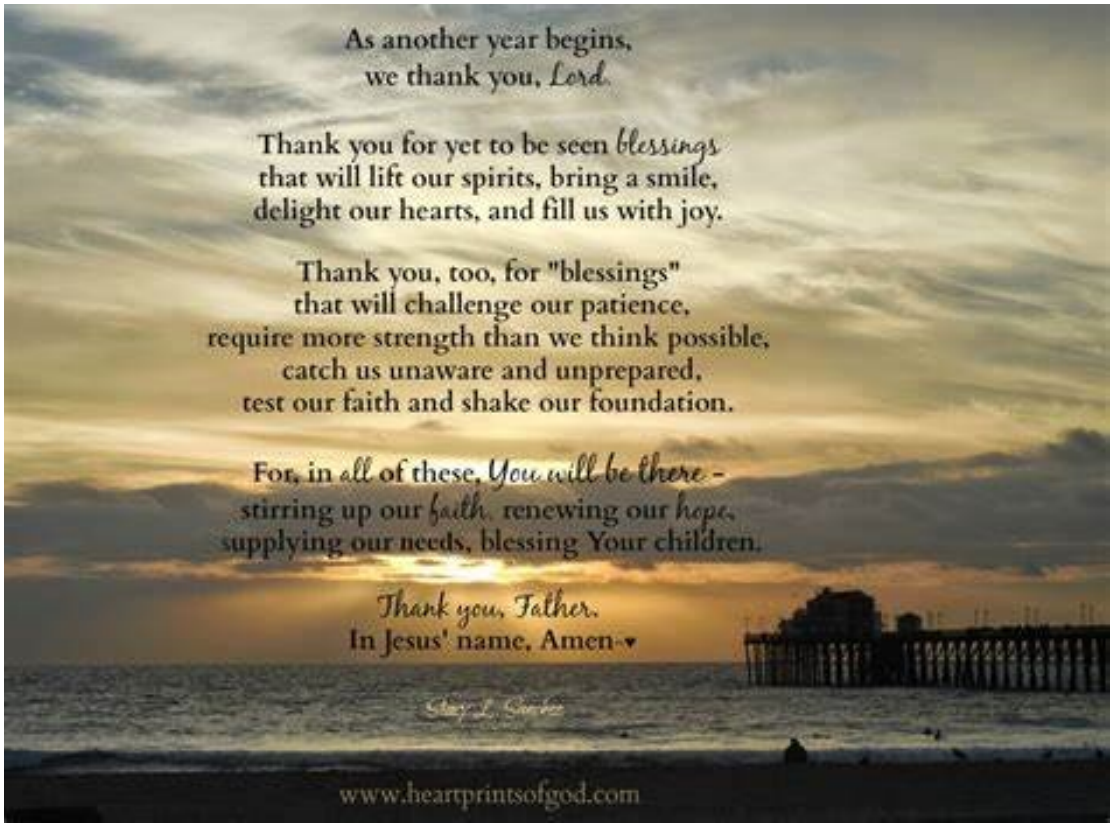
Simply put, Christ's first coming literally changed the way we view time and affirms that we live in the age of Christ! (c.f. **Hebrews 1:1-2**) It is also a reminder that Christ's work is not finished in our world. When people ask or wonder, "What is the world coming to?" we can know that the world is coming to Jesus. Christ will return and the way we should approach every new year is to ask ourselves what can we do more effectively to reflect our trust and obedience to Christ? Each new year is a new opportunity to grow closer to the Lord and make a difference for His Kingdom. This can only happen within the context of our relationships with others. It is for this reason that our relationship with God is most tangibly demonstrated in how we treat others (**1 Jn. 3:11-18**). So in this New Year, let us grow together in our love for Christ and His Church, reaching out to others in the name of Christ and making every day count for His glory!

In Christ's service,
Fr. Ward



VESTRY

2023 Vestry: With only three candidates to fill the three open positions, there was no need to have a church-wide vestry election. John Hillestad, John Krull and Jeff Westerman will begin serving a 3-year term on the vestry effective January 1, 2023. This will put the vestry members to nine, as stipulated in the revised 2021 by-laws. In addition, Jim Thompson has accepted Fr. Ward's request to be the upcoming Jr. Warden, replacing MJ Brzeczkowski who will become the new Senior Warden.

Thanksgiving, Advent & Christmas Offerings: All offerings will be given to Kramers' *Love for the Least*, *Eight Days of Hope*, *Salvation Army* and *PATH*. Please remember those in need and give generously!

St. Bart's Financial Status: For those of you who attended the first annual church meeting, you heard Gary Wisniewski, our Treasurer give a financial report. Of significant note is we have a 6-month "cushion" should we ever fall into some kind of situation where none of us could continue to give so generously. In addition, over our 13-year period since we moved into our current location, not only are we mortgage free, but we've been able to give over $236,835, from the Christmas and Easter offerings, to various local missions such as *Anglican Relief & Development Fund, Saving Grace Ministries, CRU* (*Campus Crusade for Christ*), *Buffalo City Mission, Buffalo Dream Center, Cornerstone Manor, Kairos Prison Ministry, Hearts for the Homeless* and many more!

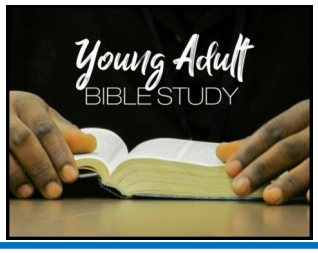
Communion at the Railing: Good News! Assuming things remain as they are today, communion at the railing will resume in January 2023, although the wine cups will be continue to be used. It is hoped use of the Communion Cup may return at Eastertime.

2023 Pledge Letters: Hopefully all of you received your annual pledge letters. You are encouraged to return your pledge cards as quickly as possible since this helps the budget committee with keeping track of where we are financially.

Holiday Wishes: The Vestry would like to wish all of you with a happy, healthy and blessed holiday season. Please remember to stop and take a moment (or two) to give thanks to God who unselfishly gives his unconditional love to all of us! Merry Christmas and Happy New Years from all the members of St. Bart's Vestry!

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY CHATTER is Tuesday, January 17. Thank you.

BIBLE STUDIES



Young Adults Bible Study

(ages 18-mid 20's) meets every other Sunday at 11;45AM at the church. Contact Will Crosby for more information.
Our next meetings are January 8th and 22nd.

Tuesday Night Ladies Bible Study

Our mission: To grow even closer to the Lord through a greater understanding of His Word with study, prayers and praise, and through fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

Please join us in our in-depth study of Matthew. We will continue going verse by verse. Bring your Bible, a study Bible if you have one. We meet from 6:30-8:00pm every other Tuesday, in the large fellowship hall.

This month's meetings are January 3, 17, 31.

We would love to welcome you at our meetings! Contact Louise Jones for more information.

Men's Discipleship

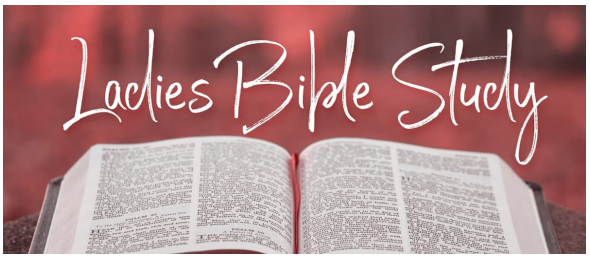
meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm at the church.
Contact John Krull for more information.

Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Will resume their study of

Isaiah in January.

All ladies are welcome to join them.



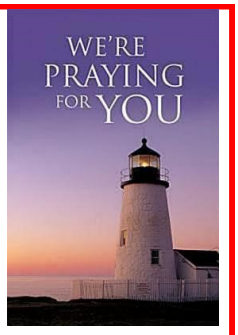
GriefShare

Al and Linda Matuch host GriefShare **Saturday mornings** at 10:30am. The class will run approximately 14 weeks. Please register on line at GriefShare.org There are many great resources available at this website. It is never to late to join.

GRIEF SHARE®

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 Brzeczkowski– Reserves

James Kerins– Army

A.J. Matteliano– Army

Matthew Prohaska– Air Force

Andrew Rebl– Army

Remember our PRAYER NIGHT, the third Thursday of the month. Join us as we pray for our world, our nation, our church and our community.

7pm January 19

FOOD PANTRY: Remember that we collect for the Food Pantry the **first weekend of every month.** Leave your bags in the front hall as you enter the building. We will be helping a new pantry:

NICAP 265 Falconer St.

N. Tonawanda, NY 14120

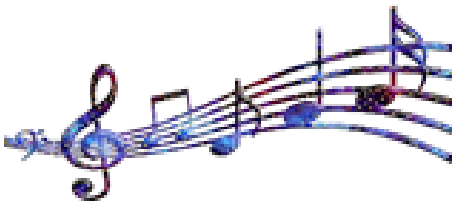
Let's show them St. Bart's generosity.

"I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat…" Matthew 25:35

BISHOP SCAIFE GUILD AND THE GIFT SHOP

As many of you may recall, earlier this year a difficult decision was made by the board of the Bishop Scaife Guild to disband after many years of service to St. Bartholomew's. However, the Guild is still functioning insofar as the gift shop is still open (thank you Danett Utz and everyone who helps to keep it up and running). All the proceeds from the sales go into the Guild's bank account. I am pleased to say despite COVID enough money was brought in to allow us to once again send out donations to the following *local* entities: *Threads of Hope, Salvation Army, Compass Care, Hospice of Buffalo, Ken-Ton Meals on Wheels, Cornerstone Manor, and Niacap Food Pantry*. In addition, a donation has been given to both Fr. Ward and Fr. Bush for their respective discretionary funds as well as a donation has been made toward St. Bart's Mission Outreach Fund. So God Bless and thank you to everyone who has supported the gift shop throughout the year!

Music Notes from Margaret Bukkosy



As the new year begins, the choirs are in the process of regrouping. We hope that you will consider joining! This is a great time to do so.

Rehearsal and 10:00 a.m. Service Singing Schedules

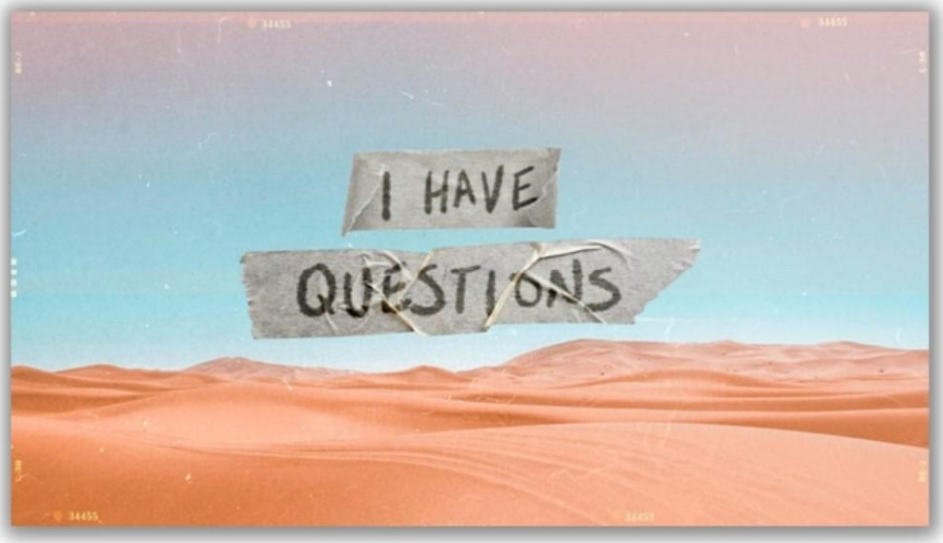
Adult Choir: Wednesdays, January 4 and 11 at 7 p.m. Please use the back parking lot and enter through the exterior choir room door. This choir sings on January 8th and 15th.

Children's Choir: Sundays, January 8, 15, 22, and 29th in the choir room immediately after the 10:00 a.m. service. This choir sings on January 22 this month. Warm-up is at 9:25 on Sundays the *choir is scheduled to sing. (Ages in grade one and up!)*

Contemporary Choir and Praise Band: This group meets on Wednesday, January 18 at 7 p.m. and will sing on January 22. The rehearsal for the blended service will be announced at a later date, but will be during the first week of January at the 7 p.m. time. The blended service is on January 8th.

IT'S A NEW YEAR AND A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AS A CHRISTIAN.

Questionable Times



Let's face it, life isn't easy. In times of loss, grief, pain, or doubt, it's normal to have questions – and it's okay to ask them. If you've ever tried to make sense of your circumstances, or wished life didn't have to hurt so much, or wondered why God won't fix what you're going through, you're not alone. In this 4-week series, we'll hear from Scripture about those who knew exactly what it's like. With Esther, David, Peter, Amos, and John, we'll explore hard questions you thought you weren't allowed to ask, like "When people are hurting, where is God? When I'm hurting, does God leave me? If God is good, why do bad things happen? And when life hurts, is God listening?"

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm
Join us for our regular meetings filled with engaging lessons and activities
Dinner provided

Wednesday, January 4th
First Youth Group of the New Year!

Friday, February 3rd
7:00 - 10:00 pm
Winter Comps Event

Save the Date: March 24th
6:00 - 8:00 pm Pizzapalooza

Save the Date: April 21st
6:00 - 8:30 pm Lasertron Event

"And the light of Israel will become a Fire and his Holy One a Flame"

Isaiah 10:17a NASB

A Letter From our Director

I had so much fun flying and jumping with you at Urban Air Adventure Park. My favorite part was the Sky Rider and watching all of you have the time of your lives. I am also looking forward to all the exciting events happening in the upcoming months such as the Winter Comps Game Night Event and Pizzapalooza Event now in March. Don't forget to invite your friends to those special events. Going to be some awesome and delicious times for sure.

In Christ,
Liz

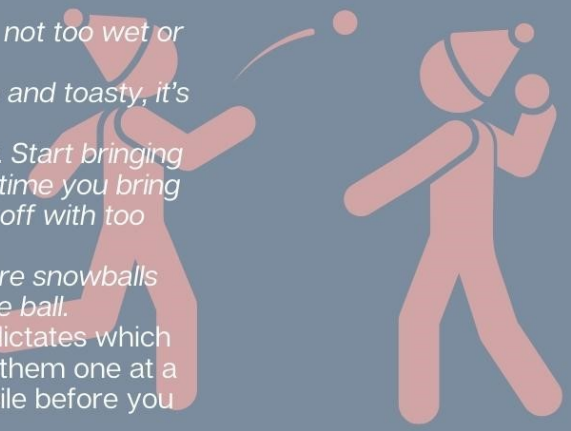
Friday, February 3rd, 7-10pm, Join youth groups across the Buffalo area as we enjoy a night of friendly competition at the Winter Comps Event at Kemore Alliance Church (175 Bonnett Ave. Tonawanda, NY 14150) We will meet at Kemore Alliance at 6:45pm to check in and pickup will also be at Kenmore Alliance at 10pm. 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.

Save the Date: On Friday March 24th from 6-8pm invite your friends to come join us at St. Barts for a night of Pizza themed craziness where pizza parties (that's what we call your teams) will compete for pizza prizes to create pizzas, talk about pizzas, and play games related to pizza all in order to be deemed the World Pizza Champion!

Save the Date! April21st! For this event, we will meet at the Lasertron event center on N Bailey Avenue at 6:00p.m. Pickup will also be at Lasertron at 8:30 p.m. We will be playing Laser Tag twice with Pizza in the middle of the two games. The cost is $20 per person.

How to make a perfect snowball:

1. **Find the perfect snow** - *For the best snowballs, find snow that's not too wet or too dry (a.k.a. Goldilocks snow).*
2. ***Wear gloves, not mittens*** - *While mittens keep your hands nice and toasty, it's hard to pack a snowball with a pair of flippers.*
3. ***Packing your snowball*** - *Fill both your cupped hands with snow. Start bringing your hands together while rotating them to pack the snow. Each time you bring your hands together, apply more and more pressure. If you start off with too much pressure, the snowball will just fall apart.*
4. ***No soakers (unless you want to up the pain level)*** - *Soakers are snowballs dipped in water… turning a nice fluffy snowball into a cold, hard ice ball.*
5. **Make your snowballs one at a time or all at once?** - Strategy dictates which method you choose. If you lack cover… then you'll have to make them one at a time. However, if you have sufficient cover… build up an ammo pile before you launch your assault.



Sourced from: https://www.artofmanliness.com/skills/manly-know-how/how-to-make-the-perfect-snowball/

January Birthdays

1 Robert Kyser, Deborah Ryan

2 Joseph Calamita

3 Paul Etienne

4 Hadassah Bush, Grace Delisanti

6 George Brock, Nicholas Horvath

7 Thomas Crane, Eric Weber

8 Kellen Matesic, Amanda Waddington

9 Charlene Albanese

10 Jonathan Emmons, Barbara Molison, Mitchell Simon

11 Lori Abramo, Elin Freeman,Marcia Hutt

12 Matthew Dibble, Ruth Marcinelli

13 Logan Moyer

14 Kevin Batchen

15 Daniel Bunker, Lawrence Moyer

16 Allison Chiaravalle, John Krull

19 Kylie Derrett, Erica Weber

20 Robert Hughes, Carmello Pitruzzella

21 Ethan Chiaravalle

22 Karen Bunker, Donovan Heacock

25 Robert Clontz, Patricia Dyviniak, Fred Garrasi Jr., Carol Loucks, Parker Waddington

26 Matthew Prohaska

27 Fr. Richard Molison

30 Kacy Wandel

31 James Kissel

FEBRUARY

2 Allison Hillery

3 Barbara Chiaravalle, Brittany Wilkowski

4 Carol Brock, Dorothea Haase, Constance 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 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY 8 & 10 am HE NO Sunday School	2	3 6:30pm Neighbor-hood Watch mtg. Men's Disc., Ladies BibleStudy	4 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	5	6	7 10:30am Grief-Share 4:30 pm HE
8 8 & 10 am HE 10amSunday School 11:30am Children's Choir 11:45am Young Adult Bible Study	9	10 6:30pm Men's Disc. 7pm Vestry	11 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	12	13	14 10:30am Grief-Share 4:30 pm HE
15 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Children's Choir	16 M.L.King Day Office closed	17 6:30pm Men's Disc., Ladies Bible Study	18 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Cont. Choir & Praise Band	19 7pm Prayer Night	20	21 9am Men's Breakfast 10:30am Grief-Share 4:30 pm HE
22 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Children's Choir 11:45am Young Adult Bible Study	23	24 6:30pm Men's Disc.	25 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	26	27	28 10:30am Grief-Share 4:30 pm HE
29 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Children's Choir	30	31 6:30pm Men's Disc., Ladies Bible Study				

JANUARY CALENDAR

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 **NIGER** Pray that Muslims will hear the gospel and come to faith in Jesus Christ.	**2** **CAMEROON** Pray for front-line workers who risk their lives advancing the gospel in remote areas.	**3** **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** Pray that those who have lived in refugee camps for years will continue to hope in Christ.	**4** **LIBYA** Pray that God will raise up indigenous church leaders who are willing to serve at any cost.	**5** **ETHIOPIA** Pray that God will provide for Christians who have been displaced by the civil war.	**6** **BRUNEI** Pray that all Malay Christians will have their own copy of God's Word.	**7** **KYRGYZSTAN** Pray that many new Kyrgyz believers will be added to God's kingdom.
8 **MALAYSIA** Pray that more Malaysian Christians will share the gospel with the Muslim majority Malays.	**9** **BAHRAIN** Pray that those visiting Bahrain from other nations in the region will hear the gospel.	**10** **INDIA** Pray for students at a Christian school in Madhya Pradesh that was attacked by a Hindu mob.	**11** **COLOMBIA** Pray that God will raise up Christian leaders for small groups.	**12** **BANGLADESH** Pray that Christian videos will be effective in evangelism.	**13** **MAURITANIA** Pray that those blinded by Islam will find truth in the person of Jesus Christ.	**14** **NIGERIA** Pray that Bibles will reach their destinations safely and touch many hearts.
15 **SRI LANKA** Pray that the next generation of Christian leaders will grow into biblical maturity.	**16** **ISRAEL** Pray that Islamist groups will be thwarted in their efforts to oppose Christian activities.	**17** **KENYA** Pray for village pastors receiving theological training for the first time.	**18** **MALDIVES** Pray for those working on written and audio translations of the Bible in the Divehi language.	**19** **MEXICO** Pray for the success of outreach activities for children in southern Mexico.	**20** **TAJIKISTAN** Praise the Lord for the growing number of Tajik Christians and pastors.	**21** **IRAQ** Pray that church leaders will have opportunities to reach refugees with the gospel.
22 **MALI** Pray that the gospel will advance to people in unreached areas.	**23** **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES** Pray for Christians who have lost their jobs, homes and family relationships because of their faith.	**24** **TANZANIA** Pray that 72 young Christians ostracized by their families will find a home.	**25** **DJIBOUTI** Pray for the wisdom of Christians who share the gospel with Muslims through social media.	**26** **VIETNAM** Pray that every tribe in Vietnam will include Christians and have Bibles in their language.	**27** **TUNISIA** Pray that local churches will be welcoming and wise as they evangelize.	**28** **BHUTAN** Pray for Christians as they attend public worship under threat of arrest.
29 **YEMEN** Pray for the continued strong witness of a church that was raided by armed men.	**30** **LAOS** Pray that the gospel will continue to spread among minority peoples.	**31** **TÜRKIYE** Pray for foreign workers, who face deportation if they are suspected of missions work.	**NOTES:** January			

‘My Name is Pride’ by Beth Moore

My name is Pride. I am a cheater.

I cheat you because of your God-given destiny…

Because you demand your own way.

I cheat you of contentment…

Because you “deserve better than this.”

I cheat you of knowledge…

Because you already know it all.

I cheat you of healing…

Because you are too full of you to forgive.

I cheat you of holiness…

Because you refuse to admit when you are wrong.

I cheat you of vision…

Because you’d rather look in the mirror that out a window.

I cheat you of genuine friendship…

Because nobody’s going to know the real you.

I cheat you of love…

Because real romance demands sacrifice.

I cheat you of greatness in heaven…

Because you refuse to wash another’s feet on earth.

I cheat you of God’s glory…

Because I convinced you to seek your own.

My name is Pride. I am a cheater.

You like me because you think I’m always looking out for you.

Untrue. I’m looking to make a fool of you.

God has so much for you, I admit, but don’t worry…

If you stick with me you’ll never know.