



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 5

The Chatter

MAY 2024

PLEASE JOIN US FOR BISHOP BILL ATWOOD'S FINAL VISIT MAY 4 & 5!

It's hard to believe that after fifteen years, Bishop Bill Atwood will be retiring as our bishop in June. During that time Bishop Atwood confirmed over 230 of our members. His confirmations not only included the laying on of hands and prayers for each candidate, but a personal word of divine encouragement as well. Our bishop also ordained several of our clergy including most recently, Deacon James Kibby in 2023 and Father Jacob Bush in 2021. Many have been encouraged by the bishop's sermons, teaching series, and books on God's kingdom and Christian living over the years.

Bishop Atwood proved to be not only a faithful and caring pastor to our clergy and the parishes in the International Diocese of the ACNA (Anglican Church in North America), but the chief emissary for the ACNA in its relationship with other provinces in the Anglican Communion. As a result of his prior international ministry, Bishop Bill's personal contacts with many bishops across the globe enabled our newly formed ACNA (est. in 2009) to enjoy the support of the majority of provinces in the Anglican Communion. Although he will be retiring as a diocesan bishop, his work will continue on the international level as he oversees the transition of a large Christian fellowship of one million overseas believers into the Anglican fold.

Both Bishop Bill and his wife, Susan will arrive in Buffalo on Friday May 3. We will be hosting a dinner honoring and celebrating the bishop's ministry and retirement on **Saturday May 4 at 6 PM. All are invited and encouraged to attend!** The bishop will also preside over all three of our weekend services (4:30 PM Sat., 8 & 10 AM Sun.) culminating in the Holy Confirmation Service at 10 AM when eleven members will be confirmed. We do indeed give thanks for a wonderful fifteen years of Bishop Atwood's godly leadership and pray that the Lord through His Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect him as he moves into the next chapter of his life and ministry!



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

VESTRY



April 2024

Bishop Atwood and his wife, Susan, will visit May 3-5 for confirmation. In addition, we will host a retirement dinner for the Bishop to celebrate his 15 years of diocesan ministry at 6:00 pm, following the 4:30 pm service. It will be a covered-dish dinner, supplemented by pizza and wings.

All the men of St. Bart's are invited to attend the next **men's breakfast on May 18th**. Rocco Brindisi has volunteered to oversee the future breakfasts, with John Krull helping with scheduling the upcoming guest speakers.

The vestry is working on creating a digital version of an updated and revised copy of **St. Bart's bi-laws**. A final draft will be electronically sent to the diocese of Christ Our Hope for review, input and approval.

The Vestry approved to donate \$5,000 toward **CompassCare's Annual Walk** to support the pregnancy center's goal of saving babies and helping moms and dads take care of them!

If you attended the DON SUNSHINE event and



are missing some of the Fill-in-the-Blank answers, we have a copy of the handout you received **WITH ANSWERS** in the office.

DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE CHATTER
is Tuesday, May 21. 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

Sean MacLeay-Navy

Matthew Miller– Army

Matthew Prohaska– Air Force

Andrew Rebl– Army



FOOD PANTRY: Remember that we collect for the **NIACAP Food Pantry** the **first weekend of every month**. They are so appreciative of our donations. They can use personal care items, paper products and soap, etc. in addition to food items.

34 bags and boxes of food were taken to the Food Pantry in April. **YAY!!** Please try to remember that the need never goes away, and be as generous as you can!



Thank you.

THANK YOU

A big **THANK YOU** to our Church family and friends for all of the love and support shown to us after the recent passing of our son/brother, **Russell**.

Russell and Frances Ballaro and Family

Thank You!!



THANK YOU to all our St. Bart's cooks who made soup for our winter Meal Assist Ministry! It was well received and we were able to serve 9 families through your generosity. With warmer weather approaching (we hope!), we will go back to preparing meals on an as-needed basis. If you would like to join this ministry, or have questions, please see or call Brenda Wisz 716-832-6684



BUFFALO
PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA

BPO coffee concert,

**SIGNATURE STARS
& STRIPES,**

is Friday, May 24 at
9:30am.

Coffee and donuts are included with the \$36 group rate ticket. Sign-up sheet is in the Fr. Amend Hall. See or call Brenda Wisz 716-832-6684.

To My Wonderful Church Family-

I would like to thank you for your prayers, cards and gifts. It means so very much to me.

Shalom, Shalom

Dini Brown



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

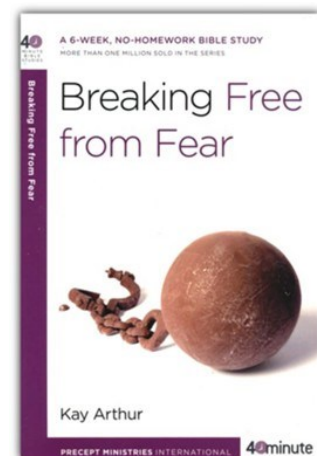
NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS:



The Colson Fellows Program is a rigorous course of study for those seeking to become equipped to challenge the cultural currents of our day and point people back to Christ. By reading books, participating in monthly discussion groups, completing online learning activities, and daily Bible studies, participants discern the call of Christ in their life. By learning, reflecting, and praying, those engaged in this program are rewarded with a new sense of purpose and a network of equipped Christians motivated for a common cause. **We are seeking to form a Church Affiliate cohort at St. Bartholomew's for the upcoming year (July 2024-May 2025).** OR We are seeking students to go through the program in anticipation of a new group forming at St. Bart's in 2025; the Local cohort meets at Eastern Hills Church once a month. **Please see Marley Smith for more information!** The [Colson Fellows Program website](#) contains information, but please **do not** register online!

Precept Bible Study entitled **"Breaking Free from Fear" by Kay Arthur** begins Thursday, May 9th

Marley Smith will be leading this study every **Thursday 6:30-7:30 pm from May 9 through June 20**. The study will be a wonderful way to grow in biblical knowledge and the application of Biblical principles shared recently by evangelist Don Sunshine. **Please sign up by May 4th** to ensure we have enough workbooks on hand for everyone. Workbooks are \$7 each from teacher, Marley Smith, or you can order your own online. **Please contact Marley Smith with any questions.**



BIBLE STUDIES

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, supplementing it with a video called "The Gospel of John." We would love to welcome you to our meetings!

Contact Louise Jones for more information.

May meetings are the 14th & 28th.



Men's Discipleship Bible Study

meets every Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. We are currently STUDYING THE BOOK OF Revelation, using a video series hosted by Mark Correll.

All men are welcome to join us.

Prayer Night

**Scheduled for
Thursday, May 16
has been *cancelled*.**



HEALING SERVICE

Thursday, May 23
at 7pm. Please join us for a
time of prayer for healing.



Music Notes from Margaret Bukkosal May 2024

Do you know how much singing or playing an instrument benefits your brain? Do you know that musicians have more grey matter in their brains? Do you know that studies suggest that musicians have better:

Understanding of non-verbal communication

Memory and learning abilities Coordination and dexterity

Understanding of cognitive and emotional aspects of information

Planning and strategizing skills Attention to detail.

With so many benefits, why aren't you and all of your children singing in one of our choirs? If someone told you that you can't sing, don't hesitate to come and see me. I can give you some pointers and teach you the basics to start. Our schedule is below. If you want to give it a try, let me know and I will put a choir folder together for you! Added benefits: singing to the Glory of God. Music is another form of prayer.

MAY SCHEDULE

<u><i>Adult Choir</i></u>	<i>Rehearsals -Wednesday 1, 8 at 7 p.m.</i>	<i>Singing 5, 12</i>
<u><i>High School Singers</i></u>	<i>Rehearsing Monday 13 at 6 p.m.</i>	<i>Singing 19</i>
<u><i>Warren Teall</i></u>	<i>Rehearsal TBA</i>	<i>Singing 19</i>
<u><i>Contemporary</i></u>	<i>Rehearsal 22 - 6 Vocal and 6:30 Instrumental</i>	<i>Singing 26</i>

Cherub and Children's Choirs *Rehearsing after 10:00 a.m. service every Sunday in May, for approximately 30 minutes. On May 19 we will end the rehearsal at 12:15 p.m. The choirs and speaking parts for the musical are rehearsing in the sanctuary on the 19th with microphone checks. It is important for everyone involved to attend.*

LOOKING AHEAD FOR THE CHERUB AND CHILDREN'S CHOIRS
with speaking parts. Please save these JUNE dates:

<u><i>June 2</i></u>	<i>Rehearsal with screens and microphones in sanctuary until 12:15 p.m.</i>
<u><i>June 9th</i></u>	<i>Full dress rehearsal with screens and microphones until 12:15. It may take a few minutes after 12:15 to collect all of the props and other costuming in Amend Hall.</i>
<u><i>June 16th</i></u>	<i>Youth Sunday with a presentation of "100% Chance of Rain" for the 10:00 a.m. worship. Choir Awards will be presented at this service.</i>



Adventure awaits as we learn to trust God
to give us wisdom, peace, and joy!

Register at: www.stbartston.org

VBS dates: July 7th–10th

VBS Times: 6:00pm–8:00pm

Family Dinners: 5:15pm

For more information, contact Liz Burkett
dce@stbartston.org or 716-831-1777

PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, JUNE 16TH

11:30AM—1:30PM

FATHER AMEND HALL

Tickets: \$12 per person

All proceeds will support the youth
attending Kingdom Bound.





Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

May 2024

Catch you on the flip side!



Jesus's message was unlike any that people had heard before. The Gospels say He taught "as one having authority" unlike the religious teachers of that time. When Jesus spoke, it wasn't always what people wanted to hear and, sometimes, it was difficult to understand. This is because He flipped people's ideas about God, the world, and themselves completely upside down – usually in uncomfortable ways. His teaching was revolutionary, not by challenging the Law and the Prophets, but by challenging the people through fulfilling the Law and the Prophets, giving flesh and blood to the dry bones of the Old Testament. In this four-week series, we'll compare Jesus' words in the Gospels with the words of the Old Testament prophets to see how God's Word continues to challenge our understanding and flips our assumptions about who God values, our definition of righteousness, and our definition of justice.

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

Volunteer Meeting May 15th

6:00 pm for Youth Sunday and
Pancake Breakfast

Friday, May 24th

5:45 pm Lasertron

Volunteer Meeting May 29th

6:30 pm for Vacation Bible
School

"For we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:20 NASB

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

In church, we can often hear that the most important thing we need to do is "Know the right things," "Avoid the bad things," or "Just have faith!" But is there more to following Jesus than this? Jesus tells a funny story about a guy who was trying to get a little splinter out of someone else's eye while having a whole log the size of a baseball bat in his own eye! The point is that sometimes we think the problem is "out there," but Jesus invites us to look within first.

As Christians, we can often look at other people "out there" and think "they" have it all wrong, but what if there are also things that need to be fixed within? In Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, he reminds them that loving Jesus is much more than "doing the right things" and simply "having faith." He mentions if he does all these things without love, it amounts to nothing. Nothing? Yup, nothing! This means we don't just love those who love us, but we even love our "enemies."

In the coming weeks, think about someone who you find hard to love and try extending a small act of kindness.

*In Christ,
Liz*

Save the Date! May 24th! For this event, we will meet at the Lasertron event center on N Bailey Avenue at 5:45 p.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 \$25 per person.



Save the Date - Wednesday, May 29th: VBS Volunteer Meeting at 6:30pm to discuss the details of Vacation Bible School (July 7-10th from 6-8 pm). The meeting is to help prepare all volunteers for their various roles at VBS.

The Breakfast will be on June 16th and will be held in Fr. Amend Hall following the 10am service. Proceeds will go towards Kingdom Bound. Families can buy tickets starting in May after services. On May 15th at 6pm we will have a Pancake Breakfast Meeting to go over the details of the event and to sign up for specific areas of working the event, such as kitchen help, food prep, waiters, ticket sellers, set up, clean up, and so on. We will also discuss Youth Sunday which is also happening on June 16th during the 10:00am service.



George Herbert

*"How fresh, oh Lord, how sweet and clean
Are thy returns! even as the flowers in spring;
To which, besides their own demean,
The late-past frosts tributes of pleasure bring.
Grief melts away
Like snow in May,
As if there were no such cold thing."*



May Birthdays

1 Susan Horvath, Sydney Lakeman,
Rachel Teall

3 Charles Abramo, Jack Gradzewicz

4 Kaity Hersee, Elizabeth Merrick

5 Joan Calamita, Rosemary Davis,
Valerie Ulrich

7 Alicia Matesic, Eric Miller

8 Asa Begovich

9 Brandon Heacock

11 Caroline Rudin

12 Kathy Dudley

13 Anthony Oliveri

14 Gretchen Beyer

15 James Winkler

16 Donald Gwizdowski, Julie Van Lente,
Jeffrey Westerman

17 Evelyn Luckoski, Anna Okiec

21 Donald Beyer

22 Robert Brown, Anthony Luckoski

23 Victoria Martino, Bradley Smith

24 Michelle McCarthy

26 Gerald Ciccarelli, Daniel McCarthy

27 Edward Doran, Sharon Scott,
Barbara Weiser

29 Warren Teall

30 Marie Prout

31 Jeffrey Pasisz, Christine Tedesco



JUNE

1 Mary Krause

2 William Ruhland

3 Emily Bush, Joshua Jackson

4 Pamela Machelor, Michael Spence Jr.

6 Lee Hilliker, Richard Hubbard,
Ellen Siegel, Edward Zurzuski

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

PLEASE NOTE-

There are 2 changes to the *May calendar* on the following page:

1) The *Prayer Night* scheduled for Thursday, May 16 has been *Cancelled*.

2) Instead, we will be having a *Healing Service* the following week, Thursday May 23 at 7pm.



May Calendar

MAY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	2 6:30pm Breaking Free from Fear Bible Study 5:30pm-7:30pm Games with Rivendell	3	4 Bishop Atwood 4:30 pm HE 6pm Bishop's Retirement Celebration
5 Bishop Atwood 8 & 10 am HE 10am HOLY CONFIRMATION 10am Sunday School	6 6pm Crime Watch 6:30pm Men's Disc. 7pm Vestry	8 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	9 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	10 6:30pm Breaking Free from Fear Bible Study 5:30pm-7:30pm Games with Rivendell	11 4:30 pm HE	
12 MOTHER'S DAY 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's	13 6pm High School Singers 6:45pm Corner- stone rehearsal	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 Breaking Free from Fear Bible Study 7pm Prayer Night	17	18 9am Men's Breakfast 4:30 pm HE
19 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choirs	20 MEMORIAL DAY (office closed)	21 6:30pm Men's Disc.	22 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group, Contemp. Choir 6:30pm Contemp Musicians	23 6:30pm Breaking Free from Fear Bible Study 7pm Prayer Night	24 6pm Sudanese Dinner	25 4:30 pm HE
26 TRINITY SUNDAY 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's	27 MEMORIAL DAY (office closed)	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 Breaking Free from Fear Bible Study	31	

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>NOTES:</p> <p><i>May</i></p>	<p>1 SOUTHERN MEXICO Praise God for the vocational training many are receiving through the "houses of refuge" ministry!</p>	<p>2 NORTH KOREA Pray for innovative ways to get God's Word into North Korea.</p>	<p>3 INDIA Pray for pastors, church planters and evangelists who face criminal charges under anti-conversion laws.</p>	<p>4 TURKIYE (TURKEY) Pray for the strength and courage of a teenage boy who was beaten for wearing a cross necklace.</p>	
<p>5 NIGERIA Pray for Tina, whose husband was shot by Islamists while working on his vegetable farm.</p>	<p>6 BRUNEI Despite their surveillance by religious police, pray that churches will be fearless in reaching Muslims for Christ.</p>	<p>7 LIBYA Pray that the small number of Libyan Christians will find fellowship with other believers.</p>	<p>8 PHILIPPINES Christians on Mindanao live under constant threat of attack. Pray for their peace and joy.</p>	<p>9 NEPAL Pray for 16-year-old Khushi and her three sisters, whose father abused them because of their Christian faith.</p>	<p>10 MOROCCO Pray for front-line workers who distribute digital Bibles through creative methods.</p>
<p>12 LEBANON Pray that Pastor Bassam's church, which helps refugees, will be allowed to operate without government interference.</p>	<p>13 IRAN Pray for imprisoned Christians in Iran who are suffering from various ailments.</p>	<p>14 AFGHANISTAN Pray for new leaders to disciple young Christians in the country.</p>	<p>15 CHINA Pray that invasive technologies such as facial-recognition software will not hinder the spread of the gospel.</p>	<p>16 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Bibles are often destroyed by Islamist rebels. Pray for efforts to get a Bible to every believer.</p>	<p>17 MOZAMBIQUE Audio Bibles are in great demand. Pray that they reach the hands of those hungry for God's Word.</p>
<p>19 TUNISIA Pray that Tunisians who have recently committed their lives to Christ will be disciplined.</p>	<p>20 BURKINA FASO Pray for a resilient witness in the church amid the dramatic increase in attacks.</p>	<p>21 EGYPT Pray for ministries that are reaching Muslims and cultural Christians with the gospel.</p>	<p>22 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray for front-line workers who are sharing the gospel among Rohingya Muslims.</p>	<p>23 DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO Bibles are available in cities but not in rural areas. Pray that Bibles will reach remote areas of the country.</p>	<p>24 MAURITANIA Pray for the protection of those smuggling Bibles into the country.</p>
<p>26 AZERBAIJAN Pray that members of the secret police who monitor church services will hear the gospel and come to know Christ.</p>	<p>27 KENYA Ask the Lord to bless the efforts of Christian evangelists in Muslim-majority areas.</p>	<p>28 BAHRAIN Pray that Bahrainis will find their true treasure in Jesus Christ rather than in oil wealth.</p>	<p>29 MALDIVES Though it is illegal to import Bibles, some Maldivians access Scripture online. Pray that God's Word fills the country.</p>	<p>30 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Pray for Christian converts from Islam, who lose jobs, homes and families because of their faith.</p>	<p>31 IRAQ Pray that Bible distributions will continue to increase access to God's Word.</p>
<p>18 BANGLADESH Pray that house churches in Dhaka, the most densely populated city in the world, will bring light and hope.</p>	<p>25 DJIBOUTI Pray that Christian organizations will be permitted to officially register.</p>				



VOT

Memorial Day: Give Thanks

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



We salute all our veterans, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Thank you.

