



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 5

The Chatter

MAY 2025

A HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER SEASON TO ALL!

We all know that "Easter" is the high point of the Church Year, and rightfully so. During the season of Easter we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also remember how Christ remained on earth for forty days with His disciples confirming His resurrection and giving them their final instructions. Jesus bodily rose from the dead to reveal that He is truly the Son of God and the Christ, and that His death on the cross eternally secures reconciliation between God and mankind. It is why the Apostle Paul wrote in **2 Cor. 5:17-19**, ***"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation."***

It shouldn't surprise us that the resurrection of Jesus Christ occurred during springtime! It is in the season of spring that the Jewish people celebrate the Feast of Passover, the most important time in the Jewish calendar. They do so in response to God's command to Moses and the people of Israel to remember the time of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt every spring. On the night before He died on the cross, Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples. But Jesus redefined it with His death. Jesus said in **Lk. 22:19-20**, ***"And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood.'"*** It is why Easter is also called "**Pascha**" in Anglican, Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches as that is the ancient Greek and Latin word for "Passover." Hence, we light the "Paschal" Candle in the sanctuary every Easter season.

But why the name "Easter?" The word, "Easter" is derived from the old English word for the month of April (**Ēostre**) which itself is taken from the name of a goddess of the same name. Recall that many of our month names are derived from Roman deities or emperors. So the Church in the British Isles began to use this old month name for the season. It certainly was not to elevate pagan deities but it may have been done to distinguish the traditions of the Church from those of the Jewish faith and to remind the world that just as there is rebirth during spring time, so too it is Christ who gives us the rebirth of spirit, soul, AND body.

(Continued on p. 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

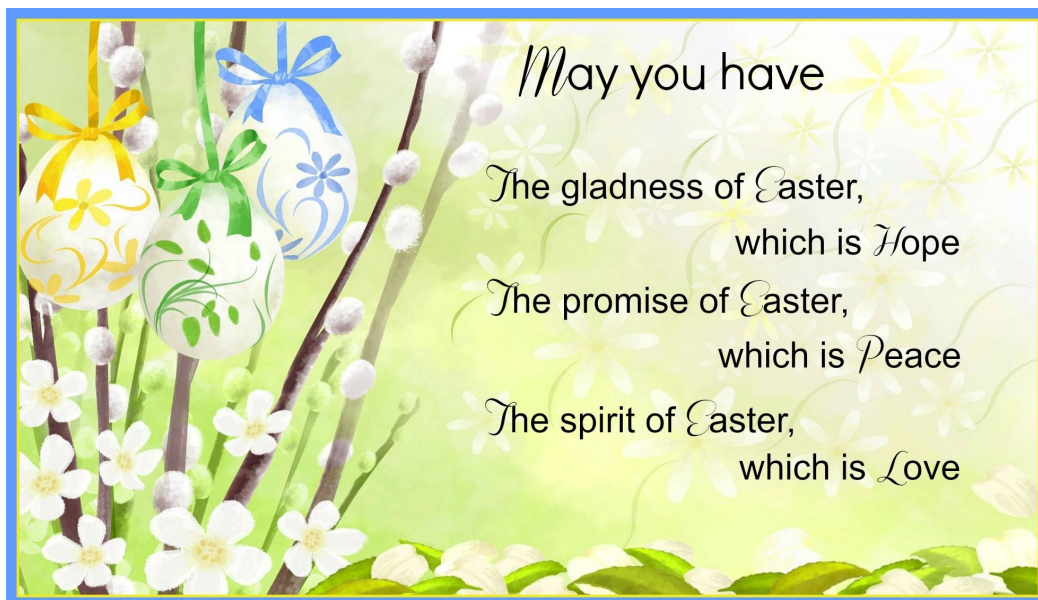
(Continued from Page 1)

I like how the **John 10:10 Project's** presentation "My Favorite Season" (on Youtube) puts it: *"Spring always reminds us of God's creative power. He's an artist and earth is His canvas. He uses a pallet of trees, flowers, water, and sky to paint living murals that showcase His reality and His presence in every corner of the planet. Spring also reveals God's faithfulness. No matter how cold or harsh winter may be, we know that springtime will come again in all of its glory. The Scriptures tell when God created the earth, the moon, and the sun, He also made the seasons that would arrive without fail at their appointed times."*

Finally, springtime confirms that God is truly the author of life, both temporal and eternal. Every November countless leaves wither and die, and every April they emerge anew, strong, green, and ready to produce the oxygen we breathe. The honeybees and butterflies that disappeared when the temperatures dropped in December make a dazzling return when the flowers bloom in May. During this special season of warmth and wonder we celebrate two resurrections. First, nature suddenly awakens from three months of dormancy. Then, as we watch this magnificent renewal of life unfold, we are reminded of our Creator and Savior, who was crucified during the spiritual winter of Calvary, then rose from the grave and conquered death on a Sunday in the Spring!

Happy Easter!

Father Ward



VESTRY

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

APRIL 2025

Confirmation Weekend: Will be on **May 17-18, 2025**. Bishop Adam Andudu will preside at the Saturday confirmation service at 4:30 PM and will be followed by a covered dish dinner. We will provide the beverages, pizza and a celebratory cake. In addition, we will have a “soft” 70th anniversary celebration, with a “formal” celebration on our actual founding anniversary date of November 16th, which happens to be a Sunday! (More information will be provided as we get closer to the November 16th date. In the meantime, don't forget to mark your calendars.) Bishop Andudu will also confirm eligible Sudanese members at their Sunday service.

CompassCare's Annual Walk: St. Bart's is proud to be a host for this annual event. It is being held on Saturday, May 3 from 10 am – Noon. Please mark your calendar and volunteer to walk together as a representative of St. Bart's. Donations are much needed for this important cause. You can do so several ways: 1) go to **compasscarewalk.com** and donate online. Include St. Bart's as the church you're affiliated with 2) send a check directly to CompassCare at 1230 Eggert Road, Buffalo, NY 14226, or, 3) send a check to St. Bart's (don't forget to mark “Donation to CompassCare” in the memo section).

Approved Donations: The vestry agreed to donate \$3,000 to **IFCJ (International Fellowship of Christians and Jews)** and \$3,000 to **CMJ (Church's Ministry Among Jewish People)** out of our Holy Land fund.

Lenten & Easter Offerings: It's not too late to give! As mentioned in last month's Chatter, the vestry agreed to give the offerings to *UB Campus Ministry, CRU, Family Life and CompassCare*.

2025 Budget and Pledge Letters: Please remember to send in your pledge, if you have not done so yet.



**DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE CHATTER is
Tuesday, May 20. Thank you.**

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.

From Our Daily Bread,

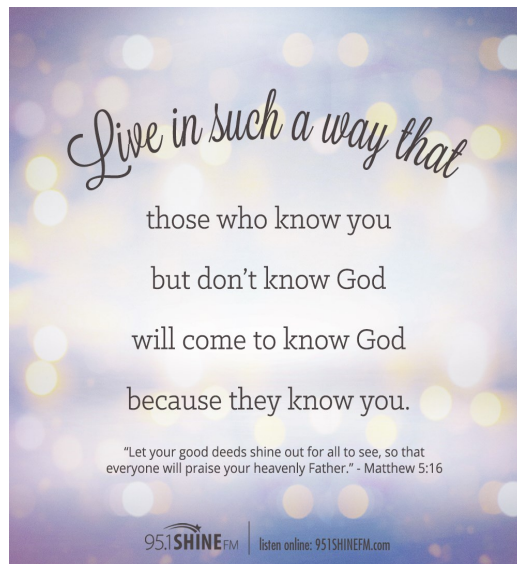
“The Israelites asked Samuel to intercede for them, and he assured them of his prayers. He exhorted them to remain faithful to God—to obey His laws and to serve Him wholeheartedly because they were God’s covenant people (**1 Samuel 12:14-15, 20-24**)”.

“It can hurt when those we care for reject God in spiritual blindness. But there’s hope, even for those whom “the god of this world has blinded” (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). Love them. Pray for them. The one who “made his light shine in our hearts” can do the same for them”

Let us pray:

Loving God, please help me to pray for those (insert name of loved one) who are blind to Your love and to trust You with them.

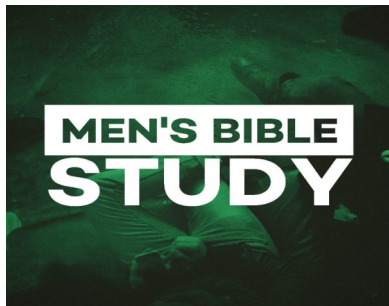
Amen



BIBLE STUDIES

Men of St. Bart's, The **Men's Discipleship Group** has put together a survey that we would like you all to participate in. The survey is to help understand the needs, desires, and capacities of our men to facilitate Biblical Manhood with ourselves, our families, our church, and our communities. In order to take the survey just copy or type the link into your browser. If you have any questions or need a paper copy of the survey, please see John Krull. Deacon John, Deacon Gary, John Hillestad, or Rocco Brindisi.
Thanks for your participation in this survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B58D5TV>



Men's Discipleship Group

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

All men are invited to attend.



Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study

meets at 6:30 pm ***the 2nd and 4th Tuesday***. We are beginning a new study on the book of James. Our May meetings will be the **13th and 27th**.

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

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

meets at 10:30 am. We are 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.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



SATURDAY, MAY 17TH

will be a busy day at St. Bartholomew's.

CONFIRMATION will take place at the 4:30pm service with Bishop Andudu.

Following that service we will have a covered-dish dinner with the church providing pizza and drinks to **start** to celebrate our **70th ANNIVERSARY** as a church.

(See the VESTRY minutes for more information.)

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special day.

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.

James Kerins– Army

Sean MacLeay-Navy

Matthew Miller– Army

Matthew Prohaska– Air Force

Andrew Rebl– Army



to our cooks who contributed homemade soup for our Meal Assist Ministry this past winter! Due to your generosity, we were able to serve 11 St. Bart's families. We will now return to our regular format of providing light meals when needed in our congregation. If you are interested in joining this ministry, or just want more details, please contact Brenda Wisz.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Garden Ministry Help Needed

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the gardens and landscaping around the church property. This could be as little as watering a few flowerpots or light weeding to planting in our gardens or even assisting with maintenance projects – everything helps! Please contact Joshua Jackson if you are interested in helping to make and keep St Bartholomew's gardens beautiful this year.

"It is not important who does the planting, or the watering. What is important is that God makes the seed grow." 1st Corinthians 3:7

FOOD PANTRY:



© Designallie

37 bags and boxes of food and other items were donated to the NIACAP Food Pantry in April. ***This is a new record for our church!!*** Thank you to everyone who has stepped up to help those in need. Remember that we collect for the NIACAP Food Pantry the first weekend of every month.

The **Men's Breakfast** for the Month of May will be held on **Saturday May 17th** at the usual 9:00 am. Those able to help prepare Breakfast, we start at 7:30 am. Hope to see you there. Bring a friend.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

CELEBRATE AMERICA with St. Bart's and the **BPO** in

Kleinhan's Music Hall, **Friday, May 23rd.**

Coffee & donut hour, included in the ticket price of \$30 per person, is at 9am, followed by a Patriotic Pops Concert at 10:30am.

Sign up in the Fr. Amend Hall. See Brenda Wisz for more information.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH

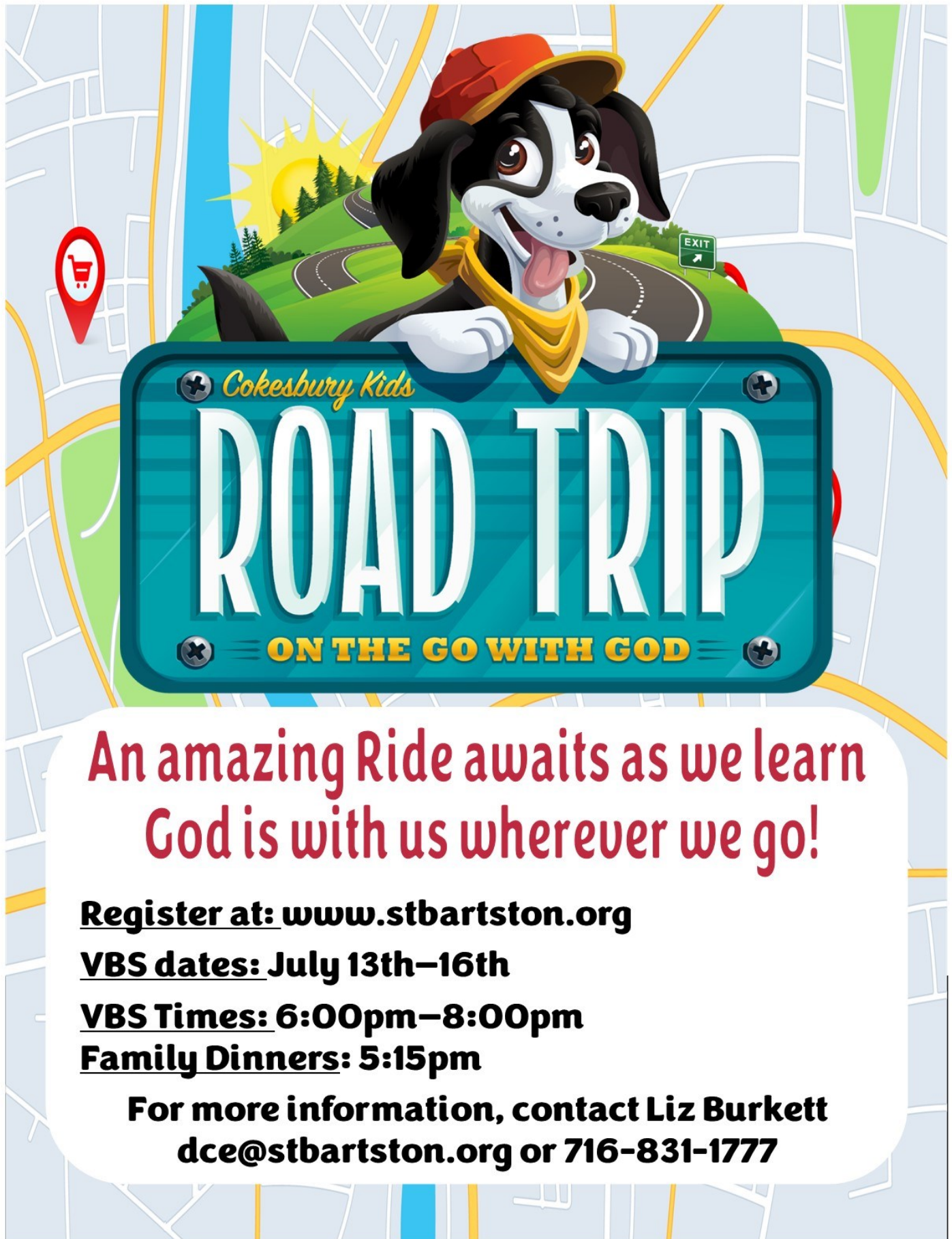
11:30AM—1:30PM

FATHER AMEND HALL

Tickets: \$12 per person

All proceeds will support the youth attending Kingdom Bound.





**An amazing Ride awaits as we learn
God is with us wherever we go!**

Register at: www.stbartston.org

VBS dates: July 13th–16th

VBS Times: 6:00pm–8:00pm

Family Dinners: 5:15pm

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



Next Steps

A Generation Next Newsletter

May 2025

Connected and directed



With summer approaching, many motorists will embark on longer trips to a desired recreational destination, and many will rely on GPS to get there. GPS (Global Positioning System) is a navigational assistant that uses orbiting satellites to guide us along the highways and byways, directing us on where to turn at each intersection or “fork” in the road, so that we arrive at our destination in a safe and timely manner. It’s like having someone in the car who knows the way and has been there many times before. With the many twists and turns, and proverbial “forks” in the road, that we experience in life, wouldn’t it be great to have something akin to GPS to help direct us in making wise decisions? The good news is that we do, and the letters for this kind of GPS stand for God’s Personal Spirit. God’s Spirit is with us to guide us, and we connect with Him through prayer. As we continue our series, we will see how Jesus used GPS during his earthly ministry and learn how we can become better receivers of God’s wisdom through prayer.

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 May 21st

Due to VBS Meeting

Wednesday, May 21st

6:00 pm VBS Volunteer Meeting

Thursday, May 22nd

6:00 pm Bowling Event

Wednesday, May 28th

6:00 pm Pancake Breakfast Mtg

“Therefore let us
draw near with
confidence to the
throne of grace”

Hebrews 4:16a NASB

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

You'll never make right choices without prayer. Regular prayer. Real prayer.

Wait! Don't panic. You may think prayer is a real drag. You may think it's hard or boring. Your understanding of prayer may come from your childhood or from listening to grown-ups talk to God in thee's and thou's or six-syllable theological words you never heard of.

Relax. Prayer is simply talking to God about your thoughts, feelings, and concerns. God really does understand modern English (even the bizarre language spoken by your brother or sister). You can be totally confident that God hears you when you pray. In fact, God eagerly waits for you to come to him in prayer. You are his child, and he values every minute you spend with him!

Why is prayer so great?

1. Prayer helps you to focus on God. It helps you get to know him better. The psalmist said, "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always" (Psalm 105:4, NIV). When you pray, you "unplug" your mind from the television and social media and "plug in" to God.

2. Prayer is intimacy with God. When you pray, you discover what it means to be intimate with God. The Bible says that when Moses entered the tabernacle, "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend" (Exodus 33:11, NIV). That is what happens in prayer. You become friends with God. He becomes a deep, intimate, personal friend who loves you unconditionally.

3. Prayer is a vital weapon in making right choices. If you want to stop lying, pray; praying will add God's power to your desire. If you want to be more loving toward your brother, pray; that will add God's help to your good intentions. If you need more patience, more compassion, or more self-control, pray; prayer will add God's energy to your efforts.

When we pray, God takes action! So pray. Pray for yourself. Pray for your family. Pray for your friends. And watch God work.

In Christ,
Liz



Save the Date - Wednesday, May 21st: VBS Volunteer Meeting at 6:00pm to discuss the details of Vacation Bible School (July 13-16th from 6-8 pm). The meeting is to help prepare all volunteers for their various roles at VBS.



Our Bowling Event will take place Friday, May 22nd from 6pm-8pm at Transit Lanes located at 7850 Transit Road in Williamsville. The cost is \$30 and will include bowling ball and shoe rental, pizza, fries, dessert and pop.

On May 28th 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. The Breakfast will be on June 8th 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. We will also finalize details for Youth Sunday which is also happening on June 8th during the 10:00am service



Youth Sunday this year (June 8th) will include a skit about Pentecost. Rehearsals will be on Sundays starting May 4th from 12:00pm-1:00pm. You can also participate in youth Sunday by doing the Bible readings, singing, ushering, greeting and so on.

May Birthdays

- 1 Susan Horvath, Rachel Teall
- 3 Charles Abramo, Jack Gradzewicz
- 4 Kaity Hersee, Elizabeth Merrick
- 5 Joan Calamita, Rosemary Davis,
Valerie Ulrich
- 7 Eric Miller
- 9 Brandon Heacock
- 11 Caroline Rudin, Lucilla Sediles
- 12 Kathy Dudley
- 13 Vincent Festa
- 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
- 26 Gerald Ciccarelli
- 27 Edward Doran, Sharon Scott,
Barbara Weiser
- 29 Warren Teall, Jonathan Veiders
- 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.
- 5 Gabriella Festa

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

May Calendar

MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				¹ 4-9pm Rivendell Rehearsal 6:30pm Cont. Music	² 7pm Rivendell: Pilgrims Progress	³ 10am COMPASS CARE Walk for Life 1pm Rivendell: Pilgrims Progress 4:30 pm HE
⁴ 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir New member's Class	⁵ 6:30pm Grandmas, Moms, Daughters Event	⁶ 6:30pm Neighborhood Watch, Men's Disc. 7pm Vestry	⁷ 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir rehearsal	⁸ 6:30pm Cont. Music	⁹	¹⁰ 4:30 pm HE
¹¹ MOTHER'S DAY 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir	¹²	¹³ 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study	¹⁴ 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group	¹⁵ 6:30pm Cont. Music Rivendell Parent Workshop 7pm Prayer Service	¹⁶	¹⁷ 9am Men's Breakfast 4:30 pm HE CONFIRMATION 6pm Cover-dish Dinner
¹⁸ 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir	¹⁹	²⁰ 6:30pm Men's Disc.	²¹ 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm VBS Volunteer Mtg. Rivendell Picnic	²² 6pm Youth Group Bowling 6:30pm Cont. Music	²³	²⁴ 4:30 pm HE
²⁵ 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School 11:30am Cherub Choir	²⁶ OFFICE CLOSED <i>Memorial Day</i> 	²⁷ 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study	²⁸ 9:30 am HE 10:30am Ladies Bible Study 6pm Youth Group Pancake Bkfst. Mtg.	²⁹ 6:30pm Cont. Music 7pm Healing Service	³⁰	³¹ 4:30 pm HE

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>NOTES:</div> <div>May</div>						
4 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Pray that Christian converts will show God's love to their persecutors.	5 IRAQ Muslim converts to Christianity in Iraq often face death threats. Pray for their safety and spiritual growth.	6 BANGLADESH Praise God for the bold faith of Shebana, a teenager who led her siblings to faith in Christ.	7 KYRGYZSTAN Christian converts from Islam often lose their jobs. Ask God to provide for their needs according to Philipians 4:19.	8 LAOS Pray for Sporn, who lost his job when he refused to renounce his faith. Praise God for his faithful witness.	9 TAJIKISTAN Pray that Christians will boldly share the gospel with Tajik children, even though it is prohibited by law.	10 COMOROS Pray that God will provide more translators to work on Bible translations in the native languages.
11 MALDIVES Pray that Christian work in Dhivehi, the language of the Maldives.	12 JORDAN Pray for Christian women who face violent opposition from their husbands when they leave Islam to follow Christ.	13 BURUNDI Pray for the protection of front-line workers proclaiming the gospel in Muslim communities.	14 CHAD Pray that family members and Islamists who persecute Christians will repent and place their faith in Christ.	15 UGANDA Pray for vocational training programs that support Christians who are shunned by their families.	16 IRAN Pray that imprisoned Iranian Christians will experience joy even behind bars.	17 INDIA Praise God for Pastor Ramesh's witness while in jail on charges of breaking anti-conversion laws!
18 SIERRA LEONE Using Acts 16:16-18 as a guide, pray that traditional religious shamans will be set free by the power of Jesus Christ.	19 ERITREA Praise God that the church continues to grow due to the faithfulness of Christians inside and outside the country.	20 MYANMAR (BURMA) Pray for the strength and encouragement of those who are persecuted for sharing their faith.	21 TURKIYE (TURKEY) Pray for Christians serving the nearly 4 million refugees from Syria, Iraq and Iran.	22 KUWAIT Pray for the witness of expatriate Christians who risk their jobs and immigrant status to share the truth of Christ.	23 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that believers in unregistered house churches will continue to meet despite police scrutiny.	24 LEBANON Thank God, according to Colossians 1:3-4, for the many Christian ministries in Lebanon that serve Syrian refugees.
25 TOGO Pray for the safety of Christians threatened by militant Fulani Muslims.	26 CUBA Pray for greater access to Bibles. Government oppression has prevented some Christians in Cuba from ever owning one.	27 DJIBOUTI Pray for a renewed effort to disciple new believers, even though it is discouraged.	28 MOROCCO Few printed Bibles exist in this country of nearly 35 million people. Pray for increased access to God's Word.	29 GUINEA Political instability has contributed to the rise of radical Islam. Pray that Muslim extremists will turn to Christ.	30 NIGERIA Pray that displaced congregations in northeastern Nigeria will experience God's provision.	31 BHUTAN Bhutanese Christians often must meet secretly. Pray that their secret meetings fuel a bold witness for Christ.

The Beauty of Flowers

"DAISIES ARE LIKE
SUNSHINE TO THE
GROUND."

- DREW BARRYMORE

Routinely Nomadic

Where
flowers
bloom
So Does
hope

flowersandflowerthings.com

“POLITENESS
IS THE FLOWER
OF HUMANITY.”

JOSEPH FOUBERT

All that
I have seen
teaches me to
trust GOD
for all
I have not seen.
- Author Unknown

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*The more you love
roses,
the more you
must bear with
thorns?*

— Matshona Dhliwayo

*"Friends,
like flowers,
make life
more
beautiful."*

— MICHELE FARABEE

Parade

be happy in the moment
that's enough

Studio 292

Flowers are an incredible
creation that rejoice in
every season.

Unknown

*Never lose an opportunity
of seeing anything beautiful,
for beauty is God's handwriting.*
-Ralph Waldo Emerson

*A flower does not
think of competing
with the flower
next to it.*
It just blooms.

unknown

To plant a garden is to
believe in tomorrow.

Audrey Hepburn