



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 11

The Chatter

NOVEMBER 2023

WHAT HAPPENS IN ISRAEL MATTERS!

The horrible events of the last few weeks have brought the world's attention back to Israel. As students of God's Word, we shouldn't be surprised. The Bible makes clear that before Christ returns, Israel will be at the center of the world's attention. In fact, the Old Testament prophets predict that Israel's Messiah will come to Jerusalem during a time when the city is besieged by the world's armies (**Zechariah chs.12 &14**). It is why Jesus warns of terrible conflict in the Holy Land as a sign prior to His coming back to earth (**Luke 21:20-24**).

But what happens in Israel also matters to us as Christians and Americans today. Israel represents the only truly free democratic nation in the Middle East. It upholds the rights of freedom of speech, the press, the right to assembly, and religion. And yet, it is surrounded by nations who reject such values and call for its destruction. Such hatred was on full display this past October 7, To add insult to injury, Hamas attacked Israel on the Sabbath. It committed atrocities of the worst kind, murdering over 1400 Jews, the single greatest number since the days of the Holocaust.

Such evil flows from the spirit of the evil one, the devil. Jesus warned the world of this evil when He said in **John 10:10**, "**the thief comes only to steal, kill, and destroy.**" But then Jesus continued and said, "**but I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.**" Therein lies the hope for the entire world. It is only when both Muslim and Jew, Palestinian and Israeli, turn to the *Prince of Peace* that they will have the inner, lasting peace that brings true reconciliation.

As Christians we are called to stand against the forces of evil both temporally and spiritually. However, the spiritual is most important. We cannot allow hate and anger to replace love and charity. We must work to protect all people here in the United States against prejudice and bigotry.

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St. Bart's Web Information

www.stbartston.org

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



St. Bartholomew's

Anglican Church

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Tonawanda, NY 14150

Phone: (716) 831-1777

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We must support Israel's defense and right to exist as well as efforts to protect the innocent on both sides. Jesus said to **"love for your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"** (Mt. 5:44). St. Paul warns us to take up the spiritual armor in **Ephesians 6:13-17** knowing that **"our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, the powers, the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."** (Eph. 6:12).

It is during times of trial and tribulation that our faith is most tested. We can either shrink back in fear and let worry and anxiety rule our hearts, or we can double down on the promises of God's Word - that God is sovereign and in complete control. Nothing happens without His permission. All that is going on in the Middle East and the world is preparing all humanity, the entire universe, for the return of the Kings of kings and Lord of lords - Jesus Christ! When we recognize such true promises, then we can joyfully heed Jesus' words, **"But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."** (Luke 21:28).

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Ward



VESTRY

SEPTEMBER

New air conditioning units will be installed in the Fr. Amend Hall, replacing the old, original units. Installation is set for the Spring of 2024.

Support for Nick & Lauren Sluyter: A \$3000 donation from St. Bart's was given to this couple in support of their on-going ministry work at Buffalo State College.

Two new, updated defibrillators will be purchased, one for upstairs and one for the main floor.

Three new cameras will be purchased to replace the three that are not working.

In support for the widows and orphans of three lay leaders who were gunned down in Northern Iraq last month, a \$1500 donation was given to the Kramer's ministry, *Love for the Least*.

OCTOBER

New signs will be installed at the main entrance and administrative office doors.

A \$5,000 donation will be sent in support for the good work of Bishop Andudu of the Anglican Diocese of Kadugli in Sudan. He also oversees the local Sudanese congregation that meets at St. Bart's. His diocese is responding to refugees and those in need in the Nuba mountains of Sudan, the area where the Diocese is located. As a result of the renewed Civil War in Sudan, many are suffering and have left the capital, fleeing to the Nuba Mountains. Many are also coming to Christ because of these efforts of support.

The 2024 budget was unanimously approved by the Vestry.

The 2024 annual elections will be held on the weekend of December 9th and 10th, before and after all services. At least four candidates will be running for three Vestry positions. If you would like to run for Vestry, please see Fr. Ward. More information will be forthcoming as we near these dates.

**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER CHATTER is Tuesday,
November 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

Andrew Rebl– Army

James Kerins– 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..



29 bags and boxes of food, as well as several cash donations, were taken to the Food Pantry in October.

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

The LANCASTER OPERA HOUSE presents

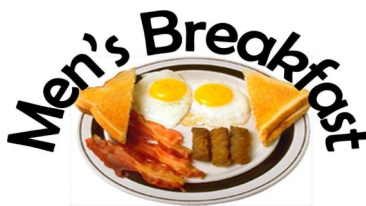
“A CHRISTMAS STORY”

The play is Sunday, December 3rd at 2:30pm.

We have 30 tickets available on a first come– first served basis.

Tickets are \$26 each.

See MJ Brzeczowski or Louise Jones for tickets or more information.



Saturday, November 18 at 9am.

All men are invited.

Prayer Night

Thursday, November 16 at 7pm



The GIFT SHOP says Thank you, thank you, thank you for continuing to bring in your Dash's receipts. Even those little ones for a cup of coffee all add up. We were able to submit another \$5,000.00 in receipts - that's another \$125.00 for continuing our donations to charity.

And remember - supporting the Gift Shop by shopping and donating is yet another way to contribute.



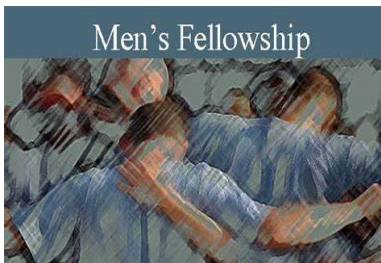
BIBLE STUDIES

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 or Dn. John Reitz for more information.



TUESDAY NIGHT LADIES

BIBLE STUDY

We meet from 6:30-8:00pm every other Tuesday, in the large fellowship hall. We are finishing our study of Matthew and will soon begin studying the book of JOHN. We would love to welcome you at our meetings!

Contact Louise Jones for more information.

November meetings will be the 7th and 21st.



WEDNESDAY MORNING LADIES

BIBLE STUDY

meets at 10:30am. We are currently studying Paul's letter to the Galatians.

All ladies are welcome to join us.

See Barbara Molison for more information.



Music Notes from Margaret Bukkosy

Greetings and a happy and blessed Thanksgiving to your family.

At the 10:00 a.m. November 5 All Saints Sunday service there will be special music selections presented by soloist Marley Smith and the adult choir.

All of our singing groups are preparing for the upcoming seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas. We hope that you might consider joining. There are no auditions. Choir members get excited when a "new" person shows up at a rehearsal. Consider this YOUR invitation!

The November rehearsal and singing schedules are below.

Cherub Choir - November 5,12,19,26 after the 10:00 a.m. service

Singing in church on 11/26 Please arrive by 9:30 a.m.

Children's Choir - November 5,12, 26 after the 10:00 a.m. service

Singing in church on 11/26. Please arrive by 9:30 a.m.

Note: There is no rehearsal on the 19th.

Adult Choir - November 1, 8, 15, 29 at 7 p.m. in the choir room

Singing in church November 5, 12, 19 and 23.

Contemporary - Eileen Arnold will plan contemporary music selections for the 10:00 a.m. service on November 26. She will be in touch with singers. This will be a blended service with traditional music as well.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
TOWN OF TONAWANDA, NY

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE
AT A DINNER,
THE HOLY COMMUNION,
TO BE GIVEN IN HIS HONOR**

THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 23, 2023
8 & 10AM

Remember the first invitation in Matthew 22:1-14

OUR THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICES are at 8 & 10AM. Remember to give thanks to Almighty God for His blessings to us in the past year. Emphasize the spiritual blessings of the day by including your company in your celebration at church as well as sharing food at your table at home. Receiving Holy Communion on this holiday is an appropriate way to honor our Lord Jesus, as well as gathering our families with our church family.

THE ADVENT ENVELOPE is included in your packet of offering envelopes with the hope of returning the true meaning of Advent as a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ into our hearts in our Christmas Communion. You may return the Advent envelope to the church or place it in the alms basin anytime during the Advent/Christmas season. Advent offerings will be distributed to the needy and other Christian ministries. Thank you!

FLOWERS FOR THE CHRISTMAS ALTAR may be given as memorials or thank offerings. Please use the envelopes provided in the pews. ***Deadline is December 3rd.***

THE ANNUAL PARISH ELECTION FOR THE VESTRY WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 9 and 10. Voting will take place before and after all three services. Photos and information about all candidates will be available before the election. Please see Fr. Ward if you are interested in being a candidate.

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be Sunday, December 17 at 4:30pm. Dinner and Gingerbread House decorating will follow the program.

PLEASE CHECK PARISH LIFE in the Sunday bulletin for announcements regarding upcoming events and ministry opportunities.

THE MONTHLY COLLECTION OF FOOD FOR THE NIA-CAP FOOD PANTRY is the first weekend of each month. Thank you for your continued and generous support of this ministry!

PLEDGE CARDS WILL BE SOON SENT IN THE MAIL AND AVAILABLE IN THE PEWS FOR OUR 2024 BUDGET.



With just a few clicks, you can pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift online to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a boy or girl in need around the world. Simply select toys and other fun items you'd like to include from our collection, and personalize your gift with your own letter and photo.

The gift will be packed for you and sent on its way for a suggested donation of just \$25.

Help us reach our goal of 125 boxes by November 20th by going to www.stbartston.org and donating to our goal page. Or drop off a donation of \$25 in an envelope marked "Operation Christmas Child" and we will build a box online for you.



Christmas Pageant Event!

Sunday, December 17th
at 4:30pm
In Father Amend Hall

With dinner and Gingerbread House decorating to follow the performance.

For questions please contact Liz at dce@stbartston.org



Get Real



Real friendships are essential but hard to come by especially as social media blurs the line between real and fake. We may convince ourselves that the 400+ followers listed on our social media profiles really care about us, that they're our "friends," but the reality is they disappear the moment you turn off the app. You cannot live life through a screen, and you will not make it far in life without real friends.

In this 4-week series, we'll explore how Jesus, the Disciples, Paul, Timothy, David, and Jeremiah help us understand what real friendship can look like. Together, we'll discover that real friends choose each other wisely, show each other grace, comfort each other, and help each other grow.

Next Happenings

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

Saturday, November 18th

7:00 pm Mercy Me, Toby Mac,
Zach Williams concert

Wednesday, November 22nd

NO YOUTH GROUP due to
Thanksgiving Holiday

Sunday, December 17th

4:30 pm "A Twist in Time"
Christmas Pageant

Save the Date: Dec. 20th

6:00 pm Reindeer Games

*"The one who believes
in the Son of God
has the testimony in
himself"*

1 John 5:10a NASB

A Letter From our Director



Liz Burkett

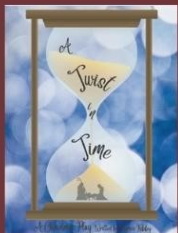
Wow! October went by fast! Thanks for all your hard work on the Fall Fest this year, you all are amazing! I wanted to share with you a donation opportunity you can get involved in to help those in need this holiday season. You can find that information below. Also, I'm super excited about our holiday reindeer games scheduled for December 20th! Our game nights are great opportunities to invite friends, and don't forget to mention that there will be pizza!

In Christ,
Liz



With just a few clicks, you can pack an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift online to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a boy or girl in need around the world. Simply select toys and other fun items you'd like to include from the collection and personalize your gift with your own letter and photo. The gift will be packed for you and sent on its way for a suggested donation of just \$25. Help us reach our goal of 125 boxes by November 20th by going to www.stbartston.org and donating to our goal page. Or drop off a donation of \$25 in an envelope marked "Operation Christmas Child" and we will build a box online for you.

I am so excited to share that TobyMac, MercyMe, and Zach Williams - are teaming up for an unforgettable concert experience at The Key Bank Center on Saturday, November 18th at 7:00pm. For those of you who missed out on Kingdom Bound this summer, this concert is the perfect example of the kind of music we experienced there. Feel free to invite your whole family and friends to this incredible event. Cost is \$25 per person. If you are joining us please let me know ASAP so I can order tickets before they sell out. For more information about these artists go to www.tobymac.com



Come out and support your friends in Youth Group as they perform in our Christmas Pageant Titled "A Twist In Time" This is going to be a great evening of time traveling fun and music on Sunday, December 17th at 4:30pm in Fr. Amend Hall. Afterward, we will have dinner and gingerbread house decorating! If you would like to participate in the festivities after the live performance, please contact me to register!



Save the Date: Come test your reindeer skills as you try to ender to the end at this awesome game night on December 20th from 6-8pm. We'll have fun as we dance and prance through a 10-game blitz that will be sure and test your wits. Dinner and treats will be provided.

Hey! You're going to get the dice greasy!



November Birthdays

- 1 Andrew LaDuca, Margaret McCarthy
- 2 Betty Wandel
- 3 Patricia Emmons, Sarah McCarthy
- 4 David Kisloski Jr., Mark LaDuca,
Riley McAndrews, Cathy Reitz,
Renee Szymanski, Miles VanSaders
- 5 Karen Dolce
- 6 Sharon Lukacz
- 10 Autumn Bush, Judy Karnuth,
Norma Passino
- 11 Muriel Forte, Caitlyn Siegel
- 12 James Glowonia, Diane Hyzy
- 13 Janette Chairavalle
- 14 Nancy Brylinski
- 16 Pamela Austin, Michael Hillery, Larry Lade
- 17 Donna Hubbard, Jean Service,
Fr. Burt Weigen
- 19 Alice Csont, Paul Faust
- 20 Justin Johnson
- 22 Fr. Jacob Bush, Irene Scranton
- 23 Louis Oliveri Jr.
- 24 John Calabrese, Diane Merrick,
Aisha Nordee, Caiden Socha
- 25 Ronald Derrett
- 27 Andrew Hillery III, Gary Pawlowski Jr.
- 28 Stephanie Fetter, Thomas Passino,
James Weiser
- 29 Isabel Gradzewicz, Isabel Luckoski,
Baritema Nordee, Robert Nowak,
Molly Sammarco, Robert Tackaberry
- 30 Erin Andrade, Skye LaDuca,
Thomas Houston



DECEMBER

- 1 Marcia Brock, Khloe Kibby
- 2 Lucas Fish
- 4 Grace Ward
- 5 Richard Herrmann, Lindsay Tobin,
Carol Woeppel

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

November Calendar

NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	2	3 7pm Fr. Ward's Bible Study: "Thy Kingdom Come"	4 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!!
5 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS	6	7 6pm Neighborhood Watch 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study 7pm Vestry	8 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir rehearsal	9	10	11 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
12 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub & Children's Choir Rehearsal	13	14 6:30pm Men's Disc.	15 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir	16 7pm Prayer Night	17	18 9am Men's Breakfast 10am GriefShare 10:30am Conf. 4:30 pm HE
19 8 & 10am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub Choir Rehearsal NO Children's Choir rehearsal	20	21 6:30pm Men's Disc. & Ladies Bible Study	22 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study	23 THANKSGIVING DAY 8 & 10am HE	24	25 4:30 pm HE
26 8 & 10 am HE 10am Sunday School Cherub Choir Rehearsal & singing NO Children's Choir rehearsal	27	28 6:30pm Men's Disc.	29 9:30 am HE 10:30am Women's Bible Study 6pm Youth Group 7pm Adult Choir rehearsal	30		

PERSECUTED CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
NOTES: <h1>November</h1>						
5 BAHRAIN Pray that new Christians will be grounded in God's Word and stand firm amid persecution. <i>International Day of Prayer for Persecuted Christians</i>	6 MOZAMBIQUE Pray for the encouragement of those ministering to displaced and traumatized Christians.	7 INDONESIA Continue to pray for members of the Hati Yesus Maha Kudus Church, attacked on Palm Sunday 2021.	8 SYRIA Pray for pastors, using 1 Peter 5:1-4 as a guide.	9 KUWAIT Pray for more evangelists who will find creative ways to reach the Kuwaiti people.	10 TAJIKISTAN Pray for Christians in the northeast, which is dominated by a radical form of Islam.	11 VIETNAM Pray that those blinded by ancestor worship will see the truth of Scripture.
12 NEPAL Pray that the government will stop its oppression of those who convert to Christianity.	13 KENYA Pray for Christian widows and orphans recovering from Islamist attacks.	14 SAUDI ARABIA Pray that Christians who are persecuted by their families will connect with the family of God.	15 EGYPT Pray that children's Bibles will be distributed to eager readers.	16 NORTH KOREA Pray that government attempts to interrupt Christian radio broadcasts will fail.	17 MAURITANIA Pray that God will send more Christian workers to live and share the gospel in the country.	18 LAOS Pray that Christians will remain faithful amid suffering and loss.
19 LIBYA Pray for the boldness of a fellowship of believers who attend an online church.	20 INDIA Pray for Christians, using Romans 5:3-5 as a guide.	21 UGANDA Pray for Sister Ruth, the widow of a martyred evangelist.	22 AZERBAIJAN Pray for the continued faithfulness of those under spiritual attack.	23 SOMALIA Pray for greater unity and trust among leaders of the Somali church.	24 SRI LANKA Pray for those facing governmental discrimination because of their Christian witness.	25 KAZAKHSTAN Pray that Kazakh Christians will heed God's call to serve as church leaders.
26 ALGERIA Pray for believers whose churches have been closed by the government.	27 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC Pray for a bold witness among Muslims.	28 TURKMENISTAN Pray for those seeking creative ways to get copies of the Bible into the country.	29 IRAQ Praise God that far more Bibles have been distributed than have been destroyed by extremists.	30 PHILIPPINES Pray that Muslim Communist rebels will reject violence for the peace of Christ.		



... St. Bartholomew's.
Fr. Ward

...my beautiful wife,
my children, my family and
my church family.

Fr. Bush

...Christian music. It always
lifts me up when I am down,
by reminding me of the joy
that comes from a
relationship with Jesus.

Liz Burkett

...fellowship with good
friends.

Dn. John Reitz

...that which moves planets, changes
seasons, instructs trees to bud and
wheat to ripen; that makes our
hearts beat and our souls to desire
the good, and enables us to enjoy
the blessings of family and friends:
the Wisdom of God!

Dn. Jim Kibby

God's gift of music and all of
the members in St. Bart's
music groups. I'm also
thankful for the wonderful
staff at St. Bart's.

Margaret Bukkosy

What are you thankful for?

Happy Thanksgiving