

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Yarmouth, Maine

2020 Annual Report

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**St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 26, 2020
Minutes**

1. Hymn 657, Love divine, all loves excelling

2. Opening Prayer: Rev. Nina Pooley, Rector

3. Meeting Called to Order. Attendance Book circulated.

All attendees were asked to sign the Attendance Book circulated during the meeting, in affirmation of the following statement printed in the Agenda:

We, the undersigned, hereby signify that we are baptized, at least 15 years old, have been worshippers and contributors to the financial support of the church during the previous three months, and that we agree to maintain this church in accordance with the canons, doctrine and worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

4. Acceptance of Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting: Dennis Fitzgibbons, Senior Warden

Minutes of the January 27, 2019 meeting (reviewing the 2018 Annual Report) were circulated as part of the 2019 Annual Report.

Motion to accept as presented: Beth LaSalle. Seconded: Don Massey.

Vote to approve: Unanimous in favor.

5. Rector's report: Rev. Nina Pooley, Rector

Highlights from the Rector's report:

- Thank you to the wardens, the vestry and everyone for their support and prayers.
- Review of the seasonal and major events of 2019 - the interviews and election of the new Bishop of Maine, Thomas J. Brown; the presentation of Dawnland and support of the Wabanaki REACH program; the Way of Love program; Bishop Lane's visitation and confirmation and reaffirmation of some of our members.
- Pastoral Offices - Remembrance of those whose lives we had celebrated, as well as, baptisms and weddings.
- Collaboration with other organizations and churches continues to be important and a valuable resource. Outreach Ministries: YCHI, YCAN, the Community Garden, St. Elizabeth's and Friendship House; First Universalist Church, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, First Parish Church. Adult Education Programming: Way of Love, Sacred Ground. Building Relationships.
- Nina expressed her excitement about 2020 and all the opportunities ahead. "What we do together matters" not just to us, but to all the communities that we touch. She invited us to think of St. Bart's as the intergenerational foundation of a spiral of care and love that goes out to the community around us. "It matters that we gather together to worship God, build authentic relationships, and serve the world. It matters that we invest in this community with our hearts (and as possible, with our resources), because we together as Beloved Community make a difference in our own lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world. Together we are the foundation which ensures that St. Bart's will continue to do so for generations to come."

6. Warden's Report: Dennis Fitzgibbons, Senior Warden

Highlights from the Warden's report:

- Thank you to outgoing Vestry members: Jamie Michaud, Paule French, Heather Sylvester, Beth LaSalle and Peter Chandler.
- Enthusiastic endorsement/support of Heather's candidacy to the Diaconate.
- Reports on our 7 fundraisers in 2019: Christmas Fair, Art Show, Gregg Hoerr, Lobster Bake, Talent Auction, Spring Fling and Yarmouth Clam Festival.
- Thank you for volunteers and contributions to St. Elizabeth's and to Friendship House.

- Report on new sound system. Generous support for it from parish. Has greatly improved sound and audibility in the church. Streaming still has a few bugs which are being worked on. Ken Pooley gave detailed update.
- Thanks to John Duncan for promoting and increasing participation in Hannaford Cards program.
- Demographic changes and the effect on pledging. Annual assessment to the Diocese. Thanks to Becky Wright for her stewardship expertise and encouragement.
- Although we didn't reach our pledging goal, we came close and recognize that it's a multi-year work in progress. We will adjust to changes and "will continue to be a remarkable, welcoming and generous community."

7. Nominating Committee Report and Vote to Accept the Slate: Dennis Fitzgibbons, Sr. Warden

The following names were submitted for nomination/acceptance to the Vestry:

Dennis Fitzgibbons as Senior Warden
 Michele Johns as Junior Warden
 Ann Donaghy as Treasurer
 Arthur Woolverton as Assistant Treasurer
 Anne Berg as Clerk

Returning members at large:

Cecilia Guecia
 Gregg Hoerr
 Susie Soule

New Vestry members:

John Colianni
 Susie Peixotto
 Lu Tingley

The following names were submitted for acceptance as delegates to the Maine Diocesan Annual Convention for October 2020:

Harriet Davis
 Paule French
 Ken Pooley

Motion to close nominations for Vestry and Convention Delegates and to accept slate of Vestry members/nominations and for Diocesan Delegates: Don Massey. Seconded: Gary Sylvester. Vote to approve: Unanimous in favor.

8. Treasurer's Report: Peter Chandler, Treasurer

Highlights from the Treasurer's Report:

- 2019 was a difficult year due to unexpected equipment failures and natural causes, i.e., elevator and sprinkler system repairs, removal of large tree blown down across driveway, among other things. Need to anticipate similar expenditures in future.
- Wrestling with pledges falling short of expenses, we relied on successful fundraising events to fill in gaps. Since much of income from events comes from within our community, our hope is that, with an increase in pledges, we can rely less on special events to meet our budget. To date, pledges are at \$201,280.
- Budget summary on p.14. Tried to be realistic in revenue expectations and are "reasonably optimistic that revenues listed from funding sources will be realized."

- Budget depends heavily on Christmas Fair and Art Show. 2020 is “off year” for Talent Auction. Although other events are fun and a lot of work, we can’t rely on them for the budget. Budget does not allow setting aside funds for maintenance reserve.
- Other considerations: 1. Compensation - minimums are set by the Diocese. We were at the minimum in 2019 and expect to be there in 2020, as well (Note on clergy compensation from Nina on p.13). 2. Music and Education program are both vital to St. Bart’s and could not be replaced for less.
- Budget is realistic. Doing all we can to keep St. Bart’s finances healthy and keep the programs which are so important to us. We hope more pledges will help fill the gap. Despite a budget which expends more than its income in 2020, St. Bart’s will survive, even if we go in the red \$14,000.
- Questions followed: 1. Outreach: Is there \$ in budget for Outreach? No. Funds raised for Outreach come from fundraisers, i.e., lobster back. Also, part of our diocesan assessment (\$41,500) goes to outreach - international, national, as well as to other diocesan needs.
- 2. Can \$7400. surplus be included? It will help cushion the loss in 2020, but won’t be included as income.

Motion to accept Treasurer’s report as presented and Proposed 2020 Budget: Heather Sylvester. Seconded: Morris Hancock. Vote to approve: Unanimous in favor.

9. St. Bartholomew’s Mission Areas and Committees: (as presented by written report)

- Outreach
 - St. Elizabeth’s Jubilee Center
 - Friendship House
 - Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative
- Worship
 - Pastoral Care
 - Altar Bread
 - Altar Guild
 - Altar Flowers
 - Coffee Hour
- Memorial Garden
- Education
- Music
- Education
 - Sunday School
 - Indigenous Studies
 - The Way of Love

10. Closing Prayer: Rev. Nina Pooley, Rector

11. Adjournment at 12:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,
 Paule French,
 Outgoing Clerk of the Vestry

Warden's Report

Dear Friends,

How many times have we already said, 2020 was a terrible year? We don't need to tell you why! We do have good news, though. Despite all that has occurred in the past year, St. Bart's has weathered the storm of COVID-19, as well as political and social upheaval.

Reflecting upon the past year at St. Bart's, we have observed many wonderful ways of responding to adversity. Speaking of observing, the famous American philosopher and Yankee catcher, Yogi Berra said, "You can observe a lot by just watching." Smart man, that Yogi. He also said, "When you come to a fork in the road, take it." St. Bart's came to a lot of forks in the road in 2020, and we took Yogi's advice.

The first 'fork in the road' was in March when the Vestry had challenging decisions to make about the COVID-19 virus. Today, the decision to close the church building seems like it should have been an easy one. It was not; we met more than once a month and researched all we could to get advice from the experts at the Diocese, the Maine CDC, and others. It was an exceedingly difficult decision, but it turned out to be the right one.

More difficult decisions followed, some were decided for us, such as The Annual Clam Festival being cancelled by the Town of Yarmouth. Then came 'the fork in the road' of the Lobster Bake. Motivated by knowing that the Lobster Bake funds were all earmarked to Outreach, we decided to go ahead, if we could do it safely. Another 'fork in the road' came regarding the money raised by the Art Show. We took a leap of faith and said, "all of it, after expenses will go to outreach". Other events demonstrated the spirit and love of this community, including the Christmas Fair in October and Crazy Hat Day in July. The St. Bart's community responded with incredible enthusiasm and support for all that was accomplished, while also practicing social distancing and wearing masks.

The Membership Committee reached out to members just to say hello, how are you? and do you need anything? Starting in March and working through December 2020, the Sewing Warriors sewed 6,155 masks. The Stewardship Committee organized early and crafted a meaningful and successful campaign. The Warden's are blessed to serve with the Vestry who have worked so hard this year.

With the church building closed, our Rector, Nina and Ken delivered online services with compelling sermons, fantastic filming, and exemplary music from the choir. We hired a new Education Coordinator, not knowing what could be offered to the children of the Parish with the church building closed, and we are joyful with the result!

In the background, Nina and the Pastoral Care Team worked tirelessly to ensure that members in need were contacted regularly. Nina prepared the Pastoral Care Team to be ready to care for us after her departure. We are grateful for her foresight.

In early December, we came to yet another 'fork in the road' when we learned that our Rector for 14 years, The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley, has been called to a new ministry at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

Nina's last Sunday service included the "Service for the Ending of a Pastoral Relationship and Leave-taking from a Congregation." Bishop Thomas Brown participated in the service which took place on January 3, 2021. The service was followed by a coffee hour that allowed us to present gifts to Nina and for us to say Farewell and Thank You. We also made sure to say thank you to Ken, Mackenzie, and Channing. We will miss the Pooley Family.

We are so proud of you, the St. Bart's community, with your outpouring of generosity of time and talent, helping and supporting others. It was a year when we could have chosen to be afraid and to do nothing; instead, we chose to lovingly support each other and the greater community.

The many and diverse acts of love by this community have prepared us for the transition ahead of us. We are a strong and vibrant church community, and our future is in our collective hands to discern with prayer and thanksgiving. Please take the time to read the informative and affirming committee reports in the Annual Report. See you all at the next 'fork in the road'; let's take it together!

Your Wardens,
Dennis Fitzgibbons & Michele Johns

Treasurer's Report - Please see related statements on pages 9 and 10.

2020 Financial Results:

A year ago, the parish adopted a budget for 2020 that was a deficit, or unbalanced budget. The new Vestry entered the year with the task of trying to break-even by year end, never imagining that instead we would be faced with the task of managing our church during a pandemic. 2020 has finally ended, and from a financial standpoint, St. Bart's ended the year in much better shape than we ever could have imagined, thanks mostly to the contributions of all of you. Although we still ended the year with a deficit, it was \$3,000 less than the deficit that was budgeted. And, we contributed \$11,649 to Outreach programs, as we dedicated 100% of the net proceeds from our Lobster Bake and Art Show fundraisers to benefit St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center, Friendship House and YCHI.

We end the year with a \$28,500 Diocesan loan on our books. It was decided at the Diocese not to apply for forgiveness of their PPP loan in 2020, but they will be doing so this month. Personnel continue to be confident that the loan will be 100% forgiven, which would translate to St. Bart's and our loan would become grant income from the Diocese.

I am also happy to report that the cash position of St. Bart's remains strong. We ended the year with a comfortable \$68,482 balance in our Operating Account and \$138,538 in our Reserve Accounts held at Vanguard.

2021 Proposed Budget:

The proposed budget for 2021 that we present to you for your consideration at our Annual Meeting has changed from the one presented during the Stewardship Appeal last fall. While the departure of our full-time rector has significantly reduced our compensation and benefits expenses, there are other new costs for us during this transition year, and also many unknowns. (Will we decide to hire an interim clergy? Will we call a new rector during the year?) The proposed budget shows income exceeding expenses by \$68,385, an amount that will remain unallocated and held in reserve to be available if needed.

Assumptions used for the preparation of this proposed budget include:

- Building remains closed for 6 months
- It is anticipated that 2 fundraisers will be held to support our operating income, while others may be dedicated to support Outreach
- One month full-time clergy cost is included, then use of supply clergy, and no interim clergy cost included
- Supply clergy costs based on 33 services at \$150 each, plus 3 units per month for 12 months at \$85 each (pastoral care needs, etc.)

- 4% salary increase for staff effective 1/1/2021, except for the Education Coordinator, which is not effective until 9/1/2021 (This position's contract runs from 9/1 to 6/30)
- Contract services reserve built in to help with technology needs, \$6,000
- Allocation to building/equipment reserve fund, \$10,000
- Support for Outreach, \$5,000
- Clergy transition reserve based on recommendations from the Diocesan Transition Guide
 - o Website upgrade, \$3,000
 - o Episcopal News listing, \$500
 - o 1st phase interviews, \$3,000
 - o Travel to candidates, \$3,000
 - o Background checks, \$700
 - o Moving expense, \$4,000
 - o Misc., \$800

Finance Committee:

During 2020, the Vestry established a Finance Committee and charged it with the following responsibilities:

- Monitoring the Church's income and expenses against the annual budget
- Preparation and recommendation of the budget to the Vestry
- Overseeing the reserve accounts and investments
- Recommend spending and investment policy to the Vestry
- Provide financial guidance for the Treasurers and Vestry
- Monitor financial trends affecting the Church
- Participation in long range planning, as needed, and identification of long-term capital needs
- Financial governance oversight (audit, bookkeeping)

Joining me on the Committee are Arthur Woolverton, Tom Hyndman, Bill Macleod, Joe Michaud, Anne Jacobs and Anne Berg. The Committee meets every month, and has added not only an extra level of over-sight to the church's finances, but has also helped to improve internal controls as new policies and practices have been recommended. Committee members have been a significant help to the Treasurer, and I thank each of them for their contribution.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Donaghy, Treasurer

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
2020 Financial Results
and
2021 Budget Presentation
Summary

	<u>2020</u>		Proposed 2021 <u>Budget</u>
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Operating Income:</u>			
Pledge Payments	205,000	204,272	204,000
Plate & Unrestricted Gifts	14,000	20,443	11,000
Restricted Gifts	3,000	838	1,000
Hannaford card income	6,000	7,799	8,000
Event Income (Net of expenses)	25,000	11,438	20,000
Rents & Misc Income	13,000	11,492	13,510
Investment Income	-	3	-
Total Operating Income	<u>266,000</u>	<u>256,285</u>	<u>257,510</u>
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>			
Compensation & Benefits	185,630	186,498	72,197
Contract services-technology help			6,000
Rector Support	3,000	1,394	-
Building & Grounds	31,962	16,743	21,362
Office equipment purchase	6,000	6,061	
Allocation to building/equipment reserves		-	10,000
Office & Admin	7,400	10,915	12,050
Church Programs	4,000	4,102	5,200
Diocesan Assessment	41,600	41,602	41,816
Outreach		-	5,000
Misc Expense	1,000	500	500
Clergy transition reserves		-	15,000
Total Operating Expenses	<u>280,592</u>	<u>267,815</u>	<u>189,125</u>
<u>Non-operating income and expense:</u>			
Net Lobster Bake income		3,295	
Net Art Show income		8,354	
Outreach expense to beneficiaries		(11,649)	
Net change to operating reserves	<u>(14,592)</u>	<u>(11,530)</u>	<u>68,385</u>

(NOTE: 100% of the net proceeds from the Lobster Bake and Art Show in 2020 were gifted equally to St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center, Friendship House and YCHI)

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Cash Accounts and Restricted Fund Balances

	Balance <u>12/31/2019</u>	<u>Deposits</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	Balance <u>12/31/2020</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Cash Accounts:</u>					
Operating Account (BSI)	58,590	X	X	61,482	
Designated Accounts (BSI)	23,025	X	X	19,523	Campaign, Hannaford Card, YCHI, Rector's Discretionary
Reserve Accounts (Vanguard)	112,325	15,000		138,528	\$15,000 Transferred from Operating account
Endowment Account (Fidelity)	23,075	12,000		39,103	2 bequests added
<u>Restricted Fund Balances:</u>					
Front Garden	1,177	-	-	1,177	
Memorial Garden	5,960	3,401	2,497	6,864	
Building, Grounds & Equipment	-	31,899	-	31,899	Newly established by Vestry
Endowment Fund	23,075	12,000		39,103	

(NOTE: Restricted fund balances are held within the cash accounts.)

Rector's Report

Beloved Community of St. Barts,

During our last meeting, the wardens and I discussed the upcoming annual meeting, and we wondered whether I should write a rector's report. Yet, of all years, it seemed important that some kind of rector's report document the ways we responded to all that 2020 threw our way. The first two months of 2020 we celebrated the baptism of Lewis Fischer, and the marriage of Kylie and Ian-Meredythe Lindsay. We celebrated the life of Ursula Baier with a funeral that filled the sanctuary. We began Lent in mid-February and began a series of Ecumenical Celtic Eventide services in collaboration with First Parish Congregational Church, Yarmouth, and Foreside Community Church. The first of these was held at St. Bart's on the evening of March 8th. Little did we know at the time that it would be the last time in 2020 that we would gather for worship in-person in the sanctuary.

The following Tuesday information from the state and our diocese made it clear that the situation with the Coronavirus warranted a system-wide response. Over the course of three days, we responded: as a vestry to make decisions concerning the use of the building; as the pastoral care team to create a pastoral plan; and as a worship team to switch gears completely to online worship. And people say that churches are institutions that can't adapt quickly!

I'm proud of our capacity to face the challenges before us - both immediately and to build structures which have served us during the many months that followed. The Vestry decided to close the building and implemented various procedures and protocols to keep people as safe as possible. The Pastoral Care team expanded our response team, as each member of the committee asked at least one other parishioner to become part of the Parish Pastoral Response Network. We then created an old school phone tree of sorts - with each member of the response network checking in with designated members of our parish. This continues even now, though the calls have gone from once a week, to every other week, and some to once a month - as callers and those being called found what worked best for them. In addition, members of the Vestry and Education committee reached out to every family involved in the education program. In a matter of a few days we had built systems which allowed us to stay connected to one another, to maintain relationships as we moved into this time of being physically apart from one another.

The Worship team and staff shifted gears completely - at first utilizing our new sound system's capacity to stream live worship, and then finding a more accessible and safer way to craft online worship. Through the use of a special app, and with John Corrie's willingness to lead virtually, several members of the choir have been able to record themselves singing, sending that onward to the next member - a carefully choreographed layered approach that was then compiled by Phil Chin. Ken was then able to add the audio files to our worship videos, covering them with video and images he gathered each week. Lectors and those reading the prayers of the people, as well as our VPOWs - everyone jumped in; learning to record themselves and send the files. Ken and I were able to work out a method of production that was labor intensive but yielded high quality online worship for our parish. Meredith and I were able to completely revamp our worship format and how we made that available to the parish, and over time we established a monthly pattern: one Eucharist, one Service of the Word, one Service of the Word with Healing, and one Diocesan Worship Service. Coffee hour, weekly knitting, choir gatherings, vestry meetings, Sacred Ground, Black Lives Matter programming ... we learned how to use Zoom to meet and gather. Not quite the same as being in person, yet there are some advantages, too.

In the spring we thanked Rev. Abby D'Ambruso for her work as our Education Coordinator, as she turned her full attention to her work as Chaplain at the Barbara Bush Children's Center in a time when families needed more support than ever. The Education committee created Summer Activity Kits for families. And by summer we had hired our Pal Covie to serve as our new Education Coordinator extraordinaire. Pal has crafted tremendous online worship for the youth and children of our parish (and for the rest of us too!). We held our Lobster Bake in a new way, and our Christmas Fair (in October!), as well as our Art Show, and were able to have Pick Up Communion for St. Bart's Day and again in early December. Even our Farewell has had to be a combination of online and drive-by, but still a good and holy ending to our time together.

Every week since March 8th, I've sent a note - which we've come to call News and Notes. It was a tool to keep everyone up to date with the coming week's gatherings and worship, as well as opportunities for outreach, prayer and study. (Many of these offered by our diocese, or The Episcopal Church.) But from the very beginning the theme has been: "Worshipping Together and Staying Connected." While not perfect by any means, I truly believe our response has been focused on those two aspects of our communal life - to me the most important aspects. As I finish this last Rector's report - I want you to know how much I have loved being with you all, and admit that I am proud of the work we have done together. There's so much to be proud of! But mostly I'm proud of the ways we've connected to God and one another - evidenced by our capacity to respond to the challenges of COVID. Things will shift some as I leave, but the systems and relationships which have sustained us throughout this time continue. You are in such good hands - God's and those of each other. May God bless and keep you, always. I will miss you more than you know.

With love and respect,
Nina+

*My friends, life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us,
so be quick to love and make haste to be kind.
And rest assured that God is infinitely more concerned
with the promise of our future
than the mistakes of our past.
And the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all, now and always.*

Amen.

Pastoral Care Committee Report

The Covid-19 pandemic drastically changed the way the Pastoral Care Committee serves the congregation. Not being able to check in with each other in church, we developed a call list and committee members were in contact with about 40 parishioners, first on a weekly basis and now on a bi-monthly basis, to offer connection and community. The list was regularly reviewed by Nina and members during our monthly online meetings. As St. Bart's pivoted to online Sunday services, we assisted in a Pastoral Service once a month.

We added a Pastoral Care tab to St. Bartholomew's website which gives our Mission Statement, information on receiving Healing Prayers, a direct link to a new email address for the Pastoral Care Committee and access to the Pastoral Care Booklet. The Booklet, compiled under Nina's guidance and Barbara Barhydt's leadership, is a collection of prayers and psalms entitled "*Words of Comfort, for Times of Worry, Distress and Grief*" intended to be a resource for comfort beyond just our current situation. This fall and in the new year 2021, several members will renew their Safe Church Training to receive certification as Church Eucharistic Visitors, although because of Covid-19 restrictions, home visits are not encouraged. We are supported by the Prayer Shawl knitters and in 2020, Nina gifted 12 shawls.

This year Lin Peyton stepped off the committee and Barbara Barhydt joined me as co-chair. In mid-summer we expanded our committee to include Paule French and Susie Peixotto. Heather Sylvester, Susannah White, John Perkins and Pam Hobson are the other members of our committee.

Co-chairs: Imelda Schaefer - Barbara Barhydt

Coffee Hour Report

Coffee hour proceeded as it has for decades during the first 10 weeks of 2020, with many generous volunteers providing after-church coffee and snacks to facilitate conversation and connections within our St. Bart's community and to welcome visitors and newcomers. Our generous friends include those who hosted coffee hour the first 10 weeks of the year and those who had signed up to serve through the end of May if the pandemic had not interrupted: Kathy Abernathy, Barbara Barhydt, Anne Berg, Mary Calvin, the Crawford family, Linda Draper, Lisa Fitzgibbons, Paule French, Carol Hayes, Sophie Herr, Pam Hobson, Michele Johns, Jamie & Joe Michaud, the Redfield family, Jay Reighley, Imelda Schaefer, Susie Soule, and Susan Soule & Don McCrann. Thank you, all, for your time and efforts in this important weekly gathering.

When the pandemic arrived in Maine, the Vestry wisely decided to close the building and move services online. With typical St. Bart's creativity, the Vestry and Nina came up with a way to continue to offer face-to-face conversation and connection following church, with a weekly Zoom coffee hour, which continues into 2021. Each week, those who wish can click the emailed link to join the Zoom meeting, where we can see and hear each other. Each week, a different host gets the conversation going with an opening question or topic, but no one is required to stay on the topic or even to speak at all. Those who participate agree that our weekly coffee hours are a wonderful way to stay connected and to feel the friendship and love of the St. Bart's community. Zoom coffee hour has given us the opportunity for more interaction between "8 o'clockers" and "10 o'clockers". We have also gotten to know better those parishioners who are only in Yarmouth in the summer but now can attend our service and coffee hour on a regular basis.

Thank you to those who have "hosted" Zoom coffee hour since July: Barbara Barhydt, Liza Chandler, Pal Covie, Harriet Davis, Ann Donaghy, Sally Edwards, Dennis Fitzgibbons, Lisa Fitzgibbons, Paule French, Cynn timeriques, Pam Hobson, Michele Johns, Bill MacLeod, Jamie Michaud, Jay Reighley, Imelda Schaefer, Heather, Sylvester, Lu Tingley, Jennifer Willard, and Arthur Woolverton. If you are willing to host in the future (no baking or coffee making required on Zoom!), please contact Paule French, who has been organizing the Zoom coffee hours, or Jamie Michaud.

For the regulars who attend St. Bart's Zoom coffee hours, it is a highlight of our week. We love seeing each other and hearing each other's stories and thoughts on pandemic life. We hope that the rest of you will join us on Zoom, until the time comes when we can meet in person. We promise that you will leave Zoom coffee hour feeling loved and part of the St. Bart's community.

Submitted by

Jamie Michaud, coffee hour chairperson

Education Report

This year was an exciting time of transition as the pandemic required us to rethink how we provide our children with a meaningful and accessible education program. With no summer camps available, the education committee created "Summer Camp-at-Home Activities in a Bag" for our St. Bart's families that included "I Choose Joy" t-shirts and tie-dye supplies, as well as a booklet with six summertime activities, instructions, and materials.

After taking the usual break from Sunday School over the summer, we were thrilled to hire Pal Covie as our new education coordinator this fall. Pal has been a St. Bart's parishioner for several years and brings great enthusiasm and a deep sense of faith to the position.

Since the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, Pal has provided a weekly online homily for our St. Bart's children of all ages and has hosted a Zoom meet-up for youth on Sunday mornings. Pal's videos and discussion topics continue our lectionary-based curriculum program initiated nine years ago, bringing the classroom into our homes.

Based on the success of the *Summer Activities in a Bag*, we provided our families with "Advent in a Bag" at the end of November. This included advent candles, prayers, craft materials, plus the St. Bart's pageant tradition of bells and confetti to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Pal also successfully transitioned our ever-popular Christmas pageant to a joyful online version with the help of many of our St. Bart's families. We thank all the families who participated in providing video recordings to make this such a fun and lively virtual pageant that we could all enjoy from the comfort of our homes. Special thanks to Annie Davis who was instrumental in coordinating and organizing the pageant with Pal this year.

Looking ahead, we are planning some outdoor, safely-distanced activities for various age groups and eagerly awaiting the time when it will be safe for the children of St. Bart's to gather together on Sunday mornings.

Pal created an Instagram account for St. Bart's Youth Program that you can follow: @stbartsyouth_yarmouth

Further information and previous homilies can be found at: <https://stbyarmouth.wordpress.com/children-and-youth/>

2020 Confirmation Program

This year, St. Bart's once again partnered with First Parish Congregational Church to mentor five of our youth through confirmation classes. Congratulations to: Emma Burrows, Ben Damasco, Levi Herr, Celia Wood, and Ry Wood, and thank you to Pam Hobson, Gary Sylvester, Will d'Ambruso, Collin O'Neil and Carla Hunt for acting as mentors. The actual confirmation in the Episcopal Church will take place when we are able to gather safely.

The Education Committee: Pal Covie, The Rev. Dr. Nina Pooley, Jean Burr, Harriet Davis, Carla Hunt

Music Report

This has been such an unusual year for making music at St. Bart's. We started the year as usual with Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday services. During this time we were aware of the pandemic brewing in the rest of the world. All of us, choir members and parishioners alike, were aware that our lives were about to be turned up side down changing everything that we were used to. Little did we know just how real that was going to be!

Our last rehearsal together was Wednesday evening March 11. We had been asked by Nina to sanitize our rehearsal space...indeed the whole church. Each of the choir members and I grabbed disinfectant wipes and wiped down every hard surface that we had come in contact with. And that was our last rehearsal together. The following Sunday we reduced the number of choir members coming to church to three members to hold the service with Nina. There was no choir rehearsal the following Wednesday. On Sunday March 22, we had our last service with Nina with three other choir members. And that was our last time together.

Since then, the choir and I have been providing music using two different recording apps. The first one I found had limitations that made it hard to make music. In mid April, Ken Pooley and Peter Chandler discovered the app that we have been using all these months which is a much better music-making and recording app to provide music for our worship. It is called Acapella App. It isn't perfect but it does help us do what we want it to do. The app does provide a video as well as audio of the recording, which has helped in the process. The app requires a cell phone or tablet using ear buds. One could use more expensive recording equipment but most of us used what we already have.

The recording process requires a starting person as well as a finishing person in order to send a recording to Ken Pooley. It was my job to record on my piano the hymns and anthems that we had chosen to provide for our worship. After recording the music on my piano, I then would record a vocal track of me singing one of the parts. Then I would send it on to Heather Sylvester who recorded her part to add to the total. Then she would send it on to the next choir member. In turn, each choir member would listen to what had been recorded and then they would record their part adding it to the total ensemble. And on the process would go to each of the choir members who was able to participate in that recording. This "layering" of voices would create the total sound. When everyone had contributed, the end product was sent to Phil Chin. Phil has a great love of audio recording and he worked his magic in making our voices balance dynamically as well as editing where necessary. Then Phil would send to Ken the finished product for Ken and Nina to figure out where they would want our music to be included. The usual amount of time it takes to complete a hymn or anthem, from start to finish, is about three to four weeks. It is very important to note that Sarah Covie was our tech guru who more quickly understood how to make the Acapella App work. Sarah provided instructions for each of us to use to contribute our part of the process. Sarah has been such a patient teacher for all of us. Harriet Davis and Elizabeth Barker have helped with computer organizing of our work.

All during the social distancing, the choir and I have been holding Wednesday evening Zoom meetings both to organize our work and also to maintain contact and emotional support for each other. During our Zoom time together, we have regularly discussed better ways of using the recording app to help us make music better. Everyone has risen to the challenge of overcoming the circumstances that we find ourselves in. And each of us has offered our talents to make this process work. We all care so deeply about our worship together. There is no doubt we cannot wait to get back together again to sing with each other. Now that there are several vaccines being distributed, we can imagine that time coming soon. Not soon enough. But soon...

Peace be with you all!
John Corrie, Choir Director

Membership / Newcomers Committee Report

While 2020 was not exactly the kind of year to grow membership, the committee was able to reach out in several ways during the year. The group continued to 'meet' throughout the year and established a few initiatives: set criteria for contacting Newcomers (including establish the role of Greeter), set protocols for sending thank-yous to donors who are not pledgers (which involves intentional connection with the Treasurers), establish an active Membership List, develop an "Opportunities for Engagement" list which could be handed out once we return in person, and float ideas for parishioner engagement. In the Spring, after in-person church services were halted, members of this committee made "check-in" calls to all parishioners to inquire how they were doing and ask if they wanted any follow-up contact. During the summer, the Membership Committee assumed primary responsibility for putting on our COVID version of the annual Lobster Bake (see separate report under Fundraising). Finally, the committee members along with some Vestry persons made "Happy New Year" calls at the end of the year to all parishioners.

Anne Berg and Susie Soule, Co-chairs

Stewardship Committee Report

The Vestry's charge to this Committee: "to help our congregation grow into a faithful community where stewardship is a way of life rather than a season of fundraising" was adopted at its April 23 meeting. The assigned Vestry liaison and chair of the committee, Michele Johns asked Bill MacLeod, Jamie Michaud and Peter Sillin to join the committee and work together to fulfill the responsibilities laid out with this charge. Thankfully, they all agreed.

Those responsibilities included creating opportunities throughout the year to remind the congregation of what St. Bart's means in their lives, coordination with both the Endowment and Finance Committees to help further their work, as well as conducting the annual pledge campaign.

Shortly before the charge was affirmed by the vestry, the pandemic reached Maine. The committee was assembled, research done, and conclusions as to how we might realistically approach our work this year were reached by the end of June. We decided that the additional pandemic-induced correspondence to the parish concerning outreach and worship opportunities were more than sufficient reminders of what St. Bart's means in our lives, and that we would not add our voice to that effort.

We prepared a letter that was sent to the parish along with 2nd quarter pledge statements, reminding us all of the existence of our Endowment Fund and its being another way of giving to St. Bart's.

Given the unlikelihood of being able to gather in the church soon, we determined that the annual pledge campaign needed to commence earlier than in the past and that individual contact with parishioners was more important than ever. As in the past, the Vestry agreed to help with the personal calls and Bob Clark, Harriet Davis, John Duncan, Paule French, Laurie and Tom Hyndman, Joe Michaud and Mike Perfetti agreed to be part of the calling team. "Stewardship Minutes" were filmed and made part of four fall services with the Colianni boys, Pamela Higgins, Alice Ingraham and Susie Peixotto all sharing with us what about St. Bart's brings them joy.

We were thrilled to have a balanced budget that included provisions for outreach and a building reserve as part of our pledge packet which was sent to members of the parish. Phone calls to answer questions about that budget and to hear other concerns ensued. Many, many thanks to the whole team who diligently made the phone calls, and to all of you who responded to them and gave prayerful consideration concerning your future financial commitment to St. Bartholomew's.

As of 1/8/21, 91% of last year's pledging households have made their intentions known to us for 2021. Additionally, five new households have committed to financial support for the year. Four households from 2020 will not be making a financial commitment due to changed circumstances. More than 10 households had to decrease their pledge, but increased giving from others, and the support of returning or new households is currently providing a net positive change of \$6,167. Several others have expressed their intention of making a pledge but have not yet followed through with a written confirmation. The Committee feels extremely comfortable that the 2021 pledge commitment will exceed that of 2020, a truly extraordinary response and show of love and support for our parish in a time with such uncertainty. The \$204,000 used for budgeting purposes by the Finance Committee is a very solid number.

Thank you all.

Submitted by Michele Johns, Stewardship Committee Chair 1/8/21

Altar Flowers Committee Report

Because of Covid-19, our committee went into hiatus mid-March without knowing what the remainder of the year would bring. As our recorded Sunday Services evolved, first being filmed from Nina's porch, to our Memorial Garden and other outdoor locations in Yarmouth, there was no need to provide altar arrangements.

As the plans for the Christmas Fair in October moved forward, member Mary Calvin enlisted several members to create fall arrangements featuring dried flowers and grasses, miniature pumpkins and squashes and artificial flowers and foliage, which were well received.

When Fall arrived and Nina began to conduct Sunday Service in church, we provided altar arrangements once again. As in years past, Mary Ann Hodsdon provided the Advent wreath. Christmas greens decorated the church and altar for our Christmas Eve service.

We were looking ahead to 2021, scheduling members to provide green plants for Lent, palms for Palm Sunday and hopefully celebrating Easter in church. With Nina's departure and Covid-19 still causing havoc in our daily lives, we will put those plans on hold. As the Vestry considers options on how and where we will come together as a congregation, we sincerely hope that we will be able to contribute to our worship services in the very near future.

Our members are: Barbara Barhydt, Carla Hunt, Mary Calvin, Susannah White, Susan Soule, Jan Reighley, Mary Ann Hodsdon, Alice Ingraham and talented newcomers, Carol Hayes and Anne Jacobs.

Imelda Schaefer - Chair

Altar Guild Report

The Altar Guild had, as might be expected, a quiet year.

We did prepare and clear the altar for those few services prior to the pandemic and for the services streamed from the sanctuary since.

We look forward to a better year ahead.

Jan Burson, Altar Guild

Memorial Garden Report

After Covid-19 forced the closure of the church building in March, the Memorial Garden found a new role in the life of St. Bart's. It served as the backdrop for many of the regular Sunday morning You Tube videos produced by Ken and Nina Pooley. This was a novel use of the garden's outdoor space but one that would have delighted the first mothers and fathers of the garden.

Ashes of one of those founders, Sandra Scully, were interred in the garden in June 2020. Ursula Baier's ashes were also interred, and engraving of dates of death for both long-term members of St. Bart's was completed in the fall.

The current space reservation fee is set at \$600 per person. We continue to re-examine that fee in light of rising costs for engraving set-up and the actual work involved, as well as the services of a gardener during July and August. We urge anyone who is interested in reserving a space to contact us in the near future, as our research may necessitate a fee increase in 2021.

Our faithful Lay Weeders and Pruners met regularly to tend the garden and surrounding areas. Special recognition goes to **Nancy Gunzelman** for cleaning the teak benches and table, and to **Pam Hobson, Harriet Davis** and **Bill Macleod** for gathering many bags of fallen pine needles at Blueberry Cove. Pine needles are an excellent mulch and help to keep the borders of our garden tidy.

The daylily border has been a deer magnet in years past, but a plea for donations of mint plants has helped to deter those pests and allowed the daylilies to bloom well this summer for the first time. More mint is needed this coming spring. Gardeners, take note. Any kind of mint will do.

Respectfully submitted,
Liza Chandler
Margaret Betts

Building and Grounds Report

Even though the building got much less use in 2020, normal maintenance continued.

We had two successful work days in the spring and the fall, mostly tending to the grounds. Thank you to those who helped out.

Our gardens received excellent attention through the growing season as Mary Calvin and crew tended the front garden, and the Lay Weeders tended the Memorial Garden.

With the onset of the virus in early spring, we upgraded the internet service in the building. This improved our video streaming, and when we moved to recorded services, the faster service enabled Ken to upload the large video files efficiently. These benefits will continue in 2021 and beyond.

Looking to building-and-grounds priorities for 2021:

- We are paying attention to a few large trees near the building that could cause damage in a storm.
- The shed needs re-roofing and paint.
- A few shingles on the main building have blown off and will need replacing.
- Some sanctuary chairs need re-gluing.

As always, we welcome volunteers who may be inspired by any of these projects!

- Joe Michaud and Liza Chandler

Endowment Committee Report

We are pleased to report that at year end 2020, our Endowment Fund is beginning to show signs of real growth. There were several factors during the past year contributing to this growth, namely a rising stock market where the Standard & Poor's 500 stock average gained slightly more than 16% despite major job losses due to the corona virus. Additionally, we received a bequest of \$10,000 from the Estate of Eleanor Irish towards the end of the year, and a contribution from Sandra Scully's sons in the amount of \$2,000. We are very grateful to the families of these two, long-standing parishioners for their thoughtful consideration.

At year end, the total value of the fund amounted to \$39,102.89 and is invested in Vanguard Growth & Income Fund, a large cap blended stock fund with an emphasis currently in the technology sector. The fund's total return for 2020 was 13.2 %.

The Endowment committee meets regularly during the year to monitor its investments and hopes that over time, the endowment may grow to be able to provide additional support for the church above and beyond its normal annual budgeting process. The committee welcomes comments, questions, and contributions, from anyone who may have an interest.

Respectfully,
Abigail Diggins
Ed Simmons
William Macleod

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee respectfully requests that the parish consent to the “pause” of the current Vestry members’ terms for the upcoming year, in light of the special considerations required during the continuance of the pandemic and the transition year ahead of us, and submits the slate of the following names for nomination:

A) Vestry Officers

Senior Warden: Dennis Fitzgibbons
Junior Warden: Michele Johns
Treasurer: Ann Donaghy
Asst Treasurer: Anne Berg
Clerk: Susie Peixotto

Vestry Members at Large

John Colianni
Cecilia Guecia
Gregg Hoerr
Susie Soule
Lu Tingley
Arthur Woolverton

B) Delegates to Diocesan Annual Convention, October 2021

Sarah Covie
Harriet Davis
Anne Jacobs
Michele Johns

Even though all the people who are volunteering to perform leadership roles in our parish for 2021 are members in good and sometimes long-standing, it occurred to the Executive Committee at a recent meeting, that we often really know very little about one another outside our work at St. Bartholomew’s. Therefore, we decided to include bios of each of our vestry members in this Annual Report. It was your Junior Warden’s intention to edit these bios to have one voice and approximately equal length, but after reading them, realized that the way that they are written offers further insight into the personalities of the writers.

Meet Your Vestry

Anne Berg has been a member of St. Bart’s since the early 1990’s during which time she has worked on numerous committees and served as Treasurer. Her children went through Rite 13 and J2A programs as adolescents. Anne recently retired from a career in financial management, primarily in the healthcare field. She grew up in Minnesota, graduated from Bryn Mawr College with a degree in Russian, and obtained an MBA in Finance from the Tuck School at Dartmouth. Anne is a widow with five children (3 bonus came with her husband, Gill!) and 7 grandchildren located across the country and the globe.

John Colianni is a husband, father, and physician. He is married to Jean Burr – they have three boys: Peter, Matthew (Matty), and Andrew; and an 80-pound yellow lab puppy named Owen. The family has been part of the St. Bart’s community since moving back to the area in 2013. John works as a Sports Medicine physician and a Practice Medical Director at Martin’s Point Health Care.

Jean and John met while students at Middlebury College. He tries to keep physically active every day – “Exercise is Medicine” – and has completed an Ironman triathlon, the Peaks to Portland swim, and a trail ultramarathon.

Ann Donaghy grew up as an Army “brat” and was also the daughter of an Episcopal priest. Despite living in many different places, she has had a connection to Maine all her life, spending a part of most summers in Kennebunkport. She became a fulltime resident of Maine when she attended Bates College in Lewiston.

Following graduation from Bates in 1974, Ann began a 30-year career in banking, serving in various senior management positions, first with Maine National Bank, and later with Maine Bank & Trust (now Peoples United). She was one of the initial team that helped to start Maine Bank & Trust in 1991. She has also served on the boards of many local institutions, including Spring Harbor Hospital, Maine Behavioral Healthcare, United Way of Greater Portland, and Opportunity Alliance.

She and her partner, Nancy, joined St. Bart's at the end of 2012. They have been enjoying their retirement years traveling and exploring new places (pre-pandemic!!), gardening, and taking long walks and hikes.

Dennis Fitzgibbons retired in 2017 from Alpha One, a nationally recognized Center for Independent Living ("CIL") in Maine. Dennis's career spanned teaching at the high school level, business administration in the private sector, and non-profit CIL management in Maine and Massachusetts.

Over the course of his career in Independent Living, Dennis advocated for improved and accessible services that directly impact the ability of people with disabilities to live independently, including affordable barrier-free housing, access to transportation, employment opportunities, and the development and expansion of community based long term care services, specifically self-directed services.

Since retiring, Dennis has volunteered on the Community Advisory Council for the Maine Health Access Foundation, representing people living with a disability. He has also been active in Yarmouth's YCAN efforts to ensure greater access and inclusion for older and/or disabled community members.

Dennis lives in Yarmouth with his wife Lisa, and son Andrew. They have been members of St. Bart's since 2001.

Cecilia Johnson Guercia grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, the daughter of an Episcopal minister. She attended Wesleyan University where she majored in European Imperialism and International Development. At Wesleyan, she performed in numerous theatrical productions and after graduation moved to New York City to pursue an acting career. She studied at The Acting Studio and performed in plays and films, until she decided to move to New Hampshire to participate in a yearlong AmeriCorps program.

After AmeriCorps, she met her husband Philip, who had lived in Lake Tahoe for twelve years and had just returned to the East Coast. Philip and Cecilia lived in a cabin where they had a home birth attended by a midwife who would snowshoe in to visit them. After having two daughters, Philip and Cecilia moved to Maine so Cecilia could attend law school while Philip worked as a carpenter to support the family.

After law school, Cecilia and Philip moved the family to Mendham, New Jersey for a judicial clerkship, where the family had the opportunity to become members of St. John on the Mountain in Bernardsville, which was one of her father's first parishes, and where she went to church as a little girl.

Philip is an avid rock climber and white-water kayaker, and the whole family loves hiking. Their daughter Blythe is a sophomore at Wesleyan University, where she will be joined next fall by her sister, Aurora.

Gregg Hoerr and his family have been a part of the St. Bart's community since 2003, when their kids were young. He is married to Sophie Herr, and they now have three teenagers, Emmett, Georgia and Levi who all participated in the Sunday School program and babysat in the nursery while growing up in the church. During non-pandemic times, Gregg plays in a band and takes extended summer family road trips with a pop up camper. He enjoys relaxing with his guitar, cheering for Pittsburgh sports teams, and time out and about in nature. He is a high school social studies teacher at Gorham High School and event organizer for the annual Faculty Horseshoe Classic.

Michele Johns, her husband Nick Desiderio, and their three children came to St. Bart's in 1991, shortly after Michele and the children joined Nick in Maine, where six months earlier he had accepted a position at Unum. (She wanted to be sure he fully understood the new world he was bringing them to before leaving her career in NYC!)

Michele was raised in a small town in Nebraska and worked as a social worker for a short time after earning her BSW at the University in Lincoln. She met Nick in NYC soon after moving there, and made a transition into financial services after earning her MBA in Finance at New York University.

At the urging/pleading of her children, she gave up her short-lived stay-at-home-mom status in Maine to make another transition, this time into non-profit management, first at the Maine Community AIDS Project, and later as the Executive Director of the Cancer Community Center, from which she retired 6+ years ago after 13 years.

This is her second stint on the Vestry and has participated in other volunteer roles at the parish over the years here, including Sunday School teacher, nursery caregiver, capital campaign co-chair, stewardship committees, Christmas Fair soldier, and coffee hour host. As she said in her stewardship testimonial in 2019, St. Bartholomew's has become for her the small town of her youth, supplying multiple generations to help guide her children into adulthood. All three are married, one at St. Bartholomew's, and three of her four grandchildren have been baptized here.

Susie Peixotto and her husband Bob first attended St. Bart's on Route 1. When St. Bart's moved to its current location, they were drawn to the warmth and inclusiveness of the people, the relevant spiritual messages of the successive clergy, and the beautiful natural church setting.

She taught at Yarmouth High School before choosing to be a full-time mom to her 3 children – this offered many opportunities to volunteer in the Yarmouth community, including assisting with the St. Bart's Sunday school program. As her growing family became more involved in various activities, particularly skiing in the winter, and later with Maine Huts & Trails, the family was able to attend church less often, but one of the things that kept drawing them back to St. Bart's was how welcomed they always felt regardless of absences.

As a licensed EMT Susie was a longtime volunteer with Yarmouth Fire-Rescue. A Bowdoin graduate, she returned to school after her youngest child graduated from high school and earned her Master's degree in Social Work from the University of New England. Now, as a licensed clinical social worker, she has enjoyed working interprofessionally to support the wellbeing, self-determination, and personal growth of a wide range of people. She currently serves in several volunteer roles, including as a member of the Faculty of the Maine FrontLine WarmLine, on the Tri-County Critical Incident Stress Management ("CISM") Debriefing Team, and as a member of St. Bart's Vestry and on our Pastoral Care Committee.

Susie is passionate about her family and, prior to the pandemic, spent time with her grown children and their spouses and her 4 grandchildren whenever she could. She and Bob love to be outside in all weather, walk their dog "Baxter," XC and downhill ski, kayak, hike, and stay in touch (virtually at present!) with friends. In her quiet moments, Susie likes to read, bake bread, and play Scrabble. She is looking forward to working closely with the Vestry during this time of transition.

Susie Soule grew up in Connecticut. I am the granddaughter of an Episcopal Minister. I graduated from Skidmore College, began a career in the investment business, but dumped it for the animal business after getting a golden retriever. I retired in 2018 from the local vet clinic. I have a 32-year-old son who lives in Denver. I started attending St. Bart's when it was in what is now the Clayton's building. I am truly "home" in this wonderful community!

I am **Lu Tingley**. Van and I joined St. Bart's in 1995. We were going to look for an Episcopal Church, went to one service here and never left! We got right involved, joined the building and grounds committee, and were promptly assigned to paint the outside of the rector's office!! Back then it was "all hands on deck!!" Holy Cow!

I am a silversmith, we love sailing, skiing, kayaking, tennis, and our dog!!! Oh, and traveling. Our kids live in Colorado, so...

I forget and still say "we" or "our;" actually, Van died two years ago. And his wonderful service was at St. Bart's, our entire family came, including Gitch (our beloved dog)! Well, that's it! I think you've guessed how much "we" love this church!

Arthur Woolverton lives in Cumberland, Maine, with his wife Sheri. They have two children: Matt (23) and Meg (15). Over a ten-year career, Arthur has served in a variety of sales and marketing roles with Honeywell Building Technologies. He is currently the National Sales Leader for Honeywell's Sustainability Solutions Business, supporting the private sector achieve their sustainability goals.

Sheri is a third-grade teacher at the Helena Dyer School in South Portland. Matt is responsible for video and photography for Boston University Athletic Department. Meg is a sophomore at Greely High School, where she is a member of the school's sailing team.

Arthur grew up at Virginia Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia where his father, John Woolverton (former member of St. Bart's) taught Church History. Shortly after graduating from Tulane University, Arthur moved to Maine and has been a member of St. Bart's since 2013. In his free time, he enjoys everything about the outdoors: fishing, hiking, and being on the water.

OUTREACH

St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry and Jubilee Center

Under the very capable leadership of Rev. Holly Hoffmann, St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center has had a busy 2020. We reopened in June, observing all CDC protocols for retailers and are thriving!

We currently serve an average of 150 neighbors in need every Tuesday morning. We utilize the outside area under the portico near the St. Luke's Lower Hall for our regular distribution of essential products not covered by SNAP (food stamps), which always includes toilet paper, soap bars, and laundry detergent, as provided by our annual budget. Donated feminine products, incontinence products, masks/face coverings are also given out each week. Once a month, we provide infant diapers, dental products, bedding and housewares, winter hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. We gratefully receive many of these items from our 7 sponsoring Episcopal churches, including St. Bart's, and the wider community.

We distributed 400 adult winter coats and 156 winter boots and warm sox this fall. We've also offered flu shots and job search assistance. The outpouring of support from our sponsoring parishes and the wider community never ceases to inspire us! We were blessed to receive significant donations in 2020 from St. Bart's Lobster Bake and Art Show (a prepayment toward 2021).

And, St. E's appreciates St. Bart's dedicated volunteers - Linda Draper, Anne Jacobs, Pam Hobson, Nancy Gunzelmann, Jan Burson, Anne Berg, and Jay Reighley. Linda and Anne also serve as St. E's Board Members.

~Submitted by Anne Jacobs and Linda Draper

Friendship House

Friendship House is an organization committed to helping men seeking to overcome their addictions, mainly by providing guidance, encouragement, and a family atmosphere. This is accomplished by staffing the house with loving, compassionate, individuals who understand addiction and live with the guests. Herb Blake is the Executive Director. Friendship House is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, committed to providing the best home possible. It is located at 390 Lincoln St. in South Portland.

St. Bartholomew's has for more than 25 years supported this mission by preparing and delivering a meal (entrée, salad, bread and dessert) on the third Thursday of each month for 15 men and the house manager and his wife (17 total.) Many thanks to Imelda Schaefer, Holly and Will Chapman, Susan Soule and Don McCrann, Mary Calvin, the Caruso family, Carla Hunt and Andrew Tonks, the Hazard family, David Platt and Janice Drinan, Linda and John Perkins and Jamie Michaud.

Requests for towels, sheets, toiletries, cleaning supplies, winter clothes and boots were met with generous donations. Financial donations totaling \$3883 were made (\$1098 from the lobster bake and \$2785 from the Christmas in October Fair).

With gratitude and appreciation to all for the support of this important Outreach mission.

Pam Hobson, Coordinator

Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative (YCHI)

History—2016 - 2019

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church joined with First Universalist Church of Yarmouth and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to provide emergency, temporary shelter for homeless, asylum-seeking families unable to be housed at the Chestnut Street Family Shelter in Portland due to a lack of available rooms. Over the years, we have expanded outreach in numerous ways. More detail on previous activities can be found in previous annual reports.

What Happened in 2020

Temporary Housing for Newborns

- YCHI hosted one newborn and their family from February to March 2020. Heather Sylvester took on the role of family coordinator and, with other volunteers, supported the family from arrival in Yarmouth to a room at the shelter. YCHI supported their transition to permanent housing in March 2020.

ELL Classes

- Classes continued through March 2020, with a high of 12 participants. The Maine Humanities Council and their *New Books/New Readers* program facilitated 3 of the 4 planned book reads with the theme of 'Belonging' before the pandemic hit. The program has since restarted with 2-3 people. It functions largely autonomously, particularly since it is on zoom with no childcare or in-person facilities required. Deborah Keefe and Sarah Holman continue to lead this group. Conversation partners and other helpers come through the community.

Permanent Housing

- 95 Main continues to thrive. We recognize that this model of housing for single adults is not a forever home but rather transitional housing that gives residents a place to land as they plan next steps. Arrivals and departures have been smooth, and a room has never been vacant for more than a couple of weeks. Nine people have called 95 Maine home in the last year and 8 months.
- Other families seeking asylum now make Yarmouth home. Some families settled here after the Expo experience and others because of our connections to the Chestnut Street Family Shelter. We have connected with still other families through the ELL classes. Our support for these families has included move-in assistance, groceries for those who are food insecure, and transport assistance.
- Yarmouth is no longer "the place far away" that feels inaccessible to the immigrant population. Most recently, a woman moved into a Yarmouth apartment and came under our umbrella simply because we knew the sponsoring organization and we made ourselves known to them. Though she is fairly independent, it has been mutually beneficial to connect.

Coronavirus (Covid19) Response

As the pandemic moved into Maine, we realized that Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities were being hit hard.

- We have actively provided families and individuals with easy to follow CDC coronavirus documents in English and French (other languages also available) that include general information and preventative measures.
- We continue to communicate the needs of this population to the Yarmouth Community Covid Task Force and have helped broaden the task force's perspective on who actually lives in Yarmouth. The demographics are clearly changing.

- One woman who leads an immigrant association and lives in Yarmouth was invited to join the task force. She has been invaluable in identifying needs.
- The Yarmouth Sewing Warriors and Maine Medical Center have provided thousands of masks to families in both Yarmouth and the greater Portland area.
- Thermometers and pulse oximeters have been provided to families and individuals who have tested positive for Covid. We have also supported these families in isolation or quarantine with food.
- Three of us on the task force recently stood up a community based Covid testing center that utilizes the state lab. This service is specifically for close contacts or those who are symptomatic *and* without access to testing or who are homebound. A team of medical professionals (Jay Reighley is part of that team) travels to the client's home and provides self-swab instructions. We have provided this service to several from the YCHI community both In Yarmouth and in Portland and several others who have been referred from community agencies through state channels. Relationships established during the Expo experience have allowed us to enter communities and offer services as a trusted outside entity. We see this as a real asset for communities that do not have the capacity to stand up their own testing center. We plan to help communities with capacity stand up their own testing centers.
- Most importantly, we are in touch with families and they know that they can call on us with questions or support needs and they do. We are often advocates and connectors to legal, health and social services.

Holiday Giving

- This year, we provided homecooked meals for families at Thanksgiving.
- The Owl and Elm also reached out to us and offered meals to families as the restaurant began their weekend breakfast menu.
- The tradition of offering gifts during the holidays to the YCHI families continues. This year, we kept it simple with gift cards for groceries, books and/or toys.

Funding

Funding in 2020 came from two recurring funding sources: The St. Bart's Annual Lobster Bake and The First Universalist Church of Yarmouth. For the first time, YCHI benefited from the proceeds of the Yarmouth Art Show. We also received donations from two private donors and the Maine Council of Churches. We have used these funds to provide support for food insecure families, bus tickets, ELL supplies, moving and settling-in expenses, translation services and Covid supplies. The demand for funding continues as we branch out into new areas of need.

We have continued to serve immigrant families in significant ways over the last 4½ years. Relationships continue to grow and deepen.

Thank you to the many, many volunteers who have supported YCHI over the years both with your time and donations. We are grateful for the generosity of the St. Bart's community!

Carla Hunt

Coordinator, YCHI

ychiyarmouth@gmail.com

Yarmouth Food Pantry

The Yarmouth Community Food Pantry had to quickly adopt new procedures and processes in March of 2020 when the pandemic hit. The way food was traditionally distributed would no longer work. Patrons could not come into the pantry, volunteers who were over 60 or immuno-compromised could no longer volunteer and everything changed in the span of one week. Simultaneously the First Parish Church also closed their doors to the public and they opened their multi-purpose room as a staging area for the pantry to work and distribute in a new way.

Bags are pre-packed ahead of time. Patrons wait outside in a line, socially distant and wearing a mask and come to the Pantry door and pick up a bag. They are offered additional items such as meat, bread and bakery products, produce, deli, milk and eggs. Hannaford's \$25 gift cards are being given out once a month to each family as well. The Pantry continues to regularly serve about 80 families in a modified Grab and Go process.

Thanksgiving baskets were distributed to approximately 60 families. St. Bart's parishioners contributed numerous items to fill the baskets. Due to supply chain shortages the Pantry relied more heavily on community donations and purchased fresh squash from Laughingstock Farm in Freeport. It was a similar process with Project Holiday baskets. The Pantry continues to be open Tuesday and Friday, 10-12pm and the Pantry is also doing about 13 deliveries a week.

We have tireless volunteers who schedule volunteers, pack bags on weekends, distribute food during open hours, do home deliveries, go to Wayside weekly for milk pick-ups, place orders with Good Shepard, do dump runs, and anything else that needs doing. If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation don't hesitate to reach out to Anne Ball, anneball@maine.rr.com. Thank you for your support in 2020.

Anne Ball, Yarmouth Community Food Pantry Steering Committee

American Red Cross Blood Drive

St. Bart's continued its active support of the American Red Cross blood collection services in 2020, sponsoring and hosting a successful drive in our sanctuary on February 28th, and sponsoring another drive at the American Legion Hall in downtown Yarmouth on November 13th. St. Bart's maintained its reputation for recruiting donors, and providing exceptional snacks for them. By sponsoring these drives, St. Bart's provides an indispensable service to the community and to patients everywhere.

We look forward to resuming drives in our own space as soon as we can do so safely. Volunteers are always needed to donate and to assist donors during the drives. Please contact Peter Chandler (lordgeorgev34@gmail.com; 207-232-7051) for more information.

FUNDRAISING

St. Bart's holds three large events each year; the Lobster Bake, the Art Show, and the Christmas Fair; to raise funds for operating the church and for our Outreach programs. All of these events require many hands and in-person gatherings in order to be successful. The pandemic meant having gatherings and meetings in person was out of the question. In true St. Bart's fashion, the committees who normally organize these events got creative and re-imagined each event to be done virtually or outside, minimizing the risk of spreading the coronavirus. In each case, the funds raised outpaced what we thought imaginable in these restricted circumstances. A big thanks to the committee chairs and all who participated to make each of these events a huge success to keep St. Bart's operating and to enable continued financial support for all of our Outreach programs.

Christmas Fair

The whole world has been upside-down during 2020, but the St. Bartholomew's community was able to provide its members and the wider community with some sense of normalcy in our determination to open our hearts and doors to each other and the spirit of the season, even if that season occurred a bit earlier than usual!

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church's Christmas Fair in October was held on Saturday, October 10, 2020 at the Bickford Pavilion in the middle of Yarmouth. The beautiful, open-air space was made possible through the enormously helpful and timely generosity of Tamson and Lynn Bickford who donated their space to St. Bartholomew's so the fair could go on.

Even though it seemed odd to be thinking of Christmas at the beginning of August, the heads of the traditional Christmas tables, along with innumerable volunteers, held their first meeting beneath the green glow of summer foliage in the peaceful, sunny garden behind the church. Everyone wore masks and brought their own folding chairs, which were spaced far apart, but for everyone this administrative meeting held special charm as it was the first time many of us had been in each other's presence for months. The bond of community was never more pronounced as we began to toss around ideas (and deep laughs and smiles) that would make the Christmas Fair possible, and safe for all.

We met throughout August and September, with each table chairperson devoting countless behind the scenes hours to organizing, ordering, crafting, planning, cooking, packaging for safety, moving, emailing, phoning, reaching out, and offering support to one another as we managed to preserve this special fundraiser. Harriet Davis, Michele Johns, Joe Michaud, and Tamson Bickford provided spot on PR work, distributing flyers and editing and distributing press releases. Cooks cooked, bakers baked, and shopping lists were completed. Barbara Barhydt and Michele Johns planned gourmet foods and figured out how to offer delicacies for pick up on the December weekend of our traditional fair. Anne Jacobs was ever faithful in her production of beautiful jewelry. Carol Hayes and her team who stood out in the parking lot on a cold December day to decorate wreaths. Liza Chandler and many others dusted, collected, cleaned and moved boxes of attic treasures for resale – we even had a mother and daughter duo who donated, then purchased, the same item! Mary Calvin provided a mini-model of the fair, complete with traffic patterns, as well as coordinating the production of unbelievably beautiful autumn greens, a quick pivot from the usual holiday table decorations.

The Fair itself was an enormous success, with or without COVID! Everyone was respectful, wore masks, and kept their distance. The food trucks from Maine-ly Meatballs and Actual Foods were a smash hit, with food sales increasing throughout the day as hungry fair workers smelled the tantalizing scents of meatballs and bowls with sauteed greens.

Ultimately, the Fair netted over \$12,000, which compares very favorably to the figures for past Christmas Fairs. We counted just over two hundred tickets that were submitted the day of the Fair, but that does not necessarily account for everyone who walked through the festive, beautiful, and welcoming Pavilion. Though all of us missed one another the first weekend of December (which was still a bright spot as Christmas Fair volunteers stood in the freezing rain to dole out gourmet foods and wreaths along with bright smiles and generous greetings), the St. Bartholomew's community managed to create a brief respite – and celebration of hope – during a truly difficult time for all.

Cecilia Guecia, Chair of the Christmas Fair

(P.S. We could not have accomplished any of this without Cecilia's incredible management, organization and gung-ho attitude! - Harriet Davis)

Art Show



Photo: Zoom conversation with the jurors, watched live by about 30 people, and viewed over 100 times afterward. Clockwise from top left, Bob Keyes, juror; Joe Michaud, co-chair; Wes LaFountain, juror; Laurie Hyndman, co-chair; Anne Haas, juror.

The 2020 art show was one of many examples of St. Bart's confronting the pandemic reality with a can-do spirit. The event has always had three main purposes: celebrate Maine artists; bring people into the St. Bart's space; and raise funds. What happens if we can't use the space? What kind of celebration can we have without the usual Thursday-evening reception packed with artists and art lovers? Would artists enter artwork, and art buyers spend money, if there's no physical show?

After considering canceling the 2020 show, we decided to take a chance on having a fully online event. The Vestry supported going forward, despite the fact that we would incur some costs to reprogram the website, and we had no guarantee that our income would offset the expense.

Once the entries opened in August, we saw that artists would stick with the show. We had nearly as many entries in 2020 as in 2019. And when the show itself "opened" in October, we sold 64 pieces — many more than the 48 sold in our most successful prior year. The 30 percent commissions on those sales, plus entry fees — a total of about \$8,000 — went to Friendship House in South Portland, Yarmouth Compassionate

Housing Initiative, and St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center in Portland, as decided by the Vestry this year.

The show catalog remains online to enjoy, although without sales at www.yarmouthartfestival.com. For 2021, even assuming we're able to do an in-person show in October, it's likely we'll include online purchasing.

Thanks to Ann Donaghy and Nancy Gunzelman for shepherding the buyers and artists (assisted by Judy Shank and Paule French) through a no-contact dropoff/pickup system for purchased artworks, Laurie and Tom Hyndman for organizing the jurying, Anne Jacobs for hanging posters, Sarah MacGillivray as part of the planning team, and Laurie for moderating a fascinating Zoom discussion with the jurors, a recording of which is on the show website.

- Joe Michaud

Lobster Bake

As we couldn't gather in person, orders were taken ahead of time for drive-up pick up on the designated date, labeled "Lobsters To Go". The usual menu was modified slightly with Membership Committee members making potato salad and blueberry buckle ahead of time and Captain Jeff Diggins not only generously providing the lobsters but also cooking them on site so people picked them up hot!

Donations from Hannaford and others meant that 100% of the almost \$3,300 raised went to St. Bart's Outreach partners: Friendship House, St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry, and YCHI. This model of sharing our lobster meal was so successful - 112 meals this year, significantly more than in past years - that the team suggested we continue it even when we are once again able to meet in person!

Anne Berg and Susie Soule, Co-chairs



Plant Sales / Crazy Hats

The Crazy Hat Plant Sale was held in late May. It was a great way to get people together safely and have a little fun. We sold 25 baskets. We made \$283.50. It was not a big fundraiser but it's main purpose was to get people together safely. Thanks to everyone who helped put it together and to those who showed up with Crazy Hats.

The Amaryllis Plant Sale in December was a huge success this year. We sold 57 plants. We made about \$1,100. Barbara Barhydt and I planted the bulbs and kept them in a warm and sunny place for a few weeks. Pictures of beautiful blooms are showing up in my email. I'm glad that the amaryllis are bringing cheer on these days of Covid.

Mary Calvin

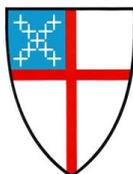
Hannaford Gift Card Program

2020 was a banner year for our Hannaford Gift Cards program as we cooked at home more during the pandemic. We nearly doubled our income compared with 2019. We give a hearty thanks to the 40 members of the parish who are participating currently!

Using the card adds a couple of simple steps to your grocery shopping process, but earning money for our Education Program every time you shop at Hannaford or Bow Street Market makes it worth it. Hannaford donates to St. Bart's 5% of what you spend! It's a veritable win-win. Our \$8,000 income from Hannaford means that collectively we spent \$160,000 at these stores in 2020 – that's a lot of bananas!

Will you consider joining this fundraising process? For more information or to sign up, please contact John Duncan at 232-6743 or johnwduncan29@gmail.com.





Saint Bartholomew's 2020 Parish Registry

Baptisms

Lewis Edmond Fischer

Weddings

Kylie and Ian-Meredythe Lindsey

Funerals and Memorial Services

Ursula Baier
Eleanore Irish
Sandra Scully
Rebecca Wright

Interment of Ashes

Ursula Baier
Sandra Scully