

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Yarmouth, Maine

2021 Annual Report

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St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Minutes of the Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 31, 2021
Conducted via Zoom with 59 people were in attendance

9:00 am **Opening Prayer** offered by Lin Peyton

Meeting called to order and all welcomed by the Senior Warden, Dennis Fitzgibbons. He then gave an overview of the agenda and reviewed the process for voting on issues during the meeting. Any questions pertaining to items on the Annual Meeting agenda should be sent to Harriet Davis via the zoom "chat" option for review during the meeting. Any questions about other subjects should be held and raised at the general Coffee Hour discussion which will immediately follow this meeting.

Affirmation of those attending and intending to vote was read by the Junior Warden, Michele Johns:

We hereby signify that we are baptized, at least 15 years old, have been worshippers and contributors to the 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.

Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting: Harriet Davis requested a motion to accept these minutes as printed in the 2020 Annual Report. Moved by Jamie Michaud, Seconded by Ann Donaghy, and **approved by all.**

Treasurer's Report, Ann Donaghy: Ann started with a brief overview of the 2020 financial results which ended up favorable to budget despite the challenges that the year created. This was achieved through the generosity of the congregation and occurred even without yet recognizing the benefit of the Payroll Protection-related loan from the Diocese. She also pointed out that we were able to support our community partners this year by designating the proceeds of both the Lobster Bake and the Art Show to Outreach.

Ann then reviewed the 2021 Budget as proposed in the Annual Report. The obvious difference from recent years is the significant reduction in personnel expense as we will be without a fulltime clergyperson for most if not all of the year. Expenses have been built in for the approved Buildings & Grounds Reserve, technology support for both our streaming process and updating our accounting systems, estimated clergy transition costs (as detailed by the Diocese), and a modest amount for Outreach. It is likely that this may be increased by again designating certain fundraising activities to further support Outreach, as happened in 2020.

Motion to accept the 2021 Budget as presented made by Mary Calvin. Seconded by Pam Hobson and **approved by all.**

Dennis as Senior Warden presented the proposed slate of nominees for the Vestry and Delegates to the Diocesan Annual Convention. Nominations were solicited from the floor with none forthcoming.

Motion to close the nominations was made by Ann Donaghy, seconded by Lin Peyton, **approved by all.**

Motion to accept the slate of nominees for Vestry and Delegates to Annual Convention was made by Ann Donaghy, seconded by Lin Peyton, and **approved by all.**

An inquiry was made about whether we need to approve the other reports included in the annual report. We do not.

Closing prayer offered by Heather Sylvester.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pal Covie, second John Perkins, and **approved by all.**

9:26 am **Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Anne V Berg, Clerk

Warden's Report

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful, challenging, heart-warming, nail-biting, amazing year we have had here at St. Bartholomew's! At our last annual meeting, we'd weathered nearly a year of a pandemic, with no available vaccinations, no in-person services, and at the end of that year, the loss of Nina Pooley, our Rector of 13 years. The parish had rallied during 2020 and there was fear of burnout as we faced a year of even more uncertainty.

Instead of burning out, we ignited! The members of the Vestry agreed to pause their terms, and the parish elected them to all serve another year for added continuity and stability. We decided that we would forego an interim rector and a creative Transitional Worship Committee, talented A/V Team, and magnificent virtual choir provided us with inspirational worship, mostly online throughout the year. Existing committees sprang into action and new committees were formed. Pal Covie, our Children's Education Leader, and John Corrie, our Choir Director and Organist, left for reasons unrelated to the pandemic, but our incomparable office administrator, Meredith Mazur, held down the fort, primarily remotely, supporting our worship preparation and everything else!

We organized our search for a new rector a little differently than most and first spent several months answering three questions: who are we? what is God calling us to be? and what sort of spiritual leader would be best suited for us? In addition to answering those questions, we decided to really shake things up by engaging a half-time priest to lead us. A report from the Discernment Committee is included in this Report, as is the Search Committee's Report. Both ad hoc committees were ably led by John Duncan who deserves kudos for keeping us on-track and leading us to a wonderful conclusion within less than a year!

We decided that the office spaces and the Sacristy needed some major sprucing up, and the period of discernment and search seemed the perfect time to undertake this project. The powder room in the rector's office was expanded to make it fully accessible, new flooring was installed throughout the office spaces, along with new paint and updated furnishings. Your Junior Warden enjoyed working with Mary Calvin and Sarah Fischer, who provided their design expertise, and Lisa Fitzgibbons and Nancy Gunzelmann, their painting and all things tool-related skills, and, of course, Joe Michaud, who was often on hand. We finished the job before our new Rector was ready to move in! If you haven't yet checked it out, please do so.

We also converted our public bathrooms to "Family Bathrooms" to make our building accessible and comfortable to all. A new paint job will complete that project. The Building and Grounds Committee Report will detail the other projects that were undertaken this year!

While the discernment process was underway, the Children's Education Committee and a team of choir members and a Vestry member, led by Peter Chandler, began searches to replace the two very special staff members who left in June. All three of our searches have been successful, and we are very pleased to have a full complement of staff: Dr. John Schuder, our Choir Director/Organist; Michelle Betz, our Youth Education Leader; and Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson, our Priest-in-Charge; are in place to begin 2022 with Meredith Mazur, our Administrative Assistant.

The committee reports that are part of this document will make it clear that our parish was engaged in keeping St. Bartholomew's a viable and active community throughout the past year, and this organization of parishioners is poised to provide the leadership we will need to successfully be a full-time parish with a part-time Rector in the year ahead, a year that, sadly, still offers pandemic-related challenges that makes our commitment to each other and our church more precious.

Thank you all for offering your loving support of time, talent and treasure during 2021! We look forward to an exciting year ahead, building on past success with new and talented staff joining existing staff and a full complement of volunteers. This is our family, and we will tend to it.

Your Wardens,

Dennis Fitzgibbons and Michele Johns

Treasurer's Report - Please see related statements on pages 6 and 7.

2021 Financial Results:

To summarize our financial year, 2021 was a year of supporting the community, enhancing our building and grounds, and improving our financial reserves for the future. We ended the year with surplus funds from operations of \$110,187, which was transferred to our reserve accounts. Operating income was higher than budget primarily due to the Diocesan PPP loan that was forgiven, thus turning our loan into grant income. We had originally budgeted to use our Christmas Fair fundraising income to support operations, but with our favorable financial results, the vestry voted to dedicate those funds to support outreach projects this year. Our operating expenses were lower than budget due to lower payroll costs and significantly lower clergy transition costs.

Missing from our Operating Results is the activity in our other funds, summarized in the bottom half of the Cash Accounts & Fund Balances Report. We spent \$46,648 from our Building, Grounds & Equipment Fund (BG&E) on various projects, including tree removal, roof repair and a major renovation to the rector's office, outer office, and public restrooms. The vestry voted in July to move an additional \$50,000 into the BG&E Fund from the Unrestricted Reserve Fund. Money was spent from our Memorial Garden Fund to improve the garden after the big pines were removed. This fund also benefited during the year from a number of generous contributions from parishioners. And we spent \$31,177 from our Outreach Fund to support various charitable organizations. The majority of the money going in to this fund was from our 3 major fundraisers this year – the Lobster Bake, Art Show and Christmas Fair (including the Yard Sale).

Finally, I'm happy to report that the cash position of St. Bart's has been strengthened during the year. We ended the year with \$73,119 in our main operating checking account at Bath Savings, and with \$227,309 in our reserve funds held at Vanguard.

2022 Budget:

The vestry is happy to present the proposed 2022 budget for your consideration and approval at our Annual Meeting. We thank all of you who have generously pledged your support, which allows us to support our various missions.

Assumptions used for the preparation of this proposed budget include:

- Event income assumes income from our Christmas Fair only, while other fundraisers will be dedicated to support outreach projects
- Full year support for our new, part-time priest-in-charge
- Consultant cost budgeted at \$3,000 for continued accounting guidance for the treasurers and technical help for Meredith
- Cleaning costs (included under Building & Grounds) assume the building is cleaned twice a month, rather than the current schedule of once a month
- Higher electrical & fuel costs due to inflation (included under Building & Grounds)
- Allocation to Building, Grounds & Equipment Fund of \$21,454, which represents 1% of the original costs of our buildings and equipment. (The Episcopal Church Foundation's Financial Resource Guide recommends that a congregation try to build a capital reserve by annually setting aside from 1% to 2 ½% of the replacement cost of its buildings and equipment.)
- Increased program costs for Music and Education
- \$10,000 Outreach cost from the operating budget. (Expected additional funds of about \$10,600 from dedicated fundraisers.)

Finance Committee:

The Treasurers and vestry continue to benefit from the wisdom and guidance from members of our Finance Committee. The committee meets monthly to review our financial reports, and to discuss best practices for managing the financial affairs of St. Bart's, both for the current year and for its future. Sincere thanks to the members joining the treasurers: Peter Chandler, Tom Hyndman, Anne Jacobs, Bill Macleod and Joe Michaud.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Donaghy, Treasurer
Anne Berg, Assistant Treasurer

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

	Balance <u>12/31/2020</u>		Balance <u>12/31/2021</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>Cash Accounts:</u>				
Operating Account (BSI)	58,756		73,119	
Campaign Account (BSI)	6,899		0	acct closed; balance to B,G&E Fund
Rector's Discretionary (BSI)	549		827	
Hannaford Card (BSI)	6,406		3,000	
Savings Account (BSI)	498		0	acct closed; balance to Operating Account
Vanguard Funds	138,528		227,309	
Fidelity Endowment	39,103		54,426	
		<u>Additions</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>	
<u>Fund Balances:</u>				
Front Garden	1,177		1,177	
Memorial Garden	6,864	9,750	5,106	11,509
Building, Grounds & Equipment (B,G &E)	31,899	60,000	46,648	45,251
Unrestricted Reserve Fund	145,181	108,569	50,000	203,750
Outreach Fund	-	31,177	31,177	-
Rector's Discretionary Fund	827			827
Endowment Fund	39,103	15,324	54,426	\$5,000 bequest plus earnings

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

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
2021 Operating Financial Results
and
2022 Budget Presentation
Summary

	<u>2021</u>		Proposed 2022 <u>Budget</u>
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	
<u>Operating Income:</u>			
Pledge Payments	\$ 204,000	\$ 205,241	\$ 215,748
Plate & Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 11,000	\$ 15,375	\$ 12,000
Restricted Gifts	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,403	\$ 1,500
Hannaford card income	\$ 8,000	\$ 6,052	\$ 6,000
Event Income (Net of expenses)	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,268	\$ 15,000
Rents, Interest & Other Income	\$ 13,510	\$ 15,451	\$ 15,475
Special Gifts- Undesignated	\$ -	\$ -	
Diocesan Support	\$ -	\$ 28,500	
	\$ -		\$ -
Total Operating Income	<u>\$ 257,510</u>	<u>\$ 274,290</u>	<u>\$ 265,723</u>
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>			
Compensation & Benefits	\$ 72,197	\$ 59,745	\$ 125,645
Contract services-technology help	\$ 6,000	\$ 4,719	\$ 3,000
Rector Support	\$ -	\$ 630	\$ 1,250
Building & Grounds	\$ 21,362	\$ 21,669	\$ 29,615
Allocation to building/equipment reserves	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 21,454
Office & Admin	\$ 12,050	\$ 12,319	\$ 13,500
Church Programs	\$ 5,200	\$ 7,152	\$ 14,500
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 41,816	\$ 41,816	\$ 37,951
Outreach	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
Misc Expense	\$ 500	\$ (360)	\$ -
Clergy transition reserves	\$ 15,000	\$ 1,413	\$ -
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 189,125</u>	<u>\$ 164,103</u>	<u>\$ 256,915</u>
Net change to operating reserves	\$ 68,385	\$ 110,187	\$ 8,808
Transferred (to)/from operating reserves	\$ (68,385)	\$ (110,187)	\$ (8,808)
Net balance	-	-	-

(NOTE: 100% of the net proceeds from the Lobster Bake, the Art Show and Christmas Fair in 2021 were designated for and gifted to outreach programs and thus are not included in above numbers)

Committee Reports:

2021 Discernment Process

In January, the Vestry created a Discernment Committee whose purpose was to ask as many parishioners as possible what was important to them in all aspects of parish life, to ask about their perspectives on the concept of hiring a part-time priest, and to return with answers to three over-arching questions: Who Are We? What is God Asking us to Do/Be? and What Spiritual Leader will best lead us down this path? Throughout the process the Committee met with parishioners via Zoom at several coffee hours and shared updates in every Mustard Seed and e-bulletin. The Committee members were Michele Johns and John Duncan (co-chairs), Kathy Abernathy, Pam Hobson, Tom Hyndman, Mike Perfetti and Susie Soule.

During the process seventy-five (75) parishioners shared their thoughts with Peter Small, our volunteer interviewer, who shared his extensive notes with the Discernment Committee. What an amazing response! Thank you, members, and Peter! The Committee members carefully discussed what our members had told Peter, and then wrote a report for review by the Vestry and all parishioners in June. The report also included a summary of our research on the experiences of part-time clergy churches. Here is the essence of the report.

Who Are We?

St. Bartholomew's is a strong community of people who care for each other, both in sickness and health, welcoming others with genuine warmth and inclusivity, while seeking spiritual direction and restoration through inspired and inspiring worship, which includes good preaching and beautiful music.

What is God Asking Us to Do/Be?

Through the worship that refreshes and inspires us, and parish programs that expand our knowledge and understanding of our faith, God is calling us to provide a place of comfort, friendship, support, and direction, in order to give our means and talents to the greater purpose of God's word.

What Spiritual Leader will best lead us down this path?

Whether part-time or full time, our priest needs to be a thoughtful, inspired and inspiring preacher who can, with enthusiasm and joy, embrace all parishioners and help equip us to carry our love of God into the larger community, while we continue to care for and support our St. Bartholomew's family.

The concept of hiring a part-time priest

The parishioners interviewed expressed a mix of feelings – many expressed confidence and openness that a part-time clergy could work at St. Bart's and nearly as many expressed some uncertainty about what that change might mean for us. Based on our research internally and externally, the Discernment Committee suggests that having less than full-time clergy at St. Bart's is a reasonable, possible and achievable option for us to pursue.

During the spring the Vestry had led several parishioner outreach meetings regarding the concept of having a part-time rector at St. Bart's, so the Discernment Committee's research on the subject and support for the concept were an important step forward. In June, after a careful review of the Discernment Committee's report the Vestry accepted the Committee's findings.

John Duncan, co-chair

2021 Clergy Search Process

In June and July, the Vestry set the groundwork for the clergy search process. The members drafted a detailed "grid" of roles and responsibilities of laity and priest as we moved forward to being a full-time church with a part-time rector, and then discussed it with parish and tweaked it before giving it to a Search Committee.

In August the Vestry charged a Search Committee to seek a less than full-time rector or priest in charge to be our next spiritual leader. The Committee members developed a job application based on the prior work of the Discernment Committee and the Vestry, including the grid of roles and responsibilities of laity and priest, and used Diocesan staff and guidelines as resources. In September they posted the job application on several nationwide websites, and during the next two months they reviewed applications and communicated regularly with the parish and the Vestry. In November they presented their recommendation to the Vestry – and the Vestry voted with confidence to call Amanda Gerken-Nelson to become our new spiritual leader.

We joyfully thank the committee members who prayerfully led us through the search process. They were Kathy Abernathy, Anne Berg, Jan Burson, John Duncan (Chair), Sarah Fischer, Lucia Hunt, Michele Johns, Susie Soule, and Gary Sylvester. Kathy told her fellow members at the start of the process that we will know when we meet the one meant for St. Bart's – and the members felt it deeply when they met Amanda!

John Duncan, chair

Tech Team

Nina Pooley's departure highlighted the important volunteer role Ken Pooley had played during their family's tenure at St. Bart's. Ken was the hands-on expert for St. Bart's website, Facebook page, sound system, service recordings and streaming, and email system, among others.

To take on all those technology responsibilities, several people became involved: Harriet Davis redesigned and took over the website; Jamie Michaud took on Facebook; and a new Tech Team of Pal Covie, Laurie Hyndman, Peter Sillin and Joe Michaud stepped into recording and producing the digital Sunday services.

With the Worship Committee writing and presenting the service each week, we recorded about 20 services from January to August, skipping weeks with a diocesan service. We gathered at the church on Thursday afternoons to record various pieces, which would be edited with additional pieces (music, scenic video, photos) in time to be viewed at 9am Sunday. Pal and Laurie took turns on the very time-consuming editing process.

Starting Aug. 29, the Vestry decided to try in-person worship, and the Tech Team switched to managing the streaming, sound system and recorded music for each live service.

With new concerns about Covid, St. Bart's switched Jan. 9 to a fully virtual Zoom format for services, which the Tech Team is facilitating.

Joe Michaud

Transitional Worship

The Transitional Worship Committee (TWC) was established in January 2021, charged with overseeing the production of liturgically appropriate and spiritually meaningful worship services. From February 2021 through to the end of summer 2021, under the strong and capable leadership of Sarah Covie, the TWC created and delivered a variety of digital services. The TWC used existing service templates, resources provided by Nina Pooley, the Book of Common Prayer, other Anglican sources, and a variety of literary sources to organize and select respective service components. The electronic wizardry of the Tech Team, the music of John Corrie and the St. Bart's Virtual Choir, and photography submitted by community members all contributed to making services attractive and complete. At heart, the digital services were successful because of the many volunteers who recorded a part of the service, either in the sanctuary or at home, and because of those who generously shared a reflection.

With the change to in-person services in September 2021, less time was needed to recruit volunteers and supply clergy became more available. At the retirement of Sarah Covie, Chrystena Hahn joined the committee. Since the loss of John Corrie to retirement, our music has been made possible through the guidance of Harriet Davis and the technical assistance of Phil Chin.

Over the year the TWC has supported the Pastoral Care Committee in establishing a monthly Service of the Word with Healing, first digitally, then in-person. Faced with an overwhelming number of lives lost to gun violence, but wishing to continue the St. Bartholomew's practice of lighting candles in remembrance of those who perished, the TWC instituted the lighting of an orange candle for this same purpose on the first Sunday of each month. The orange candle reflects the number lost to gun violence in the United States the previous month. In the absence of a rector, the TWC found itself in the position of a coordinator, connecting directly with the Flower Committee, Altar Guild, Bread Bakers, Pastoral Care Committee, and others.

The Transitional Worship Committee recognizes and appreciates the important role of our supply clergy, all of whom enhanced our worship so well with the thoughtful, caring insights shared with us throughout the services and in their sermons.

All of the members of the TWC are grateful to have had the opportunity to serve the St. Bart's community in supporting the continuation of our worship in the absence of a rector and with the duration and challenge of the pandemic. We believe that the combined work of so many people in producing our own services has enhanced our sense of warmth, welcome and community.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Burson, Chair, Lu Tingley, Jay Reighley, Chrys Hahn

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Committee has seven dedicated members who meet monthly on zoom. The mission statement for the Pastoral Care Committee is as follows:

The mission of the Pastoral Care Committee is to facilitate a deepening awareness of others and to develop a system which promotes communication and caring among the family of St. Bartholomew's Church.

The Committee has consistently sought to reach out to St. Bart's members regularly and safely this year. The Committee also provides support for those facing challenges. Due to the pandemic, much of the regular communication was through e-mails, zoom coffee hours, phone calls, and walks. The Pastoral Care e-mail that was set up in 2020 was another useful means for parishioners to contact the committee. Those communication methods continue to be used in addition to the pleasure of once again being in church together. As always, the Committee encourages parishioners to contact the committee or a member when they are facing challenges and seek support. Inquiries are confidential and names are added to the published prayer list upon request.

The committee has offered monthly healing prayers during communion for many years. Currently, there are three members of the committee who are available to offer healing prayers. In 2021, the Committee agreed to offer a monthly healing service in which the Committee members offered a morning prayer service focused on healing. Starting in October, a prayer for those lost to gun violence and the lighting of an orange candle was added to the service. Several of the reflections on Healing Sundays during the first half of the year were offered by Heather Sylvester, a former member of the Pastoral Care Committee. In addition to the healing services, members are available to offer individual healing prayers through a zoom call.

The St. Bart's Knitters, led by Liza Chandler, provided the Prayer Shawl Ministry with many shawls, lap robes, and baby blankets this year. The inventory of 29 handmade pieces were blessed by either the St. Bart's knitters or the Pastoral Care Committee before distribution. The Pastoral Care Committee distributed 22 items, of which 3 were baby blankets, over the course of the year. The Pastoral Care Committee thanks the St. Bart's Knitters and those who gave anonymous contributions for the beautiful shawls and blankets, which provide comfort to the recipients. In addition, home cooked meals were delivered on occasion and frozen soups from the Christmas Fair were distributed in December.

As noted above, Heather Sylvester stepped off the committee in 2021 to pursue her internship to become a Deacon. We are grateful for the care and compassion that Heather generously shared with members over her tenure on the Pastoral Care Committee. Her gift for extemporaneous prayer is missed by all of us. We also thank the members of the Committee for their dedication, compassion, and service to St. Bart's. The Committee has readily stepped up to each request and challenge presented in 2021.

Respectfully submitted by,
Barbara Barhydt, Co-Chair
Imelda Schaefer, Co-Chair

Members: Paule French, Pam Hobson, Susie Peixotto, John Perkins, Susannah White

Coffee Hour

Our much-loved traditional coffee hour following Sunday services has been the victim of the pandemic for yet another year.

During the first six months of 2021, we continued to hold virtual coffee hours via Zoom, with hosts recruited by Paule French, who did a wonderful job of helping us to stay connected via our computer screens.

When we resumed in-person services at the end of June, we scheduled five coffee hours outdoors on the deck, with lemonade and iced tea served. We did not serve snacks to avoid the problem of many hands possibly touching the food. Unfortunately, two of those coffee hours were rained out, and it became clear that removing masks to sip lemonade while conversing with friends at a close distance was not the best idea, even outdoors.

In September, the Vestry decided to suspend in-person coffee hours for the time being. Those attending church this Fall did enjoy informal, masked, after-church conversations and did not seem to mind the lack of coffee and snacks.

As we enter 2022, there are many unknowns about the status of coffee hour. We will always try to do what is best for the health of our community.

Jamie Michaud, chair

Adult Education

The Adult Education Committee was initiated in September 2021 with a charge from the Vestry. The Committee reviewed previous information collected by the Reimaging Outreach Committee on the interests of the congregation and discussed resources available among those present to create a series of programs to occur on Sunday afternoons at St. Bart's. A calendar was developed for presentations during Advent (led by Elizabeth Ring, November 28-December 19), Epiphany (to be led by Stephen Hahn), and Lent (to be led by Robert Neal). The program calendar was submitted for review to the Vestry in October and the first session was held on the first Sunday of Advent (November 28). During the four-week program on contemporary views of the biblical Mary, mother of Jesus, attendance averaged eight people a week and approximately ten people participated regularly overall. An outcome of these sessions was a note including comments from the participants on their experiences, edited by the presenter Elizabeth Ring and submitted for publication in the next "The Mustard Seed."

The committee met monthly to review progress and to discuss future plans, including expansion of the committee, possible collaborations with other committees, and further research into preferences in the congregation regarding topics and modes of presentation. Following the December 2021 meeting, Steve Hahn communicated with the head of the Reimaging Outreach Committee and the Youth Education Leader, on behalf of the Adult Ed Committee, regarding future collaborations. Further discussions are planned.

In response to the early January decision to move public in-person meetings to virtual formats, the committee worked with the Parish Administrator to move the scheduled program session for Epiphany to Zoom and notify the congregation and community of the change. Programs are scheduled to continue in 2022, with future planning contingent on developments regarding in-person versus Zoom meetings.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen Hahn, head of the committee

Youth Education

This year continued to bring challenges with providing an in-person Sunday School experience for our youth. The education committee remained committed to utilizing creative and varied approaches to help support our families in faith and community.

In the beginning of 2021, Pal Covie continued as the education coordinator and provided weekly online homilies for our St. Bart's children of all ages. The youth spring service project was to donate kits for Maine needs. Our families contributed 20 kits total! Pal also partnered with First Parish Congregational Church to offer a family summer camp evening. Many thanks to Pal for providing such thoughtful and engaging homilies during this time!

In the Fall of 2021, Michelle Betz became the new Youth Education Leader and has continued to offer remote homilies to mirror our Sunday School experience and implement the lectionary-based curriculum, initiated 10 years ago. Due to the ongoing pandemic, our approach has also widened to provide as many resources for families as possible. Our hope is that the combination of online homilies, family-led learning with bible readings, activities, crafts along with outside gatherings will help keep the bonds strong until the time we can return to an in-person faith community.

We were able to hold a fall family gathering in November where families met outside at St. Barts to meet new friends and reconnect with old. They also picked up their fall faith kits. Each youth has a shoe box-sized container to hold various items that will be distributed over the year to create a "peace place" in their homes. This will be a special place for youth to relax, join in online homilies and to keep special items that symbolize homily themes. In the fall, materials for a pinch pot were included as a reminder of creation and a mod podge votive for a candle to use during the homily.

On Christmas Eve, we gathered outside to sing hymns and retell the birth of Jesus through bible readings.

The online homilies, along with the other family offerings can be located on the Youth Education Page on the St. Bart's website.

The 2021 Confirmation Program

This year, St. Bart's once again has partnered with First Parish Congregational Church to mentor four of our youth through confirmation classes. Congratulations to our confirmands: Hugh O'Donnell, Will Redfield, Madeline Sylvester and Levi Wood. Many thanks to Pal Covie, Sophie Herr, Laurie Hyndman and Peter Sillin for agreeing to be mentors. The confirmands meet weekly for discussion and faith exploration and each month the mentors join the group as well. Jayme Babczak, (First Parish Associate Pastor), First Parish volunteer Brenda Michaelsen, and Michelle Betz lead the group. The Confirmation service is scheduled for May, which will mark the completion of the program for those who choose to take this next step in faith.

Michelle Betz, Youth Education Leader

The Youth Education Committee: Jean Burr, Pal Covie, Harriet Davis and Carla Hunt

Music Program

Most of this year was a continuation of what we started in 2020 with the ongoing pandemic prohibiting us from gathering in person to sing. The choir provided recorded hymns and anthems with accompaniment on the organ and directing by John Corrie, our organist and choir director through the first half of the year. Utilizing the "A capella" app on our phones, we individually recorded our voices, sending the recording to the next available choir member. When everyone had contributed, the final recording was sent to Phil Chin, our audio tech guru. Phil worked his magic in making our voices balance dynamically as well as editing where necessary.

Then Phil would send the finished recording to the "Tech team" responsible for creating the pre-recorded online services and, starting in September, to be played over the speakers at in-person services. There is no doubt we cannot wait to get back together again to sing with each other.

Having taken on the duties of Music Director only a short while ago, I can only add my own voice to that of the choir members and say how wonderful it will be when choral singing can resume. My few rehearsals with the choir in early December gave ample evidence of an enthusiastic and very able group and I look with longing to the time when we may safely gather to renew 'in-person' singing both for the choir and the congregation.

In the meantime, it is my pleasure to present organ music on the beautiful instrument that graces St. Bart's worship space. May I also add my sincere gratitude to the choir members and many parishioners who have been so warmly welcoming. I am already feeling 'at home' in this parish!

John Schuder

Organist and Choir Director

Membership/Newcomers

The general goals of the Membership Committee are to identify and welcome newcomers to St. Bart's and to maintain and strengthen connections among our existing members. Despite 2021 being somewhat similar to 2020, we were lucky to have some Newcomers come our way for which we are most grateful. We tried to intentionally welcome all visitors, whether virtually, in-person, or through follow up notes. In addition, we continued our "check-in" calls to parishioners throughout the year.

In August we organized another successful curb-side Lobster Bake thanks to Jeff Diggins and his team. All of the proceeds went to three of our Outreach community partners.

This year, the committee finalized an "Opportunities for Engagement" brochure which lists all the committees at St. Bart's along with contact information. The brochure can be found in the entryway and will soon be posted on-line. We welcome Newcomers and everyone to feel free to join any committee which matches their interest.

The committee looks forward to meeting in 2022 to fine-tune our Welcoming process as well as keeping track of our Membership list. And hopefully we will be able to gather for a Newcomers' tea before too long.

Susie Soule and Anne Berg

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee for 2021 was comprised of Paule French, Michele Johns, Bill Macleod and Jamie Michaud. Jamie, Paule and Michele attended two webinars in the spring that were presented by The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS). The first was entitled "Recruiting & Training a Stewardship Team," the other, "Creating Compelling Case Materials." Both were interesting and offered good suggestions.

Our primary focus, however, was on the annual pledge campaign, which was kicked off in early October with a short introduction at worship by Michele. Phil Chin, Chrystena and Steve Hahn, and Arthur Woolverton all shared testimonials focused on Giving with Gratitude for our St. Bartholomew's Community at subsequent services.

A letter, the current financial report, a draft budget for 2022, and a pledge card were sent to all our households on October 7. With the help of the Vestry and additional volunteers Harriet Davis, John Duncan, Pam Hobson, Laurie and Tom Hyndman, Joe Michaud, Mike Perfetti, and Peter Sillin, we attempted to contact each of those households to answer any questions and encourage the completion of pledges so that our Treasurer and the Finance Committee could prepare a realistic 2022 budget for approval, first by the Vestry, and then, by the parish at our annual meeting.

The Committee is very grateful for the response of the parish! In 2021 79 households pledged \$203,458. As of January 3, 2022, 80 households have pledged \$215,749, a 6% increase. Thank you, Ann Donaghy, for breaking down the details of this increase, which gives us a better idea of the commitment of our parish family. Six of our 2021 pledging households totaling \$9,800 have not yet responded. We believe that most will renew their financial commitment to St. Bartholomew's as the year unfolds, though we cannot be certain. Of those completing pledges for 2022, three are new households and seven are households that did not pledge in 2021 but have in the past. 41 households increased their pledge (for a total of \$29,670), seven decreased their pledge (\$4,260 total), and one household declined to pledge this year (\$2600).

We believe the message is clear: The enthusiasm and commitment we have been seeing from our community during this year of pandemic, discernment and search includes our commitment in sharing our treasure, as well. Thank you very much. We are Giving with Gratitude for our St. Bartholomew's Community!

Michele Johns for the Stewardship Committee

Altar Flowers

The Altar Flower Committee is responsible for floral arrangements for Sunday worship, closely following the church calendar observing Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, Advent and Christmas. The arrangements, whether they come from a local florist, flowers gathered from our gardens, field flowers or house plants, are provided at the members own expense. Reimbursements are available for special arrangements at Easter, Christmas or funerals held at St. Bart's.

In 2021, due to continued Covid-19 protocols, we continued to provide arrangements for recorded services. In September, when we returned to in-church services we were more than happy to provide floral arrangements as part of our community worship.

As before, organized by Mary Calvin, our committee gathered in late November to create holiday decorations for Christmas Fair sale.

This year we welcomed new member Chrystena Hahn, and Carla Hunt stepped off the committee. Members include: Barbara Barhydt, Mary Calvin, Carol Hayes, Anne Jacobs, Jay Reighley, Mary Ann Hodsdon, Susan Soule, and Susannah White.

Imelda Schaefer, Chair

Altar Guild

The year 2021 saw a reinvigorated Altar Guild. After a year of relative inactivity due to the pandemic shut down, the Altar Guild found itself preparing the altar for the digital services created, primarily, in the sanctuary. When in-person services began in September, the Altar Guild resumed its usual duties of altar preparation and maintenance, and of providing support to our guest celebrants.

Taking advantage of the refurbishment of the church office area, the sacristy was cleaned out and reorganized. After disposing of several very well worn surplices, two new surplices were purchased for Chalice Bearer use. A new fair linen, specifically designed for our irregularly sized table, has been ordered.

More important than new materials, the Altar Guild welcomed two new members, John Perkins and Mary Lou Chin. The Altar Guild looks forward to continuing to support our worship services and our new Priest-in-Charge, The Reverend Amanda Gerken-Nelson.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Burson and Linda Perkins

Memorial Garden

Our Memorial Garden received more than its customary amount of notice in 2021, beginning in April with the removal of several overgrown white pine trees. The dramatic impact of the remaining stumps, coupled with the loss of shade, led to further changes. The stumps were ground, the areas were landscaped and seeded with grass, and three white crabapple trees (the "Donald Wyman" variety) were planted at strategic vantage points around the farther edges of the garden. Several generous donors made this major landscaping project possible. We thank them, each and every one.

We also gratefully acknowledge those volunteers who faithfully kept the new trees watered all summer as well as the loyal "Lay Weeders" who appear at our scheduled workdays to give the Memorial Garden some much-needed TLC. The garden has outgrown its earlier identity as a small woodland garden and is beginning to require a level of maintenance that exceeds our abilities. We recognize also that it is time for some professional garden design advice that will take into account the enlarged area and the greater sun exposure.

One new inscription was added this past summer in honor of Libby Moore.

The expenses for engraving of names and dates (work done by Richardson Monument Company in So. Portland) have increased substantially. As a result, we have had to modify two of the Memorial Garden regulations:

- 1. The space reservation fee has been increased to \$800.00.**
- 2. Engraving expenses will be billed to the family/estate directly from Richardson Monument Company, South Portland, Maine.**

To date there have been 33 interments of ashes in the garden. There are 16 reservations on record for space in the future.

Respectfully submitted, Liza Chandler and Margaret Betts

Buildings & Grounds

Even though the building and grounds weren't used as much in 2021 as in most years, there still was much noteworthy activity:

- Removal of three large pines near the building, plus a few other large trees that were at risk of falling
- Restoring the lawn after the tree removal
- Planting 3 crabapple trees near the Memorial Garden
- Roof repairs to address leaking near the tower and above the choir room
- New shed roof
- Changing to gender-neutral signage on restrooms
- Removal of stall walls in one restroom to make fully accessible
- Remodeling of the office restroom to make it accessible
- Refreshing paint and flooring in the offices and sacristy
- Painting of walls and ceiling in the book room
- Spring and fall cleanup days, with good turnouts and happy fellowship!

Submitted by Joe Michaud and Liza Chandler

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Committee is pleased to report that as at Dec 31, 2021 its total assets amounted to \$54,426. This represented an increase of \$15,323 from the period ended Dec 31, 2020, \$5,000 of which was a very recent addition from the Estate of the late Ellen Wells.

Currently, the entire amount is invested in Vanguard Growth and Income Investor CI shares, which returned 28.98% for the year. At this point, there have been no distributions made from the fund and, other than for dire circumstances, may not be used for the operating budget of the church.

The Committee is currently composed of five members, none of whom are members of the current Vestry; they are: Abigail Diggins, Peter Chandler, Vincent Damasco, Ed Simmons and Bill Macleod. We meet periodically to oversee our investments and see no reason at this time to make any changes. Ed Simmons has agreed to act as Chair for the next few years.

Finally, there are brochures in the Narthex describing Planned Giving Strategies from the Episcopal Church Foundation for anyone's interest. Additionally, any member of the Committee would be happy to answer any questions as well as to share a copy of our Endowment Fund Policies and Guidelines.

Respectfully,
William A. Macleod

Nominating Slate

The Nominating Committee respectfully submits the slate of the following names for nomination:

Vestry Officers

Senior Warden: Michele Johns
Junior Warden: Laurie Hyndman
Treasurer: Ann Donaghy
Asst. Treasurer: Anne Berg
Clerk: Susie Peixotto

Returning Vestry members serving at large: John Colianni
Lu Tingley
Arthur Woolverton

New Vestry members to serve 3-year term: Kathy Abernathy
Peter Sillin
Debra Wathen-Finn

Delegates to Diocesan Annual Convention October 2022: Sarah Covie
Harriet Davis
Anne Jacobs

Outreach Reports:

Reimagining Outreach

In May, a small group convened to re-imagine outreach programs. A large impetus for this initiative was the result of Peter Small's extensive parish discernment interviews and the information gleaned. Members desired more congregation-wide outreach activities as well as opportunities for parents and children to engage together. How might we build and grow community both within our walls and outside, to discover a need and fill it, to collaborate?

Our first project was to generate a resource guide to reflect what skills, interests and resources we can collectively bring to bear and to discover perceived community needs. This was done through a simple, parish-wide survey. The goal was for parishioners with a particular service interest to easily find others who are involved with or interested in the same areas of service. We created a simple document that reflects this information. Regarding the top areas of perceived community needs, they fell into 6 categories: affordable housing, asylum seekers/immigration, environmental issues, food insecurity/food banks, homelessness and racial justice.

In addition, this year held a unique opportunity to provide more significant donations to 501 (c)3's from the remaining Outreach monies and Christmas Fair proceeds; a long-held dream of Outreach. In late fall, we held a community gathering to help determine which organizations could benefit most. Each represented the six (6) aforementioned categories above. They were all either local or within the state as well as underfunded efforts or those in need of immediate, critical funds. We were thrilled to contribute \$3,200 to each group. Below is a list of the chosen organizations:

- Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland
- Hope Acts
- Cousins River Fields & Marsh project - a collaboration of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Royal River Conservation Trust and Freeport Conservation Trust
- Growing to Give
- Portland Opportunity Crew
- Racial Equity and Justice of Bangor

Looking ahead, we strive to better understand local needs and see if there are specific things that we can do to help love and serve our neighbors. We imagine affinity groups forming to help uncover what those projects might be. We also hope to partner more with the Adult Education committee; their committee provides information and ours a path towards action. Please watch for new ways to further engage.

Learning, growing and doing equals community outreach.

St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center & Essentials Pantry, (a Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine)

2021 saw the 20th anniversary of St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center! A zoom party was held in October to celebrate, hear about its history, and honor the many who have contributed to its growth through the years. Also, special thanks was given to all who volunteered during this pandemic. The Zoom was recorded and can be found on St. E's website.

Under the able guidance of Sarah Coburn Borgeson, St. E's faithfully served an average of 150 neighbors in need each week. A recent survey found that 89% of those served are from countries in Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South America.

This fall, over 400 adult winter coats and 160 pairs of winter boots were collected and distributed to our neighbors and their families. During 2021, its Essentials Pantry distributed 54,000 diapers for infants and young children, over 14,100 rolls of toilet paper, 7,800 bars of body soap, and enough detergent for 23,400 loads of laundry! These and other essentials (face masks, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, deodorant, and hand soap and sanitizer) cannot be purchased with federal SNAP benefits, and make a genuine difference in the daily lives of those in need in our community. In addition, monthly offerings include dental care products, bed & bath linens (sheets, blankets, towels), and kitchen/housewares (pots, pans, small appliances, dishes, utensils, etc.) We continue to provide job search assistance. We've reintroduced children's books, a wonderful addition to the weekly offerings.

St. E's hosted a successful pop-up Covid-19 vaccine clinic in July with assistance from Carla Hunt at DHHS and other partners.

Partner congregations in the greater Portland area including St. Bart's, continue to support St. E's with financial and in-kind contributions as well as providing essential volunteers. The wonderfully generous donations from the St. Bart's Lobster Bake and Art Show were most gratefully received in addition to the 2021 prepayment made in 2020.

Our loyal volunteers this year included Nancy Gunzelmann, Pam Hobson, Pamela Trudo, Anne Berg, Jan Burson, Linda Draper, and Anne Jacobs. New volunteers are always welcome to help serve the public directly, to sort donated items, or to help prepare for the coming week. Help is needed for set-up on Monday afternoons and distribution on Tuesday mornings. St. Bart's volunteers always staff the 4th Tuesday of each month, and individuals are welcome to volunteer at other times as well. St. Bart's also provides a regular team of drivers who transport and restock diapers from the S. Maine Diaper Bank.

To learn more go to www.stelizabethsmaine.org and to volunteer, please contact Linda Draper, the St. Bart's representative on the St. E's Board of Directors (ldraper347@gmail.com), or Anne Jacobs, Chair of the Board (ajacobs207@gmail.com).

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.

Mission statement: To express the love of God through Christ to the poor and disadvantaged, by providing a safe home where hope and healing are extended to those who are broken spiritually, emotionally or physically.

St. Bart'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 residents and the house manager.

Many thanks to Imelda Schaefer, Holly and Will Chapman, the Caruso family, the Hazard family, Susan Soule and Don McCrann, Carla Hunt and Andrew Tonks, David Platt and Janice Drinan, Mary Calvin, Linda and John Perkins and Jamie Michaud, for their culinary contributions and the time and effort it takes to make and deliver a meal.

There were many donations of cleaning supplies, toiletries and men's clothes by members of St. Bart's plus many donations of sheets and towels from St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center.

Financial donations made to Friendship House in 2021 included \$870 from the Lobster Bake and \$3050 from the Art Show.

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

Pam Hobson, Coordinator



The Yarmouth Community Food Pantry continues to operate as it did in 2020. The Pantry is still open on Tuesday and Friday from 10-12noon and regularly serves 60 families and this includes weekly food delivery to fifteen families.

The First Parish Church continues to generously share their multi-purpose room as a staging area for the pantry to prepare the 'grab and go bags' for the patrons. There is still no inside shopping for patrons. 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 is grateful to all of the St. Bart's members that volunteer at the pantry and contribute food to the pantry and to the Thanksgiving baskets. The Pantry was a beneficiary of the 2021 St. Bart's Yarmouth Art Show and this resulted in a sizeable donation to the Pantry from St. Bart's.

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 Shepherd, do dump runs, and anything else that needs doing.

Special thanks to Yarmouth resident and volunteer, Tom Reinsborough, who built this new canopy over the pantry entrance so patrons will be protected from rain and snow.



If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation don't hesitate to reach out to Anne Ball, anneball@maine.rr.com. Volunteers are required to be vaccinated and wear masks while volunteering at the Pantry. Thank you St. Bart's for all your support in 2021.

Anne Ball, Yarmouth Community Food Pantry Steering Committee

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Despite our closing of the church building for much of the year, St. Bart's was able to conduct its usual one blood drive. The American Red Cross has reported consistently that donors were scarce during 2021, largely due to unfounded concerns about donors' safety. Our drive on October 6th yielded 25 units of blood, which was considered a great success, but we can do better. We have established a reputation as a popular site for donors, attributable to the attractive setting, the friendliness of the volunteers, and the extraordinary donations of healthy refreshments.

Not surprisingly, we have been asked to schedule one or more drives in 2022. As the Covid pandemic is expected to persist, there remain plenty of opportunities for volunteers to contribute their time and talents in publicity, recruiting donors, preparing food, and assisting donors at the drives. The Red Cross is not bashful about fundraising, but this is one instance in which gifts of time and compassion are more valuable. No amount of money can substitute for donations of blood. Members of St. Bart's who are interested in joining this effort, either as blood donors or as helpers, are encouraged to contact Peter Chandler at lordgeorgevv34@gmail.com or 207.232.7051.

YCHI (Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative)

Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative (YCHI)

History—2016 - 2020

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 our outreach in numerous ways. More detail on previous years' activities can be found in previous annual reports.

2021

- Many of YCHI's activities from previous years, such as providing temporary housing and holding ESL classes, were suspended during 2021 due to COVID-19 precautions.

Permanent/Transitional Housing

- 95 Main continues to thrive as transitional housing for 4 adults recently arriving to Maine. Two new residents arrived at 95 in 2020 bringing the total number of people who have resided there to eleven. The most recent resident has been in Maine for less than 3 months. Three of the four residents are gainfully employed now. YCHI supports residents moving into and out of 95 Maine. We have provided mentoring, transport, the movement of household goods, bedbug mitigation, and made critical connections to resources in the greater Portland area. We purchase bus tickets to and from Portland for all residents.
- We continue to mentor other families seeking asylum who now make Yarmouth home. Our support for these families has included move-in assistance, groceries for those who are food insecure, and transport assistance.
- We have most recently supported new arrivals from the southern border who reside at the general assistance hotels in South Portland with kitchen equipment such as rice cookers, that are part of a culturally appropriate food response.
- We recognize that one of the most pressing needs is that of available, affordable housing that will allow residents at GA hotels and shelters to move into their own apartments throughout the greater Portland area. One of our members now sits on the Yarmouth Affordable Housing committee where solutions to this problem are being explored.

YCHI Coronavirus (Covid19) Response

As the pandemic moved into Maine, the recognition that black and brown and immigrant communities were being hit hard became evident.

- We have actively provided families and individuals with easy-to-follow CDC coronavirus documents in multiple languages with general information and preventative measures.
- We have been a resource for residents in need of testing and vaccinations.
- Thermometers and pulse oximeters have been provided to families and individuals who have tested positive for covid or are identified as close contacts. We have also supported these families in isolation and quarantine with food.
- The coordinator for YCHI transitioned to work with DHHS, Covid Social Support and the work of supporting immigrant and black and brown residents experiencing Covid has expanded across Maine.
- Most importantly, we continue to be 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 service services.

Funding

Funding in 2021 came from two recurring funding sources: The St. Bart's Annual Lobster Bake, the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth as well as individual donations. We have used these funds to provide support for food insecure families, bus tickets, moving and settling-in expenses, bedbug mitigation, and covid supplies.

2022

Our work of the last 5 ½ years continues. A general assistance hotel has opened in our neighboring town of Freeport, and we are exploring ways to support the over 30 families who will call Freeport home for the foreseeable future. Affordable housing continues to be one of the most pressing needs for new arrivals. Relationships continue to grow and deepen.

We are grateful for the generosity and support of the St. Bart's community. Thank you!

Carla Hunt, Coordinator, YCHI, ychiyarmouth@gmail.com.

Fundraising Reports:

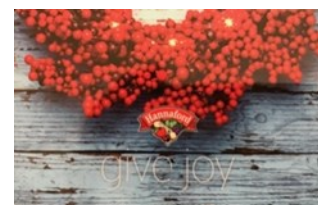
Preface

St Bart's holds three large events each year, usually to raise funds for operating the church and for our Outreach programs: the Lobster Bake, the Art Show, and the Christmas Fair. This year we are pleased to report that all the net proceeds from these events were distributed solely to our Outreach programs and six additional local non-profits the congregation selected to support.

A big thanks to the committee chairs and all who participated to make each of these events a huge success amidst the continued pandemic environment.

Hannaford Gift Cards Raise Over \$6,200

2021 was another successful year for our Hannaford Gift Cards program as we earned over \$6,200. We give a hearty thanks to the 35 members of the parish who participate! This year was our second-best ever – in 2020 we earned even more as we ate at home much more than normal during the first year of the pandemic.



Earning money for our Education Program every time you shop at Hannaford or Bow Street Market is worth the minor effort added to your grocery shopping process. *Hannaford donates to St. Bart's 5% of all that you spend.* It's easy money!

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.

Christmas Fair

In the midst of yet another tumultuous season of masking, booster shots, social distancing, sickness and despair, the St. Bartholomew's Christmas Fair was a bright light for everyone involved!

The Fair was held on Saturday, December 4, 2021. We were blessed with a beautiful, bluebird sky day, though it was quite cold for all our hearty volunteers and attendees. (A huge shout out to Michele Johns for all the work she did on the Fair, as well as the time she spent directing traffic during a very cold afternoon!)

Beginning in July, the table chairs began to gather and discuss how we would prepare for the "unknown," which is oxymoronic in and of itself!! We thought about best practices, measured distances, considered spaces and air flow, all of which was completed by the table chairs in a cheerful, can-do manner!

We pared down some things to be safe and added a few new ideas and people as we welcomed Sarah Fischer as an amazing and energetic Co-Chair of the Fair! Her ideas, artistic skills, and positive attitude influenced everyone. Her idea of a hot chocolate stop for Fair attendees was a wonderful and welcome addition.

As always, Mary Calvin coordinated and led a team of artisans, including Imelda Schaefer, Carol Hayes, and Chrystena Hahn, who created breathtaking arrangements for our homes. Harriet Davis sent out PR releases while gathering, organizing, and displaying beautiful crafts. Joe Michaud did a little of everything with help from John Duncan, and a lot of what everyone else did not want to do, as always. Carla Hunt, Laurie Hyndman and Deborah Wathen-Finn brought together a collection of beautiful items and services for the silent auction, which they do with such finesse. Barbara Barhydt managed to stock and sell an enormous amount of gourmet food. Pam Hobson shepherded yummy baked goods, teamed up with Pamela Higgins and Pam Trudo, and followed up with Yarmouth High School regarding our fantastic volunteer, Mia Ginsberg! Margaret Betts, Linda Draper along with Jan Burson stocked and organized a lovely selection of books. Anne Jacob's jewelry team, including Lu Tingley and Nancy Gunzelmann, was nothing short of amazing with their stock of lovely things and retail skills! Holly Mitchell was as reliable as always in her production of delicious, sell out fudge. And, of course, our team of check out boys – Bill Macleod, John Duncan, Dennis Fitzgibbons, and Ed Simmons – made sure our dollars were all accounted for! Lin Peyton helped wherever she was needed and, as always, none of this could have happened without Meredith's unflinching help, good humor, and patience! There were many more volunteers not mentioned above that helped make this all a success.

The Fair netted \$14,959, plus there was an additional \$642 earned at the yard sale. **All the net proceeds were donated to six local non-profits.** More than dollars earned, we earned the opportunity to spend a day in community, laughing, trading stories, reminiscing, and making plans for new gatherings and ways to celebrate and participate in the St. Bart's community.

Cecilia Guecia, Chair

Art Show

The 13th annual Yarmouth Art Festival was a huge success, as it returned for in-person viewing Oct. 20-23, 2021, after being online-only in 2020.

A record 98 pieces were sold during the in-person show and two weeks of online sales following. This far surpassed the 64 last year and average of 45 in prior in-person years. The show featured 179 pieces selected by jurors from a near-record 575 pieces submitted by artists all over Maine.

More than 30 volunteers helped with this year's show, including several non-St. Bart's folks who helped with intake, art-hanging, and jurying.

The Vestry decided that all net proceeds from the 2021 show — a total of about \$10,000 from entry fees, donations and sale commissions — would go to Yarmouth Food Pantry, St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center in Portland and Friendship House in South Portland.

The steering committee for the event is Joe Michaud, Judy Shank, Ann Donaghy, Nancy Gunzelmann, Laurie Hyndman, Tom Hyndman, and Ann Jacobs. If you'd like to be involved in the 2022 show, contact any of them.

Joe Michaud, Chair

Lobster Bake

St. Bart's once again held a Lobster Bake in August to raise funds for three of our Outreach partners. As in 2020, this was a 'curbside pick-up' event where people registered ahead of time and drove by to pick up dinner. Jeff Diggins again most generously donated not only the lobsters but his time and efforts cooking them on pick-up day. The other members of the Membership Committee, along with some additional helpers, prepared the sides and dessert to round out the feast. A jolly time was had by all!

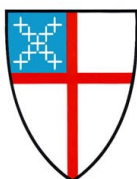
Anne Berg & Susie Soule, Co-Chairs, Membership Committee

Crazy Hats Plant Sale and Amaryllis Sale

Once again, we held the plant sale fundraiser in late Spring. The sale offered an opportunity for friends to get together outside during covid and wear our crazy hats. Being able to gather together was an additional benefit to selling plants for people to enjoy over the summer. The crazy hat sale contributed \$245 net income. The total sales were \$880 and the cost was \$635. We will gladly do this again this Spring.

The amaryllis sale occurs in the late Fall. It's a popular and easy fundraiser and this year contributed \$1,210 income. Cal and Mary Calvin donate the cost of the materials. We will offer this again next year. It is a joy to receive photos of some of the flowers!

Mary Calvin, Chair



Saint Bartholomew's
2021 Parish Registry

Funerals and Memorial Services
Alexander Hamilton Hunt



A Member of The Episcopal Church in Maine
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
396 Gilman Road ~ Yarmouth, ME 04096
www.stbartsyarmouth.org

Priest-in-Charge: Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Priest-in-Charge Email: amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org
Sr. Warden: Dennis Fitzgibbons
Jr. Warden: Michele Johns
Pastoral Care: Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
Pastoral Care Email: pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org
Youth Education Leader: Michelle Betz
Music Director & Organist: Dr. John Schuder
Administrative Assistant: Meredith Mazur
Office Email: admin@stbartsyarmouth.org
Office Hours: Wednesdays or Thursdays, 9am-3pm
(Please call ahead to confirm.)
Telephone: 207.846.9244
Website: www.stbartsyarmouth.org