



The Mustard Seed

Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church ~ The Reverend Dr. Nina R. Pooley, Rector
December 2020 / January 2021

News from the Vestry

Over the weekend you heard from Nina about her very big news that she has accepted a call from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield, MA. Nina has served our church community for 14 years and leaves on a high note of leading us into the new normal of online services. She and Ken have provided us with beautiful spiritual and visual services for many months with the final one scheduled for January 3, 2021.

As we prepare to say goodbye to Nina and her family, we also are preparing for our discernment journey as a congregation. On Tuesday 12/15, the Executive Committee of the Vestry will meet via Zoom with the Maine Diocese's Canon of the Ordinary, Michael Ambler to learn more about the process of saying goodbye, planning next steps and exploring resources to inform our direction. Bishop Brown has already communicated his support and prayers for us as we go forward. For the month of January, the Vestry has decided to worship online with the Cathedral of St. Luke's and to continue to host our coffee hour following the service. This will give us time to develop our own worship choices.

To make all of this a little more challenging, we are faced with doing all this during a pandemic. Getting input from membership is so important in the coming week and months. We will continue to use Zoom and other ways to do so. We have our annual meeting next month and will use Zoom for that and will form a committee to lead the planning on this. As the development of plans comes together we will keep you informed. We are confident of the future of this faith community which has proven resilient and remained engaged over the past 9 months of social distancing and isolation. We will be reaching out to members for assistance with the tasks ahead of us. We know that this community will continue to reach out to those in need, support each other and be ready to respond if necessary.

Your Vestry Leadership During Transition

Even before Nina's announcement, your current vestry recognized that the "unsettled-ness" of 2020 would be bleeding into 2021. Because we have invested much time, thought and prayer navigating to this point, each vestry member agreed to "pause" their term for a year, subject to a vote at our annual meeting, with one shift in officer status; Anne Berg to assume the role of Assistant Treasurer and Susie Peixotto becoming our Secretary. Arthur Woolverton will remain on the vestry as an at-large member. Given our now transition status and our continued remote meeting status, the working relationships that have been established is even more important during the year ahead.

If there are questions or concerns, please contact any vestry member prior to our Annual Meeting!

Michele and Dennis

Poem by Jan Richardson,
from her book: *Night Visions*

God of making
and unmaking,
of tearing down
and re-creating,

you are my home
and habitation,
my refuge
and place of dwelling.

In your hollows
I am re-formed,
given welcome
and benediction,
beckoned to rest
and rise again,
made ready
and sent forth.

Services and Events

Sunday, December 20: Advent IV

9:00am Service of the Word

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00pm Christmas Pageant

7:00pm Choral Service

Friday, December 25: Christmas Day

10:00am Worship w/ The Cathedral of
St. Luke, Portland

Sunday, December 27: Christmas I

9:00am Diocesan-wide service

Sunday, January 3: Epiphany Sunday

9:00am Service of the Word

Note from Yma +

These past few days have been filled with a whirlwind of emotions - gratitude and heartache, joy and dread, laughter and memories, and well wishes for the future. It's time for this transition, my head knows it. My brain has known it was coming - having studied systems and parish dynamics, and how healthy communities evolve and grow. My heart, however, is not convinced. I suspect it will take a great deal of coaxing and comforting, to turn my heart from its tear-filled defiant toddler tantrum. Thank you for your kind words, for recollecting stories, for your gracious blessings for me and my family as we move toward our new path. If I seem less than engaged, please know it's just that I'm finding it hard to stay upbeat and equally gracious in the midst of so many goodbyes. You matter to me. This community matters to me and my family more than I can express. We will miss you individually and as a community. It's my hope that someday we will come home to the coast of Maine for good. But for now - God has other plans for us. Be well and know that you are God's beloved, always. *Nina+*



If you didn't have a chance to read it...or if you missed the announcement that went out by email...

Beloved Community of St. Bart's,

It's been a strange year of adapting and finding new ways of being church, of online worship and zoom coffee hour. Our fundraising has been reinvented - a pick-up Lobster Bake, the Christmas Fair In October, the online Art Show, and so much more. Over and over this community has continued to astound me - with your energy, capacity to adapt, and generosity of spirit in these challenging times. I never doubt that this parish can handle whatever comes.

Announcing a Transition

I'm sure this seems like a strange time to announce a transition. But, as I've mentioned before, God is not subtle with me. And God has been persistent and clear - it's time for us to move toward what's next for this parish, and for my ministry as well. After a lot of discernment and prayer - I have accepted the call to be the Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Pittsfield Massachusetts.

A little more information

Increasingly, I've been sensing a call to urban ministry - to serve on the front lines of mission, working to meet the needs of those who are struggling with poverty, unemployment, homelessness, etc. St. Stephen's is a mission-focused parish in the heart of the city of Pittsfield; they have so much to teach me about serving in an urban and impoverished community. This call is a good fit for me, and our family. Ken is pleased that we will still be in New England, and the landscape of the Berkshires reminds him of being home in Bethel. Mackenzie will move with us, and we hope to be able to buy a house that will allow her to live at home semi-independently. Channing is glad that we'll still be relatively close to her (she's living in Cambridge).

What happens now?

Working with the bishop and our vestry, we've agreed to a timeline that allows us to have just about a month from my informing the wardens to my last day at St. Bart's. (Transition experts recommend that parishes limit this phase of the transition to a month or less.)

Our Timeline:

Dec. 4: Inform wardens

Dec. 8: Inform vestry

Dec. 9: Inform staff

Dec. 12: Announce to parish by email/ Dec. 13: Announce to parish during worship

Dec. 20: Advent 4

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve services

Dec. 27: Diocesan Worship

Jan. 3: Nina's last Sunday at St. Bart's.

We're working on finding a safe approach to saying goodbye, more soon.

Looking Ahead a little further

For the remainder of January, the vestry has decided that St. Bart's will take advantage of the online worship offered by St. Luke's Cathedral, worshipping with St. Luke's at 10am on Sundays - followed by a St. Bart's zoom coffee hour. These weeks will provide some time for the small group working on worship to consider a variety of approaches and models.

Call for Christmas photos

Friends, we miss seeing each other's smiling faces - what better way to celebrate on Christmas Eve than sharing photos? Send your family photo, or your selfie to Nina, and we'll include it in the choral service on Christmas Eve.



(Deadline: Monday, Dec. 21) Nina@stbartsyarmouth.org



For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you O Lord.

(BCP, Prayers of the People, Form V, 391)

We pray for: Steph; Bobby; Charles; Kellan; Pat; Mackenzie; Scott; Marcella; David; Tim; Sam; Kathie; Diane; Arthur; Matthew; Jean; Lee; Sally; Zoe; Samantha; Jenni; Peter; Betty; June & Fred; and Bob and Susie.



Pastoral Care Booklet: Words of Comfort

Nina and the Pastoral Care Committee have compiled a collection of prayers and psalms into a booklet titled,

[“Words of Comfort, for Times of Worry, Distress and Grief.”](#)

The idea for the compilation arose as a means to support the community during the pandemic. As the name implies, it is intended to be a resource for comfort beyond just our current situation.

For ease of printing portions of the booklet, we have created a Table of Contents with page numbers and we have made the [Psalms/Canticles](#) a separate booklet.

You may access the Booklets on our St. Bart's website from the Pastoral Care tab on the home page, www.stbartsyarmouth.org.

In addition, the Pastoral Care Committee now has an email address, which will provide a centralized e-mail for parishioner questions, thoughts, and concerns; pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org.

FAITH • FILLED GENEROSITY

When we all signed on to be the St. Bartholomew's Stewardship Committee this year, we had not a clue about what lay ahead for all of us! We are delighted that our community has continued to meet regularly via zoom, e-mails and even the telephone. We are grateful for John Corrie and the choir for their steadfastness in finding a way to continue to bring their voices to our services and to Ken Pooley, who has so beautifully filmed and edited those services. Team Pooley has risen to the occasion with thoughtful and creative worship. Their departure for Nina's new call in the Berkshires is another challenge that our parish will manage with creativity and care.

Our delight extends to the response we have had to our 2021 pledge campaign. If you missed the inspiring "Stewardship Minutes" given during four services this fall, you can view these in the archive of services on our website. Susie Peixotto presented on October 25, Pamela Higgins on November 8, the Colianni boys on November 15, and Alice Ingraham on November 29. Thank you to all of them for sharing with all of us what about St. Bart's brings them joy.

Thank you, as well, to the vestry and to Bob Clark, Harriet Davis, John Duncan, Paule French, Laurie and Tom Hyndman, Joe Michaud, and Mike Perfetti for joining us in making calls to answer questions and address concerns of parishioners about the proposed budget for 2021. We are thrilled that Ann Donaghy and the Finance Committee gave us a balanced budget to present to you that includes provisions for outreach and a building reserve.

73% of the households who pledged for 2020 have made their intentions known to us for 2021, either with a completed pledge card or an e-mail supplying the amount that can be counted upon for final budgeting purposes. Without meeting regularly in our building, there has been an added burden placed on all of you, as dropping your pledge card into the offering plate at church has not been an option this year. We ask those of you who have not yet formally pledged for next year to give our community your prayerful consideration and early response so that the vestry can formalize a final budget for 2021 for your vote at our annual meeting.

Thank you for your support!
Michele Johns, Bill Macleod, Jamie Michaud, Peter Sillin



ongoing **zoom** meetings

Handwork

The group gathers on Zoom every Monday from 3-4pm to work on handwork projects while enjoying good conversation.

See Nina's News and Notes email for Zoom invitation and link.

FMI: Please contact Liza Chandler at 846-9432.



Join us every Sunday for Coffee Hour on Zoom following our 9AM worship.

Check the News and Notes and/or Worship Links email from Nina for Zoom invitation and link.



YCHI Virtual Holiday Giving Tree for New Mainers

Many thanks to those of you who have donated gift cards. Much appreciated!

There are still lots of people left on the tree, so if you haven't had a chance to sign up yet, please consider doing so. All but one of these family groups are our neighbors in Yarmouth.

We are asking for \$25 gift cards to one of the following vendors: Hannaford, L'Africana Market (www.lafricanamarket.com), Target, Amazon, Royal River Books, or Island Treasure Toys.

Our seven family groups are listed below, with each person given a unique hyphenated number. Please choose one—or more—recipients from the list and purchase a gift card for each person selected. Put the cards in an envelope labeled YCHI with your name and the unique number of each recipient and drop it off in the bin outside the church office. If you cannot purchase cards, please consider sending a check, and we will buy them for you.

Email Lisa Small at YCHIgivingtree@gmail.com your selected recipients as soon as possible.

In case of duplications, gifts may be shifted to another person as needed.

Gift cards or checks must be received at the church by December 18.

Residents of 95 Main, all single adults: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4

A single mother and her 4-year-old daughter: 2-1, 2-2

A single woman: 3-1

A couple, their 5-year-old daughter and baby boy: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4

A couple, their 7 year-old daughter and 3-year-old twin girls: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5

A single mother and her 8-year-old son: 6-1, 6-2

A couple, the husband's mother and their four daughters: 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 7-5, 7-6, 7-7

Thank you for helping make the Christmas spirit felt by the New Mainers in our community!
If you have any questions, please call Lisa at 207-615-9111.

Upcoming Services



Christmas Pageant - 4PM

The Season of Advent does pass quickly in the chaos of getting ready for Christmas. However, the Christmas Eve pageant has always seemed to be the perfect way to transition into the excitement of Christmas Day.

By Christmas Eve, most preparations are done, and finally there is time to be still and listen to the telling of the Christmas story and hear the beautiful carols. We hope you will join us online at www.stbartsyarmouth.org

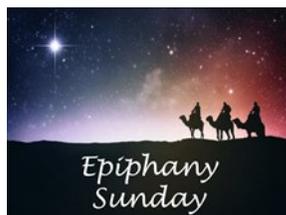
Christmas Eve Traditional Worship

Traditional Choral Celebration - 7PM

We hope you will join us online at www.stbartsyarmouth.org

St. Luke's Cathedral

For those who would like to attend service on Christmas morning you are invited to [join with St. Luke's](#) at 10am on Christmas Day.



We will celebrate Epiphany on Sunday, January 3

A Message from the Education Committee

Hello, St. Bart's!

Here is an update and recap of what is happening for our St. Bart's Youth and Families!

SPECIAL EVENTS



Christmas is fast approaching, and that means, so is our **Christmas Eve Pageant!** This year, the pageant will be a pre-recorded video compiling scenes and songs performed by at least 9 different families, each filming from their own home. The video will be posted to our YouTube page by **4pm on Christmas Eve.** We welcome you to tune in, sing along, and celebrate as we tell the story of Jesus' birth. Join me in sending a huge thank you to Annie Davis for helping coordinate this year's pageant!

I want to call your attention to an upcoming opportunity to gather in person! The Education Committee is working to plan **an afternoon of snowshoeing** for families in January! Keep your eyes out for more information about when, where, and how this event will take place, ensuring safety is our top priority. If you have snowshoes to lend, please email me, palcovie@gmail.com. We hope this outdoor event will be a safe way to see each other in person and do something fun together!



ONGOING EVENTS

St. Bart's Children's Homily - Dec 6, 2020



As you may know by now, Sunday School looks a bit different this year, but it is still happening. Every week, the **Children's Homily** is posted to our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNo2ud6XfWf1Y33SzAxfPLQ>.

This is a mini service for kids and includes some music, a Bible lesson, a brief message, activities, and reflection questions (even a snippet of dance time!) If you haven't been watching yet, I encourage you to check out these videos to bring Sunday School to your living room! If you would like to be added to our email list to receive a weekly email with the newest video, please let me know: palcovie@gmail.com.

In an attempt to bring our St. Bart's kids together in virtual fellowship, we are also hosting **Children's Coffee Hour** every Sunday at 10:30am on Zoom. See your friends, share a snack, and chat about your week! If you would like to be added to our email list, please let me know, so you can receive the weekly Zoom link: palcovie@gmail.com.



We would also love to stay connected with you on social media! **Follow our Instagram account: [stbartsyouth_yarmouth](https://www.instagram.com/stbartsyouth_yarmouth)** and see what's inspiring us and keeping us grounded and spiritually connected.

Friends, we miss you! Stay safe, build snowpeople, revel in God's glory, dance every so often, and soak up the sun,

The Education Committee
(Pal, Carla, Harriet, Jean, and Nina)



Friendship House For Men In Recovery

In His Arms of Love

Friendship House - request for donations **UPDATED!**

While Friendship House is most appreciative of the monthly meal we provide, they also have other needs. **Here is their current wish list:**

- * **New or used: TWIN SHEETS**
- * **New or used: PILLOWCASES**
- * **Men's Winter Clothes**
- * **Blankets**
- * **Pillows**
- * **Razors**
- * **Body Wash**
- * **Shampoo**
- * **Shaving Cream**
- * **Toothpaste**

There will be a plastic box labeled "Friendship House" under the wooden bench that sits below the overhang at the front of the church.

Also please know that financial contributions are welcomed and can be mailed to: Friendship House, 390 Lincoln St, South Portland, Maine 04106.

Pam Hobson, Coordinator: 671-6254 / pamhobson46@gmail.com.

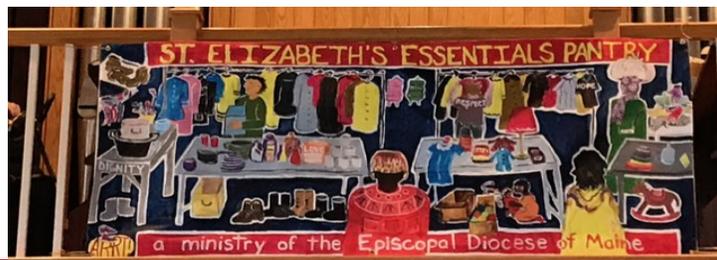


Winter 2020-2021 – The Bookstore That Never Closes

St. Bart's bookstore is surely unique as bookstores go. For one thing, it's always open for browsing and shopping. If you have the opportunity to be in the church building, take some time to check out the book room upstairs. Most books have been shelved in categories (Pets, Memoir, Fiction, Maine, Cooking etc.), but browsing is definitely worthwhile. In general, hardcover books are \$2 each; paperbacks 50 cents to \$1.00. Cash boxes near the door. It's well worth the trip upstairs, and you can't beat the prices!

Our bookstore is unique in another way: every single book, puzzle, game, DVD etc. has been donated. What other bookstore can say that? Yes, we are accepting donations of books in good condition. They can be left upstairs in the book room.

Any questions, please contact, Margaret Betts (mmbetts@roadrunner.com), Linda Draper (ldraper347@gmail.com), or Jan Burson (janzimsu64@gmail.com).



St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry

St. Elizabeth's Pantry - Successful Boot Distribution in November

The Pantry collected donations of 156 pairs of new and used adult winter boots and distributed them to neighbors in need on two Tuesdays in November. Some neighbors came to get boots wearing flip flops! Thank you to everyone who donated winter boots which were very much appreciated. The photos below show Linda Draper and Anne Jacobs setting-up for the distribution.



St. Elizabeth's Pantry - Diaper Bundling

From left to right are Cal Harder, Alice Wallis, Nancy Allyn, Anne Jacobs, Anita Stickney, and Lu Tingley taken in 2004 by Lin Peyton at Joan Tilney's home in Blueberry Cove. We gathered once a month to bundle diapers donated for St Elizabeth's Pantry.

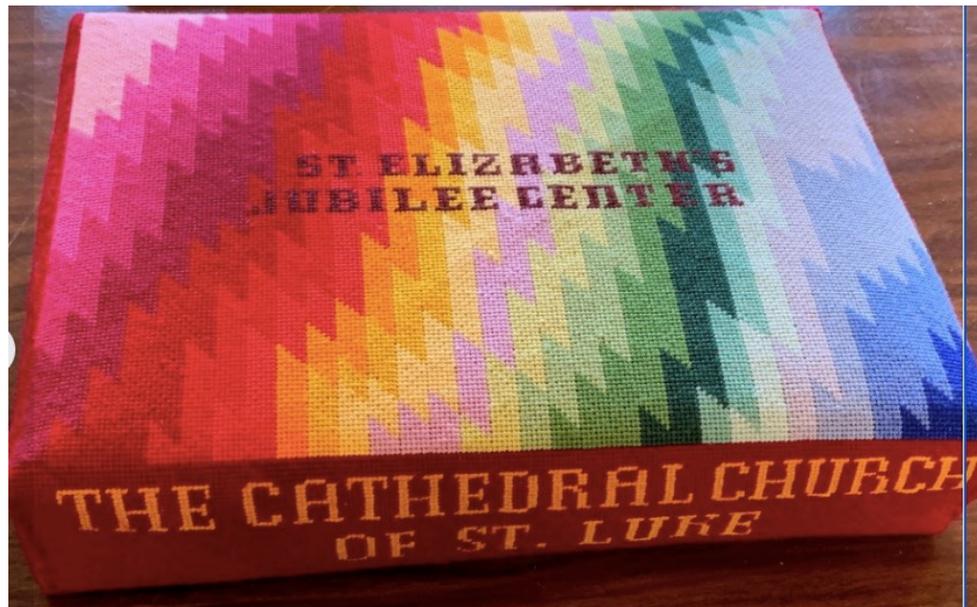
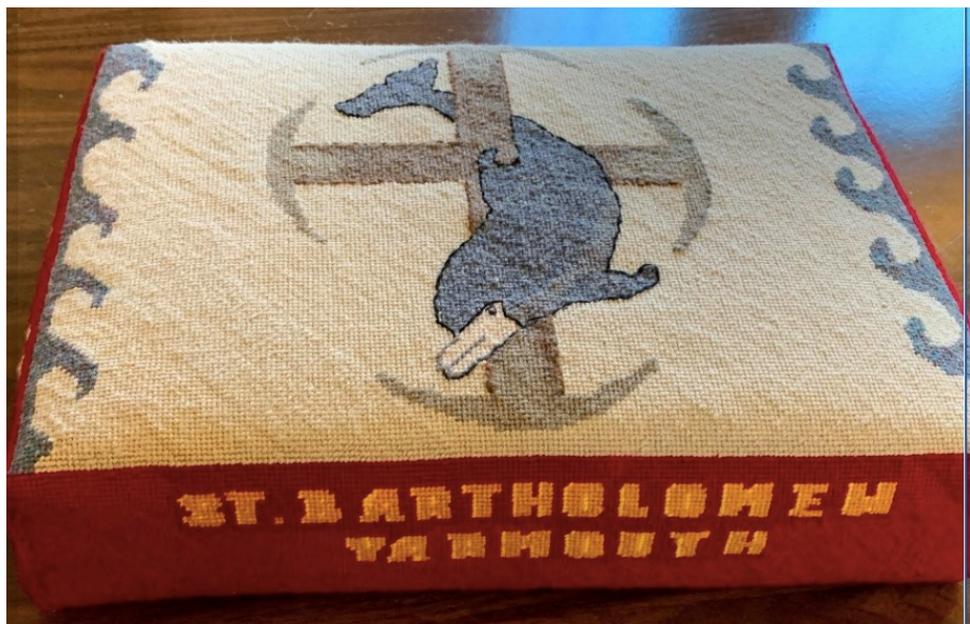
Fast forward to 2020, the diaper bundling is still being done by St Bart's volunteers! Recently diaper bundlers were Linda Draper, Nancy Gunzelmann and Anne Berg, and this volunteer work is done at the Pantry (located in the back of St. Luke's Cathedral).



New Kneelers at St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland

On November 22, newly completed kneelers were blessed during the service including one for St. Bart's and one for St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center which is supported in part by St. Bart's outreach. The stitchers for the St. Bart's kneeler are our very own Heather Sylvester and Alison Bayle. We are very grateful to them for honoring St. Bart's with this incredible needlework!

Stitched kneelers have been part of the Cathedral since 2003. In 2005, the Kneeler Guild set the goal of having every parish and Summer chapel represented by a kneeler, as a visible sign that St. Luke's is their cathedral, and a home away from home. Each kneeler takes more than 57,000 stitches, a third of a mile of wool, and about two years of work.



DECEMBER DUTIES

December 20 - Advent IV
Lectors: Elizabeth Ring
Chalice Bearers: Peter Sillin, Kylie Groat, Jean Burr
Snow Care: Gregg Hoerr
VPOW: Susie Soule

December 24 - Traditional Choral
Lector: Mike Perfetti
Gospel: Heather Sylvester
Prayers: Joe Michaud

December 27- Christmas I - Diocesan-wide service
Snow Care: **NEEDED** (Dec 27—Jan 2)

JANUARY DUTIES

January 3 - Epiphany Sunday
Lectors: Nina Scribner, Harriet Davis
Chalice Bearers: Dan Doyon, Arthur Woolverton, Paule French
Snow Care: Mark Goettel
VPOW: Michele Johns

January 10 - Baptism of Our Lord: 10AM Cathedral of St. Luke service
Snow Care: Peter Chandler

January 17 - Epiphany II: 10AM Cathedral of St. Luke service
Snow Care: Joe Michaud

January 24 - Epiphany III: 10AM Cathedral of St. Luke service
Snow Care: Ted Danforth

January 31 - Epiphany IV: 10AM Cathedral of St. Luke service
Snow Care: Ed Simmons



December / January



sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
December 20 <u>ADVENT IV</u> 9AM Service of the Word	21 3-4pm Afternoon Handwork Group On Zoom	22 St. Elizabeth's Volunteer Day	23 9AM-3PM Office Open	24 Christmas Eve Services 4pm Pageant 7pm Choral	25 Merry Christmas!	26
27 <u>CHRISTMAS I</u> 9AM Diocesan-wide service	28 3-4pm Afternoon Handwork Group On Zoom	29	30 9AM-3PM Office Open	31	January 1	January 2
January 3 <u>Epiphany Sunday</u> 9AM Service Nina's Last Sunday Zoom Coffee Hour to follow	4 3-4pm Afternoon Handwork Group On Zoom	5 9:30AM-3:30PM Office Open	6 9AM-3PM Office Open	7	8	9
10 <u>Epiphany +1</u> 10am service Zoom Coffee Hour to follow	11 3-4pm Afternoon Handwork Group On Zoom	12	13 9AM-3PM Office Open	14	15	16
17 <u>Epiphany +2</u> 10am service Zoom Coffee Hour to follow	18 3-4pm Afternoon Handwork Group On Zoom	19	20 9AM-3PM Office Open	21	22	23
24 <u>Epiphany +3</u> 10am service Zoom Coffee Hour to follow	25 3-4pm Afternoon Handwork Group On Zoom	26 St. Elizabeth's Volunteer Day	27 9AM-3PM Office Open	28	29	30
31 <u>Epiphany +4</u> 10am service Zoom Coffee Hour to follow						



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

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Nina R. Pooley
Rector's Email: nina@stbartsyarmouth.org
Music Director: Mr. John Corrie
Education Coordinator: Pal Covie
Administrative Assistant: Meredith Mazur
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9am-3pm
Office Email: admin@stbartsyarmouth.org
Telephone: 207-846-9244
Website: www.stbartsyarmouth.org

2020 Vestry Officers

Senior Warden - Dennis Fitzgibbons
Junior Warden - Michele Johns
Clerk - Anne Berg
Treasurer - Ann Donaghy
Asst. Treasurer - Arthur Woolverton

Vestry Members

John Colianni
Cecilia Guacia
Gregg Hoerr
Susie Peixotto
Susie Soule
Lu Tingley

Human Resources Committee

Peter Chandler
Dennis Fitzgibbons

Memorial Garden

Liza Chandler 846-9432
Margaret Betts 784-5676

Pastoral Care Committee

Imelda Schaefer 781-4093
John Perkins 847-3194

Buildings & Grounds

Bill Macleod
Joe Michaud