

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
396 Gilman Road
Yarmouth, Maine 04096

August 26, 2021

Hello!

We're so pleased that you are interested in learning more about our church. We hope our website will enhance your knowledge of St. Bart's along with our OTM profile.

Moving our parish from a full-time Rector to a less than full time priest is a bold move that has involved much conversation, research, and prayer. We are making this move from a position of strength. We have the resources to continue to have staff in place, including a Youth Education Leader, a Music Director, and an Office Administrator. Our committee structure and involvement are stronger than ever.

When our former Rector was called to an urban church in Massachusetts at the beginning of 2021, our Vestry decided to manage the transition process a little differently. We did not seek an interim priest but identified parishioners who had the passion and skill to create virtual worship services (until just recently) and relied upon the strong leadership within the parish to manage all manner of parish life.

The Vestry immediately charged a Discernment Committee to answer three questions: Who are We? What is God calling us to be? What spiritual leader would best lead us down that path? The possibility of a less than full-time priest was also raised. Individual anonymous interviews of over seventy households were conducted, compiled, and analyzed by the committee and answers were revealed.

The conclusion of the Discernment Committee was that our parish wants a priest, whether part-time or full-time, to be a thoughtful and inspiring preacher who can embrace all parishioners with enthusiasm and joy 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, we want a priest who will "know" us, not just in sickness or crisis, but in health as well. We seek a spiritual leader who is compassionate, a listener and who has a good sense of humor.

A Vestry task force has looked at the various roles and responsibilities of parish life and has allocated them between laity and clergy to see if our desire for a less than full time rector is reasonable. The conclusion was that it is. In addition to discussions about a potential move to less than full-time clergy, discussions about the roles and responsibilities analysis were also offered to the entire parish.

As a result, there is consensus among our parish that our next Rector or priest-in-charge will be asked to spend approximately twenty hours per week inspiring, refreshing and equipping us all to be messengers of God's love in the world.

We look forward to answering your questions and sharing our dreams for the future of St. Bartholomew's Church.

Sincerely,
The Search Committee