



Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Yarmouth, Maine

2022 Annual Report

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2022 Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Welcome: Dennis Fitzgibbons

Opening Prayer: offered by the Reverend Amanda Gerken-Nelson by song “Spirit of the Living God” and in words.

Meeting called to order: by Dennis Fitzgibbons

Greetings and overview from the Wardens: Dennis Fitzgibbons and Michele Johns

Dennis reviewed the agenda and the process for voting by a show of hands for this Annual Meeting. Of note, due to the ongoing pandemic, this meeting was conducted virtually for the second year in a row. Those attending were reminded to use the Zoom “chat” option for any questions pertaining to this Annual Meeting and to direct their “chat” to Harriet Davis.

Affirmation:

The affirmation for all those attending and intending to vote was read by Michele Johns as follows:

“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.”

Motion/Vote to accept 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Harriet Davis requested a motion to accept the minutes from last year’s Annual Meeting, as printed in the 2021 Annual Report. So moved by Laurie Hyndman. Seconded by Don Massey. Approved by all.

Presentation of 2022 Budget—Ann Donaghy

Ann stated St. Bart’s was blessed with a highly successful stewardship campaign, and all staff positions have been filled. The 2022 budget will support all ministries in much stronger ways. She explained that all utility expenses have increased, and this is reflected in the budget. There is the hope to end this fiscal year on the positive side with a cushion in excess of \$8K to cover unknowns; any remaining funds will go into St. Bart’s reserves.

The 2022 Budget was shared on the Zoom screen.

Question/Answer period on budget: There were no questions asked.

Motion to accept the 2021 Budget as presented made by Harriet Davis. Seconded by Paule French. Approved by all.

Present slate for Vestry and nominations for delegates to the Maine Diocesan Convention:

Dennis presented the proposed slate of nominees for the Vestry and Delegates to the Diocesan Annual Convention.

The Nominating Slate included:

Vestry Officers--Senior Warden: Michele Johns, Junior Warden: Laurie Hyndman, Treasurer: Ann Donaghy, Assistant 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 the Diocesan Annual Convention in October of 2022—Sarah Covie, Harriet Davis, Anne Jacobs.

Nominations were solicited from the floor. There were no additional nominations.

Motion and vote to close the nominations for Vestry and delegates to the Maine Diocesan Convention made by Don Massey. Seconded by Jamie Michaud. Approved by all.

Motion and vote to accept the slate of nominees for Vestry and delegates to the Maine Diocesan Convention was made by Don Massey. Seconded by Dennis Fitzgibbons. Approved by all.

Message from the Senior Warden

Michele thanked all the members of the Vestry and reviewed that at last year's Annual Meeting all Vestry members "paused" their terms of service and were elected for an additional year. Michele praised Dennis for serving as Senior Warden for 3 years. The Vestry members completing terms were recognized with a gift to the charity of their choice. A gift to the Yarmouth Food Pantry was made in honor of Dennis Fitzgibbons and Susie Soule. A gift to MECASA-Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault- was made in honor of Cecilia Guecia. A gift to Camp Sunshine was made in honor of Gregg Hoerr.

Michele said she was excited to have the newly elected Vestry members join the Vestry. She also emphasized the complement of committee chairs who are continuing to fill many important lay roles and they will also support our wonderful and inspirational new spiritual leader, the Reverend Amanda Gerken-Nelson.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harriet Davis. Seconded by Dennis Fitzgibbons. Approved by all.

Meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM

Closing prayer offered by Amanda Gerken-Nelson.

*Minutes respectfully submitted,
Susan W. Peixotto, Vestry Clerk*

Warden's Report

Dear Friends,

We've had another whirlwind year at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Our new priest had not yet presided at a worship service when the COVID numbers ticked up, so the Vestry moved our worship online again. The very talented A/V Committee was called into action and Amanda began her time with us providing inspirational worship online. We were back in person by Easter, though fully masked and without coffee hour.

We persevered, moving to mask-optional attendance for both the choir and the congregation, based upon factors assessed by an able team with knowledge of public health issues. Attendance at our 9am service grew weekly throughout the year, and we welcomed several new households into our parish. The year culminated with two well-attended Christmas Eve services!

We have not seen the return of many of our young families, and this is a disappointment and concern. The Youth Education Committee's report will expand upon this, but when our Education Leader resigned unexpectedly in August, and a search did not provide any attractive candidates for the position, we decided to try a different approach and start a new search this coming summer.

In addition to welcoming Amanda, we have a new Parish Administrator, Teri Coviello, a new Music Director, Dr. Christina Edelen, a new Deacon, Corey Walmer, and an intern, Mary Curlew! This new team is working well together, and we are all benefiting from their contributions.

Both Amanda and our lay leadership have worked hard to manage our parish life within the parameters of her 20 hour per week contract, this first year of our "great experiment" of being a full-time church with a part-time priest. All have risen to the occasion, though Amanda's enthusiasm and love for our community made it impossible for her not to exceed the 20-hour time constraint. An ad-hoc "on-boarding" committee has transitioned into a Mutual Ministry Committee, meeting regularly with Amanda to support her and to adjust the responsibility grid developed before her hire where appropriate. At their recommendation, the Vestry increased the hours Amanda will be paid to 25 per week for the coming year and we will continue to monitor the needs of our congregation and the demands on her time.

We hope that you will read with interest the committee reports that follow. We thank the lay leadership of this parish who have continued to provide their time and talent to enthusiastically collaborate with our very talented and equally enthusiastic staff to provide all of us with a vibrant parish life. Our thanks to you all.

*Respectfully submitted,
Your Wardens,
Laurie and Michele*

Treasurer's Report

2022 Financial Results

We are happy to report that the financial health of St. Bart's remains strong. We ended 2022 with surplus funds from operations of \$14,700, which was transferred into our reserve account. Most of the numbers for our income and expense categories stayed pretty close to the approved budget numbers. Our income was higher than planned as a few new pledges were added during the year, and visitors and new members added generously to plate income. In the fall, the vestry voted to increase the amount available for Outreach as the need for housing in the community is great, and, we had the income to support an increase. Additionally, the vestry voted to pay "gifts of gratitude" at year end to Amanda, Christina and Teri, in recognition of the many ways they have each contributed to the well-being of our parish.

Missing from our Operating Results is the activity in our other funds, summarized in the bottom half of the Cash Accounts & Fund Balances Report. Included in this Annual Report, you will hear from the Committee Chairs for the Memorial Garden, Building & Grounds, Outreach and Endowment. Their reports describe the activity during 2022 that were financially supported by the respective funds whose balances you see on this report.

Lastly, you will note that the cash position for St. Bart's continues to be strong. Our main operating account at Bath Savings ended the year with a balance of \$106,607, thanks in large part to a year end boost of \$54,711 from 14 families who pre-paid their pledge for 2023. The balance in our Vanguard account, while down during the year from losses in the stock market, is still healthy at \$196,007. The Finance Committee reviews the investment strategy for these funds annually, and currently maintains an asset mix of 70% stocks and 30% bonds.

2023 Budget

The vestry is happy to present the proposed 2023 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:

- Pledge income of \$247,626 as currently recorded
- Slight increase in Restricted Music & Flower contributions to reflect increased music programs planned
- Other income similar to prior years
- Salary costs assume:
 - Priest at 25 hours/week
 - 5% salary increase for Music Director and Parish Administrator at their anniversary date
 - Education Coordinator starting in August
- Full year and expanded services from our bookkeeper
- Increased costs expected for electricity and propane due to price increases
- Allocation to BG&E Reserves of \$21,000
- Increased costs in Church Program areas reflect our full return to regular, ongoing programs plus more robust programming (including new initiatives from our committee chairs)
- Charitable gifts from operations of \$2,000. (Additional gifts from fundraising events expected to total \$19,000)
- Diocesan Assessment is based on our 2021 operating income, and reflects a one-time reduction of \$14,000 due to lower operating income that year, when our expenses were lower with no priest and we were able to transfer much of our income into reserves.

Finance Committee

The Treasurers and vestry continue to benefit from the wisdom and guidance from members of our Finance Committee. The committee meets regularly 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. Members joining the treasurers on this committee include: Peter Chandler, Tom Hyndman, Anne Jacobs, Joe Michaud, and this year we welcome Susan Garrett as we say goodbye to Bill Macleod, who is stepping down. Many thanks to all for their service.

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

Budget Summary 2023

	2022		Proposed 2023
	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Operating Income:</u>			
Pledge Payments	\$ 215,748	\$ 218,847	\$ 247,626
Plate & Unrestricted Gifts	\$ 12,000	\$ 14,088	\$ 12,000
Restricted Gifts	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,262	\$ 3,000
Hannaford card income	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,804	\$ 6,000
Event Income (Net of expenses)	\$ 15,000	\$ 15,103	\$ 13,500
Rents, Interest & Other Income	\$ 15,475	\$ 16,730	\$ 15,884
Total Operating Income	\$ 265,723	\$ 272,834	\$ 298,010
<u>Operating Expenses:</u>			
Compensation & Benefits	\$ 125,645	\$ 125,914	\$ 134,560
Contract services-Bookkeeper & technology help	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,414	\$ 8,000
Rector Support	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,969	\$ 2,225
Building & Grounds	\$ 29,615	\$ 32,009	\$ 36,765
Allocation to building/equipment reserves	\$ 21,454	\$ 21,454	\$ 21,000
Office & Admin	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,431	\$ 16,000
Church Programs	\$ 14,500	\$ 8,053	\$ 20,000
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 37,951	\$ 37,951	\$ 24,016
Outreach	\$ 10,000	\$ 13,600 *	\$ 2,000 *
Misc Expense	\$ -	\$ 1,054	\$ 2,000
Clergy transition	\$ -	\$ 285	\$ -
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 256,915	\$ 258,134	\$ 266,566
Net change to operating reserves	\$ 8,808	\$ 14,700	\$ 31,444
Transferred to operating reserves	\$ (8,808)	\$ (14,700)	\$ (31,444)
Net balance	-	-	-
* Additional Outreach funds from dedicated fundraising events (Lobster Bake, Art Show)----->			
		\$ 19,869	\$ 19,000

Cash & Fund Accounts 12/31/22

	Balance 12/31/2021			Balance 12/31/2022	
<u>Cash Accounts:</u>					
Main Operating Account (BSI)	73,119			106,607	
Rector's Discretionary (BSI)	827			1,587	
Hannaford Card (BSI)	3,000			3,228	
Vanguard Funds	227,309			196,007	
Fidelity Endowment	54,426			47,197	
		<u>Additions</u>	<u>Withdrawals</u>		
<u>Fund Balances:</u>					
Front Garden	1,177			1,177	
Memorial Garden	11,509	750	1,403	10,856	
Building, Grounds & Equipment (B,G &E)	45,251	23,454	34,036	34,669	
Unrestricted Reserve Fund	203,750	14,700	31,301	187,149	withdrawals reflect capital losses
Outreach Fund	-	19,689	19,689	-	
Rector's Discretionary Fund	827	1,374	344	1,857	
Endowment Fund	54,426	1,100	8,329	47,197	withdrawals reflect capital losses

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

Priest's Report

"Grace to you and peace from God our Parent and Jesus Christ our Sovereign. I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

--(Philippians 1:2-6)

Paul's introduction to his letter to the congregation in Philippi captures so well the sentiment I wish to convey in this report – gratitude, appreciation, joy, and hope! I am immensely grateful to have been called to serve as the Priest in Charge here at St. Bart's and am honored to have been invited so tenderly into your community this past year.

It's almost hard to believe that my first month of services at St. Bart's were rapidly moved online as the delta variant of COVID moved through our community, and the final month of 2022 brought us two, in-person Christmas Eve services where we welcomed over 180 people into our building to celebrate the newborn Prince of Peace. We will never be *back* to normal, COVID will continue to be an aspect of our community and ministry that we will have to contend with, but this time of trial and challenge has shown us how both old and new expressions of who we are as community can come together to create who we are today – and it is strikingly beautiful.

In this first year, I have met regularly with an on-boarding committee made of up former and current Vestry members who have been a sounding board and check-in partner as we navigate the newness of this call and the challenges and gifts of part-time ministry. I have been ever so attentive to my hours and to the demands of our ministries and through conversation and reflection with the on-boarding committee and the Vestry, I am grateful that my hours will be increased to 25 in 2023. In 2023, the on-boarding committee will take on a new name, the "Mutual Ministry Committee," but the purpose will remain mostly the same: to be a sounding board and space for reflection and feedback.

The St. Bart's community was blessed beyond measure to have the leadership of the Transitional Worship Committee while you had no priest, and I am so grateful to these leaders for guiding me through the preparation and curation of worship here at St. Bart's for the first half of last year. I am excited to take on the responsibility of my role as Priest in Charge to lead this ministry of our community and the addition of new committee members and Christina Edelen as our Music Director has been a blessing.

Starting in September, I began hosting a weekly Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10 am. There has been a group of 8-10 individuals who regularly attend, and our conversation is rich. We are reading the book of Genesis one chapter each week – this is a slow pace and that is intentional! Our goal is not to have an academic experience of the Bible but a transformational,

relational one. We gain insights by what we notice, what we previously have learned, what the notes in our Bible teach us, and what others in the group share. Bible Study is designed to be welcoming to folks who come regularly as well as folks who can only drop in from time to time. If you haven't attended yet and are available on a Wednesday at 10 am, please join us!

I continue to hold Office Hours on Tuesdays from noon to 3pm. And I am glad that folks know that they can also reach out to me on my other working days for meetings outside of those hours. I have had wonderful opportunities for connection and pastoral care with many of our members. I have delighted in meeting periodically with many of our members who reside at Ocean View as a group and have so enjoyed the one-on-one moments of connection with our homebound members. My thanks to the Pastoral Care Committee for their ever-attentive care and consideration of our community. It's a joy to work with you!

In 2022, we said goodbye to St. Bart's long-time Parish Admin, Meredith Mazur, and to our Youth Ministry Coordinator, Michelle Betz. The ways each of these staff members enriched our ministries at St. Bart's is immeasurable. In July we welcomed our new Parish Admin, Teri Coviello, and in September our new Music Director, Dr. Christina Edelen. In September we also installed the Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer as St. Bart's Deacon and welcomed Mary Curlew as our pastoral intern. It's never easy when all a church's staff and leadership are new, but my oh my is it exciting! Each new staff member brings with them such incredible experience and expertise – we are truly blessed!

In terms of pastoral duties, in 2022 I presided over the memorial services for Ellen van Pelt Wells (7/2/22) and Jessie Moore (9/17/22) and the interment of ashes in our Memorial Garden for Ellen Wells as well as Nancy and Harold Hopkins (7/5/22). I baptized Grace Katherine Albert (11/27/22) on our first Sunday in Advent.

As a Lutheran minister serving an Episcopal church, I am balancing the responsibilities I have to both denominations and am appreciating the perspective of "the other side" in many respects, while also relishing the opportunity to bring some of my Lutheran traditions and ideas into this context.

My goals for my first year were to preach the gospel and to get to know the people of St. Bart's. For 2023, I'm not sure I have specific goals, but two words come to mind: depth and creativity. After a year in the St. Bart's community, I have had the ability to get to know so many of our members and in 2023, I'd like to focus on the depth of those relationships and the depth of our spiritual connection as a community. I'd also like to infuse more and different opportunities for creativity in our worship and spiritual life as a community. I don't have specific ways that I'd like to do all of this just yet, but I pray that the Spirit will guide me and us in this work.

Thank you for an amazing year! I look forward to all that 2023 will bring. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Respectfully Submitted

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson, Priest in Charge

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pastoral Care Committee

The Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) mission is as follows:
... 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.



Support for Parishioners

The seven members of the PCC contact parishioners regularly and offer support for those in need. Communication is through e-mails (pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org), phone calls, church services/events, and walks. In 2022, monthly Spirit Walks were initiated by St. Bart's member Celeste Pascarella who began planning with Susie Peixotto and Amanda.

Parishioners are encouraged to contact anyone on the committee when they are facing challenges and seek support. Inquiries are confidential. Pastoral Care emergencies should be referred to Amanda or the Committee chairs.

The Pastoral Care Committee adopted a prayer list policy in 2022, which is outlined on the church web page:

https://www.stbartsyarmouth.org/uploads/1/3/6/6/136632817/prayer_list.6.13.22.pdf

Requests to add a name to the prayer list may be submitted directly to a PCC member, the Pastoral Care e-mail, or the Church office. Committee members will check-in with parishioners periodically for updates and support.

Healing Services and Prayers

Monthly healing services were offered through most of 2022. The Worship Committee recommended that the healing service be offered on the fifth Sunday of applicable months starting in the fall. Corey Walmer and Mary Curlew designed a morning prayer healing service for October 30th with the PCC members participating in various roles. Healing services will be offered quarterly (months with 5 Sundays). Alternate months will include lighting the orange candle for victims of gun violence and offering individual healing prayers in the chapel on the first Sunday of the month.

Eucharist Visits

The Pastoral Care Committee participated in the Safe Churches training program required by the National Episcopal Church and Maine Diocese. Members also read [A Manual for Eucharistic Visitors](#) by Beth Wickenberg Ely and attended a three-hour training session offered by Amanda. On November 20th, Amanda commissioned six PCC members as licensed Eucharist Visitors. Eucharist visits will be done in pairs, in accordance with Safe Church practices. PCC members are reaching out to parishioners to schedule Eucharist visits and requests may be submitted to committee members or through the Pastoral Care e-mail.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The St. Bart's Knitters, led by Liza Chandler, provided 32 lap robes, baby blankets, and shawls, including three shawls generously donated by the Mother of Purl Yarn Shop in Freeport. Blessing shawls by the congregation was reinstated in the fall. The Pastoral Care Committee distributed 19 items during 2022. Two (2) were given to the Diocese for distribution to high school seniors and two were given in gratitude to Anne Fowler and Meredith Mazur for their dedicated service to the Pastoral Care Committee and St. Bart's Knitters. The Pastoral Care Committee is grateful for the generous gifts received for this vital ministry. Requests for a shawl may be made to PCC members or through the PCC e-mail.

Memorial and Funeral Services

In 2022, the PCC provided logistical support to families planning a memorial/funeral service and assistance on the day of the service. Committee chairs have worked with Amanda and Teri to develop checklists to be used in planning future services.

Leadership Initiative

Committee chairs participated in the Leadership meetings held in 2022. The vestry supported the idea of having a public event/presentation on a Pastoral Care topic in 2023. Conversations have been initiated with Susie Peixotto, Steve Hahn, Kathy Abernathy, Barbara, and Amanda to develop a program focused on mental health. Planning for a spring event will continue in 2023.

We thank the members of the Committee for their dedication, compassion, and service to St. Bart's.

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

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

Coffee Hour

2022 began with Zoom Sunday services due to the rapid rise of Covid cases, and even when we resumed in-person services, we did not resume coffee hours until June. Outside coffee hours on the deck continued all Summer and into mid-October (with no rainouts!) when we moved gatherings inside. Since then, we have successfully enjoyed a coffee hour each Sunday following the service, and we hope this will continue throughout 2023.

My heartfelt thanks to the wonderful volunteers who planned, created, and served the 2022 coffee hours: Kathy Abernathy, Barbara Barhydt, Mary Calvin, Peter Chandler, Sarah Covie,

Linda Draper, Nancy Gunzelmann & Ann Donaghy, Carol Hayes, Pam Hobson, Michele Johns, Jamie & Joe Michaud, Jay Reighley, Imelda Schaefer, Peter Sillin, Susan Soule, and Susie Soule.

Coffee hour normally happens 50 Sundays a year (excluding Christmas and Easter), which requires about 87 hosting duty slots to be filled, since most Sundays need two hosts. I do not assign people; hosts choose the Sundays that work for them. The people named above are faithful hosts, but they need your help! Contact me to learn what is involved and to choose a Sunday that works for you. Remember that coffee hour is essential in creating a connected church community that welcomes visitors and newcomers.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Michaud, Coffee Hour Chairperson*

Adult Education

Calendar and Attendance

Epiphany—Reading and Discussion series on the theme “Something to Follow” on Sundays at 3:30, which mixed in-person and online formats and drew 6-8 participants in January/February 2022.

Lent—Listening and Discussion series based on recorded lectures (personal collection of Rob Neal) by the theologian Clarence Thomas (founder of Koinonia Farms) on “The Power of Parables” similarly drew an audience of 6-8 on Sunday afternoons.

Early Summer—a Film Showing of “The Cotton Patch Gospel” (a musical based on the story of Clarence Thomas and Koinonia Farms) on June 10 did not draw a large audience but received an enthusiastic response to those who did attend.

In September, St. Bart’s responded to an invitation from the Maine Council of Churches and the BTS Center to participate in the reception and discussion of the book *The 7 Deadly Sins of White Christian Nationalism* in a webinar followed by a bi-weekly discussion group drew a strong response of twelve people ordering the book and 8-10 people participating in each session. While the book was not critically acclaimed by participants, the discussion was productive and led to a resolution for further engagement, to be continued. Throughout the Fall, a Wednesday morning Bible Study group led by Amanda drew an audience of 10-12 weekly as scheduled.

Advent—Reading and Discussion series on the theme “Parables, Poems, and Persons: What is the Value of a Life?” that was scheduled for Tuesday late afternoons was less successful in gaining an audience of 4-7 people per session with the last session being cancelled.

Narrative

A new initiative in Adult Education at St. Bart's was undertaken beginning in August-September 2021 with a charge from the Vestry and a meeting between Stephen Hahn, Rob Neal, and Elizabeth Ring. Offerings were developed under the variable conditions of COVID-19 restrictions (mixing in-person, online, and masked unmasked formats), and the absence of a Priest-in-Charge. Sessions were developed on an experimental basis with attention to a previous survey on parish needs and interests in community outreach. The offerings drew on the interests, expertise and experiences of the three members of the committee.

The committee continued to plan for the latter part of 2022-23 in late summer, following the appointment of our part-time Priest-in-Charge, Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson. The outline of the committee's plans had been determined when the opportunity arose for parishes in the Diocese of Maine to participate in a joint project of reading and discussing a new book on *The 7 Deadly Sins of White American Nationalism* (described above) and a weekly Bible Study group was established by Rev. Amanda.

As the parish resumed fuller operations in Fall 2022, regularly scheduled mid-week worship services were instituted. A previously scheduled session of Adult Education on the previously established model (Epiphany 2022) of contemporary response to biblical themes and the liturgical calendar, now offered as a weekday evening event with weaker participation. Inquiries to persons with established interests in the prior year indicated an inconvenience in the timing and conflicts with events both within and outside the parish, which had multiplied since the lifting of pandemic restrictions. At the same time, the response to the sessions on the release of the book indicated a continuing strong interest in that focus and timing.

As we look toward the calendar year 2023, it is evident that the committee needs to consider the timing, content, and purpose of offerings to use the time and talents of presenters and participants wisely and well. The committee also looks forward to feedback in addition to what it has already received on these matters, and for further clarification about parish mission and direction for guidance in the future. Substantive planning is taking place to continue with the program stimulated by *The 7 Deadly Sins of White American Nationalism* as well as the proposed session on Anglican/Episcopal identity during Lent 2023.

*Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,
Stephen Hahn, Chair
Committee members Rob Neal and Elizabeth Ring*

Youth Education Committee

This year continued to bring challenges with providing an in-person Sunday School experience for our youth. The Education Committee has remained committed to utilizing creative and varied approaches to help support our families in faith and community. Many thanks to the teachers who have signed up and taught this year to help our youth grow in their spiritual formation. Thanks also to our terrific teenagers who have been providing day care service.

The beginning of the year we were still offering online lessons to our children until we felt comfortable having children back in the classroom once the pandemic subsided. Our Youth Education Leader, Michelle Betz, continued to offer remote homilies to mirror our pre-pandemic Sunday School experience and lectionary-based curriculum. We were able to return to in-person Sunday School class in April, just in time for the Easter season and continued to offer Sunday School through mid-June with the end of the school year.

The pandemic had a major influence on the decline of families returning to church and Sunday school. The committee met with the wardens and Rev. Amanda in the fall to discuss the best way to continue supporting our youth of all ages. Our discussions took into consideration the new Vision and Strategies formed by committee heads and approved by the Vestry. We also recognized the challenges of finding a new Youth Education Leader and teachers to serve every Sunday. One of our goals is to expand Youth offerings outside of the Sunday church service schedule, since families find it challenging to participate every Sunday morning. We developed a new plan in supporting our youth for this school year:

- Every month we will hold Sunday School classes as usual on the first Sunday of the month.
 - Our desire is to have this be the one “special” Sunday that families could reserve for their children to be at church.
- During the third week of the month we will offer a special event for youth participation, primarily on a Saturday afternoon or evening. These events will range from fellowship to Outreach volunteering to family fun events.

For this school year, our special events have included a contradance in November, and the Lessons and Carols service and Christmas Eve family service in December. Plans for 2023 include a sledding day, a family Spirit Walk, a day of volunteer service, and a Sea Dogs game.

We are excited to see some new families joining us in the new year and will continue to modify our offerings as the year progresses to meet the needs of our families as we continue to support our youths’ spiritual journey.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Music

Although I have only been working at St Bart's for a little over 4 months, it has been an active and fulfilling period. Prior to my time working as Music Director, for the period January-July 2022, I cannot report first hand on the musical activities at the church. It is my understanding that for the first part of the year, the choir continued to operate in a more limited capacity due to Covid restrictions, and that only from around the time of late Lent/Easter, was the choir able to sing together again in Sunday services. Although I signed my employment contract with St Bart's in December 2021, the church very graciously gave me the first half of 2022 to move from the Netherlands to Maine. During this period, Dr. John Schuder very capably served the church as Interim Music Director.

After a summer hiatus, the choir enthusiastically returned to singing together in the last week of August 2022. Fred and I were very warmly welcomed into the life of the church, and we have felt immediately at home, both musically and personally. After several years of uncertainty and isolation due to Covid, it was clear that the choir, and the entire church, were ready to embrace a busy musical agenda!

Rehearsing on Wednesday evenings, the choir has since sung continuously for all Sunday morning services, with the exception of a few special musical days. On October 2nd, we sang a special afternoon, outdoor service for the blessing of the animals, including cello music. On October 23rd, the choir led a beautiful service of Choral Evensong; November 27th Fred and I offered an Advent Concert, raising money for the Choir and Music fund; December 18th was a festive Service of Nine Lessons and Carols—a shining moment for the choir! Also in Advent, there were four Wednesday evening Advent services; and the organ builders came from Andover, MA to put our wonderful organ in top condition. The last choral service of 2022 was the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve service. The choir and I took the week after Christmas to rest and rejuvenate and resumed singing again on January 8, 2023.

The choir and I look forward to continuing to rebuild the musical life of the church, post Covid, in 2023. We have plans to work toward several more Choral Evensong services, in Lent and Early Summer. Most essentially, we look forward to continuing to deepen and enrich the inspiring worship at St Bart's through the music we can offer. Thank you, again, for such a warm welcome here!

*Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Christina Edelen, Director of Music*

Membership/Newcomers Committee

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. With the arrival of our new priest in January, the Committee set up several Sundays for all who were interested to meet Rev. Amanda after the service. In June, we held our first official "Newcomers

Welcome” coffee hour and repeated it again in November. Both were well received and well attended.

In August we organized another very successful curb-side Lobster Bake (more than 100 dinners served!) thanks to Jeff Diggins and his team. All the proceeds went to our Outreach community partners.

In the fall, we joined in the newly created Priority Initiatives Program approved by the Vestry. Together with the Education and Outreach Committees, the Membership Committee will be involved in planning 4 events during the academic calendar year, designed to engage some or all of the congregation. The first of these events was a very successful all-ages contradance held in November.

Members of the Committee continue to monitor the Guest Book in the entryway to the church and take turns writing brief notes of welcome to all who sign. We also keep an eye out for new service attendees so that they may be welcomed verbally.

In January 2023, we will recognize the culmination of 2022’s work by officially welcoming 11 new households as Members of St. Bart’s during a Sunday service.

*Respectfully submitted,
Susie Soule and Anne Berg, Co-chairs*

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee helps our congregation grow into a faithful community where stewardship is a way of life. During 2022 we asked six parishioners involved in local organizations outside our building (and involved in church committees) to describe volunteer opportunities. They made presentations at the end of Sunday services which inspired people to get involved.

As usual, the Committee members’ biggest job was to prepare for and conduct the pledge campaign for the 2023 St. Bart’s operating budget. We used the Fall 2022 St. Bart’s “Reweaving Our Community” theme as our campaign theme. We began the annual pledge campaign in early November with the help of Amanda in her Sunday sermon. During the following weeks Elizabeth Ring, Dennis Fitzgibbon, Linda Perkins, and Kathy Abernathy also shared testimonials focused on Reweaving Our Community. Their heartfelt personal stories inspired us.

The Stewardship Committee in 2022 comprised Paule French, Michele Johns, Lucia Hunt, Jamie Michaud, and John Duncan. In early October we mailed two letters, a financial report, a draft 2023 budget, and a pledge card to all our households. With the help of the Vestry and additional volunteers (Bill MacLeod, Pam Hobson, Tom Hyndman, Gary Sylvester, Phil Chin, Pamela Higgins, and Joe Michaud) we attempted to contact each of those households to answer questions and encourage the completion of pledges so that our Treasurer and the Finance Committee could prepare a realistic 2023 budget for approval, first by the Vestry, and

then, by the parish at our annual meeting. We were pleased that so many people conveniently submitted their **pledges on-line**, and thereby simplified the process for all involved.

We are all grateful for the robust parish total pledges of \$247,626 for 2023 – a 13% increase over 2022 (which was a 6% increase over 2021). Here are some details for the 77 pledges: 31 households pledged the same as they did for 2022, eight are new households, 31 households increased their pledge, and seven decreased their pledges. Seven 2022 pledgers did not pledge for 2023.

We believe the message is clear: The enthusiasm and commitment we have been seeing as we “reweave our St. Bart’s community” includes our commitment to share our treasure, as well. Thank you very much.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Duncan for the Stewardship Committee*

Altar Guild Committee

In 2022 the Altar Guild facilitated our in-person services. We cared for the linens, chalices, and patens that we use for worship. We now have a new, customized fair linen to replace a stained one. We have on order but have not yet received a new Paschal candle. We also provided the consumable goods, wine, bread, oils, and candles used for our services. In addition, we have welcomed two new members--Mary Louise Chin and Jennifer Willard. We also have added a bread baker, Chrystena Hahn.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Perkins, Co-Director*

Altar Flowers

With Rev Amanda Gerken-Nelson on board as of January and with CDC guidelines in place for safe gatherings, St. Bartholomew’s had a full Sunday Services schedule for all of 2022. With a committee of ten members, we provided arrangements every Sunday with special arrangements for Easter and Christmas and worked together creating holiday decor for our annual Christmas Fair. Mary Ann Hodsdon graciously provided the wreath used during Advent. We provided the altar arrangements and Memorial Garden flowers for three funerals observed at St. Bart’s. Arrangements are provided at the members’ own expense, but reimbursement is possible for funeral arrangements.

We welcome new members at any time so please contact me directly,

*Respectfully submitted,
Imelda Schaefer – Chair*

Transitional Worship Committee

In January 2022, the Transitional Worship Committee (TWC) welcomed the Reverend Amanda Gerken-Nelson to its membership and work. During the first eight months of the year, committee members continued to participate in the creation of services, contributing content and planning seasonal components, incorporating traditional and non-traditional liturgies. Coordination with the Music Director, Flower Committee, Bread Bakers, Altar Guild and the Pastoral Care Committee was an essential part of creating meaningful worship services. The TWC was also actively involved in organizing the service schedule, that is, which Sunday might be Morning Prayer or a Healing Service.

With input from the Pastoral Care Committee, Amanda led the committee in the initial expansion and revision of the Healing Service. Highly successful mid-week Lenten Services, created and led by Amanda, were added during this period.

Members of the TWC found the work spiritually fulfilling and experienced real joy in working together. Nevertheless, at the end of August, the Transitional Worship Committee found its work done, evolving quietly into the more traditional Worship Committee which, with new membership, now exists.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jan Burson, Chair, TWC*

Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee is up and running! Members include Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson, Organist/Choir Director Christina Edelen, Altar Guild Liaison Linda Perkins, Deacon Cory Walmer, and Vestry Liaison Lu Tingley. Under Rev. Amanda's leadership, we have successfully planned more "out of the box" services, such as the Wednesday Lenten services, Evensong, and a Carols and Lessons service, all of which were well attended. As we are "St. Bart's", we are exploring a few new prayers, hymns, and ways to celebrate Christ!

The WMC has followed on the footsteps of the very successful Transitional Worship Committee. (See TWC report above.) TWC members in 2022 included Jan Burson, Jay Reighley, Chrys Hahn and Vestry Liaison Lu Tingley. We kept TWC working for Rev. Amanda's first six months, after which she formed the Worship and Music Committee which is what we are celebrating with now!

*Respectfully submitted,
Lu Tingley*

Tech A/V Committee

The audio-visual team ensures that the congregation at St. Bart's can hear the service, and that those at home can see and hear the full service. The service can be seen live on our website as well as on Facebook, and then is available as a recording in both places. The A/V team occasionally does special projects, such as the recorded message and music for Christmas Day, and the Zoom online service for the annual meeting.

In September, thanks to a Diocesan Digital Grant, special microphones were installed in the choir loft to vastly improve the sound of the organ and choir for those participating remotely.

The A/V team consists of Pal Covie, Laurie Hyndman, Joe Michaud, Peter Sillin, and Arthur Wolverton, with an assist by Liza Chandler in the choir loft switching camera angles. If you are interested in joining, contact Joe Michaud.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joe Michaud*

Memorial Garden

We begin this report with an acknowledgement of the many volunteer gardening hours that benefit the Memorial Garden, especially in the busy spring months and the wrapping up months in the fall. Our thanks to all the Lay Weeders who come on workdays, and sometimes on their own, to tend the garden. And equal thanks go to those dedicated Pine Needle Collectors who rake and bag up fallen pine needles to spread on the garden pathways and around the plantings.



There were two interments of ashes this year, both early in July: Ellen Wells, and The Rt. Rev. Harold Hopkins (known to us as “Hoppy”) and his wife Nancy. The total number of interments now stands at 36.

As with all gardens, vigilance is needed to keep weeds at bay and plantings divided. We have an abundance of ferns and ginger, and invite anyone who is interested to dig up a clump or two for home gardens. This past summer, three dwarf blueberry bushes were planted in a new section of the garden where a large white pine once stood. The “Donald Wyman” crabapple trees that were planted in 2021, though just a year old, bloomed beautifully in May.

Additional information and reservation forms are available from the parish office.

*Respectfully submitted,
Liza Chandler and Margaret Betts*

Grounds & Buildings

St. Bart's building and grounds enjoyed increased use and attention as we joyfully moved into full in-person services and gatherings in 2022.

Many of us gathered for two workdays, in April and November, to tidy the grounds as the seasons changed, and enjoy time together. Please join us when those days come around in 2023. A loyal rotation of volunteers handles mowing each week in summer and sidewalk-clearing in winter. They are Peter Chandler, John Duncan, David Heald, Joe Michaud, Ben Redfield, and Ed Simmons (see Joe Michaud if you'd like to join).

As the facilities age, we faced needed repairs and maintenance in 2022. Some of the major work done last year: Repaving the sidewalk, sealing and striping the parking lot, replacing the signpost, repairing a broken thermal window in the "steeple" (and a second one just broke), painting the shed, and sewer system repairs. In 2023, the sewer system will need additional work, and we are looking to future needs in roofing and other systems. Many thanks to the support of St. Bart's members in stewardship, and for the new capital funding in the budget to anticipate and handle these expenses, which go beyond the normal operating funds.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joe Michaud and Liza Chandler, co-chairs*

Endowment Committee

Current members of the Endowment Committee are: Ed Simmons, Chair; Abby Diggins; Bill Macleod; Vince Damasco; Peter Chandler. The purpose of the Endowment Committee is to help fund special parish programs as needed and requested. (It was not established to balance the yearly operating budget of St. Bart's.) Only the Endowment Committee has the power to authorize disbursements from the fund. The fund is held at Fidelity and currently is invested in the Vanguard Growth and Income Fund and has a balance of approximately \$48,000.

Members of St. Bart's are encouraged to consider donating to the endowment fund either directly or by including it in their estate plan. This could be by naming St. Bart's in your will, or as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, IRA, life insurance or trust. Any specific questions can be answered by a member of the committee. Also, there are brochures available in the narthex that describe the various ways to give to the endowment. This past year we received two gifts to the endowment fund. Our short-term goal is to build the endowment to \$100,000.

*Respectfully submitted,
Edward Simmons*

Nominating Committee

Slate of Names for Nomination

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:

- Deborah Wathen-Finn
- Kathy Alexander
- Lu Tingley (nominated for a second term)

New Vestry members to serve 3-year term:

- Pal Covie
- Anne Jacobs
- Mike Perfetti

Delegates to Diocesan Annual Convention October 2022:

- Sarah Covie
- Harriet Davis
- Anne Jacobs

Below are the bios of the three new vestry members and one renewing member for a second term nominated by the committee.

New and Renewing Vestry Member Bios

Anne Jacobs is a cradle Episcopalian, baptized by her grandfather, the Rector at Christ Church in Westerly, RI. She grew up in Providence RI, went to Middlebury College, and then lived in New York City for 25 years. Her career was in corporate and international taxation, and she was a CPA. She met her husband Chris, and they raised their two sons, Chester and Bill, in the city until they realized family life in Maine made a lot more sense. On their first visit to St. Bart's in 2003, they were warmly greeted by Pam Hobson of the Newcomers Committee and promptly ended their church search! Anne worked at the IRS in South Portland until retiring in 2019. The Jacobs extended family frequents a summer camp on Southport. Anne is an active volunteer at St. Bart's and in the larger community. She is currently Chair of the Board of St. Elizabeth's Jubilee Center.

Pal Covie was born and raised in Midcoast Maine, the youngest of three children. They were an active child and involved in playing and coaching sports of many kinds right through college. When at Bates College, Pal met Sarah and the two have been inseparable ever since, marrying in Burlington, VT. Living in Vermont, coaching and beginning work in the restaurant industry culminated in a summer-long road trip, followed by a move to Portland. Work in the food industry continued, but a keen interest in being a support for youth led to study and completion of a master's degree in counseling from USM. Pal is in their second year of being a school counselor at Bonny Eagle High School. While living in Portland, Sarah and Pal visited and joined St. Bartholomew's. Though they bought a house in Buxton, we are grateful that they continue to call St. Bartholomew's their parish home. Pal has worn many hats here, including a one-year stint as our Youth Education Leader (during the pandemic shut-down), serves on the A/V Committee and on the Youth Education Committee, and is an enthusiastic instigator of fun gatherings for our parish family.

Mike Perfetti grew up in a large family in central New York. While studying music education at The Crane School of Music, SUNY Potsdam, he spent a summer in Maine, where he met Sara, a Freeport native, and they fell in love. They continued the relationship long-distance while she finished up at Colby and he at SUNY, then took off for Michigan where they married and both taught school. When it was time to raise a family, however, they decided to return to Maine and put down roots. They are now partnering to run Sara's family company, Cape Shore. The Perfetti family lives in Cumberland and have three children, the youngest of whom, Andrew, is still at home, while Hannah and Maddy attend Colby College (a sophomore, and senior, respectively). Mike is very active in his community, having served on the school board, town council, coached youth athletics, and helped to start the Cumberland Community Band, of which he is the conductor. Mike served a very important role on St. Bart's Discernment Committee and helped us lay the groundwork for our search for a part-time priest for a full-time church. We are very pleased that he can make time to be a part of the vestry for the next several years.

Lu Tingley and her husband Van joined St. Bartholomew's in 1995. They were looking for an Episcopal Church, went to one service, and never left. They immediately got involved in all sorts of activities, even painting the outside of the rector's office! Lu is a silversmith, loves sailing, skiing, kayaking, tennis and her very active pup. Her beloved husband died four years ago, and his wonderful service was held at our church. Lu continues to actively participate in outreach and fundraising activities, donating beautiful pieces of her work each year to the silent auction at the Christmas Fair. Lu served on two very important committees: the search team for our new Music Director (home run!) and the Transitional Worship Committee, which provided excellent and inspiring worship during our time of discernment through Amanda's six months of transition. Lu is ending a term on the Vestry, and currently serves on the Worship Committee. We are happy that she agreed to serve another three years!

OUTREACH REPORTS

Outreach Committee

Within this past year, two themes emerged: partnerships and impact. Many of our partnerships were with local efforts and organizations. However, in February there was a statewide initiative to help restore Wabanaki Sovereignty, which was a larger partnership of support from the Diocese and many faith communities in Maine. To follow are the year's details:

- Around the Wabanaki Sovereignty issue and LD1626, we offered parishioners an opportunity to participate in a Zoom forum, "A watch party of sorts," with a separate time to debrief and consider what was calling us to action. The result was a letter of support generated on behalf of St. Barts from both Amanda and the Vestry. We also encouraged additional individual letter writing, provided informational resources and a link to watch/re-watch the Zoom forum.
- In the spring, the New Mainer's dire housing crisis created an opportunity to partner with Yarmouth Community Services, Freeport Community Services and other local providers to better understand the situation, the challenges and the possible ways to engage and support those in critical need. This work continued through year-end.
- Over the summer and fall, we participated in local efforts to collect 400 toothpaste tubes for the St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry, large quantities of carrot bags for the Yarmouth Food Pantry's Thanksgiving boxes and created a Giving Tree to provide Christmas gifts to nearby New Mainer neighbors.
- In early December, our culminating activity was another Community Grant Making evening. Because of the critical and immediate housing crisis, we proposed a different format to help us thoughtfully determine allocation of the remaining Outreach funds (\$12,000). Two presenters from the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) and Hope Acts outlined the crisis, their creative short- and long-term responses and collaborations with other local organizations. Those present chose to support 3 efforts in larger ways. We voted as follows:
 - **Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) Safe in Maine Fund (\$2,000)** - an investment in developing longer term solutions to the systemic issues around housing and homelessness in our region.
 - **Hope Acts (\$5,000)** - a contribution towards a medium-term solution around the work permit process and its expediency.
 - **Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition (MIRC) (\$5,000)** - a way to help with current and critical housing, food and other immediate needs.

Throughout many of these efforts, we saw that our partnerships could have a larger impact through collaboration. It was also evident in the work that many organizations effectively accomplished on their own. A resounding sentiment, especially from those gathered at

the grant making evening, was to continue to find ways to engage and support those in need by more than writing a check. Our goal for 2023 is to discover and offer up those opportunities. It's beginning to happen. Please keep your eyes and ears open!

*Respectfully submitted,
Catherine Richards, Chair*

St Elizabeth's Jubilee Center & Essentials Pantry



St. E's, a Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine, operates a non-food essentials pantry located in the lower level of St. Luke's Cathedral in Portland. St. Bart's is one of eight Episcopal Churches in the Greater Portland area that sponsors St. E's. These churches provide St. E's with financial and in-kind contributions, many volunteers including board representation, and prayers for this Mission.

In recent months, St. E's has experienced a near doubling in the numbers it serves. What normally would be 150 neighbors arriving each week, is now as high as 273 due to the influx of asylum seekers. Warm winter coats, boots, hats, scarves, gloves, sox, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, bars of soap, laundry detergent, feminine pads, and blankets are among the essential items St. E's has distributed to help sustain these new Mainers during their first winter here.

Keeping up with the demand for the essentials offered in a time of rising costs has stretched our capability. But thanks to a larger number of wonderful volunteers, the amazing generosity of our sponsoring parishes, individuals like you, and other partners, St. E's has become a bigger and busier Essentials Pantry.

During 2022, St. E's distributed 51,000 diapers, 25,750 rolls of toilet paper, over 10,000 bars of body soap, 45,500 feminine pads, and enough detergent for 37,650 loads of laundry. Since September, 600 winter coats and 205 winter boots have been collected, sorted, and distributed.

St. Bart's generous donation from the Art Show was most gratefully received! St. Bart's had a very successful toothpaste drive, collecting 400 tubes of toothpaste which were blessed by Amanda before delivering to St. E's. The blue bins outside of St. Bart's office have been filled with bedding, towels, kitchen wares (pots, pans, dishes, utensils, etc.), winter coats, boots, hats, scarves, gloves, and toothpaste thanks to many of you. St. E's is extremely grateful for these many blessings.

St. E's hosted 2 successful Covid-19 vaccine clinics this summer with assistance from Carla Hunt at DHHS and other partners. St. E's also provides job search assistance.

This year, we give thanks for loyal volunteers from St. Bart's: Linda Draper, Nancy Gunzelmann, Pam Hobson, Pamela Trudo, Jan Burson, Anne Berg, Cathy Thompson, and Anne Jacobs. Linda is the volunteer coordinator and St. Bart's representative on St. E's Board. New volunteers are always welcome and may choose to work directly with our neighbors in need on Tuesday mornings, or behind the scenes on Tuesdays or other times; please contact Linda for more information (ldraper347@gmail.com).

Please visit St. E's website <https://stelizabethsmaine.org/> to learn more or speak to any of our St. Bart's volunteers!

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Jacobs (Board Chair) and Linda Draper (Board Member)

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. Bartholomew's has for more than 25 years supported this mission by preparing and delivering a meal on the third Thursday of each month for 15 residents and the house manager. Many thanks to Holly and Will Chapman, the Caruso family, Susan Soule and Don McCrann, Carla Hunt and Andrew Tonks, the Hazard family, David Platt and Janice Drinan, Mary Calvin, Linda and John Perkins, Jamie Michaud, Michele Johns and Nick Desiderio, and Catherine Richards for their culinary contributions and the time and effort it takes to make and deliver a meal.

There were 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 2022 were \$4,800 from the Art Show.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Hobson - Coordinator

YCHI (Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative) Joins NMAP

The Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative (YCHI) has joined forces with New Mainers Assistance Program (NMAP) to consolidate efforts that support New Mainers both with housing and other needs.

YCHI was founded in 2015 in response to the temporary housing shortage, due to the influx of asylum seekers in Portland. St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, First Universalist Church Yarmouth, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints collaborated on this effort. We partnered with the City of Portland, Chestnut Street Family Shelter and Maine Medical Center to house families and mothers with newborns who could not be adequately housed through the shelter. From 2015 to 2020, over 50 families (well over 150 individuals) were housed with families living in Yarmouth, North Yarmouth, and Cumberland. We provided a welcoming sanctuary for families while connecting them to resources to support their health and wellbeing. Once housing became available, families were transitioned to apartments or rooms at the Chestnut Street Family Shelter. YCHI followed families into permanent housing, ensuring that homes were furnished, and other material needs were provided for. Relationships have continued with those who chose to stay in Maine and even with some who have moved outside of Maine.

YCHI expanded to include ESL classes at the Merrill Memorial Library and Mother's Circles at the Chestnut Street Family Shelter in partnership with Birth Roots. YCHI partnered with First Universalist Church Yarmouth to develop housing for 4 single adults in the former church parsonage. YCHI also provided leadership during the mass influx of asylum seekers in 2018 at the Portland Expo, partnering with MIRC, GPCOG and others to help communities stand up temporary housing efforts across Maine. As COVID-19 took hold, YCHI ensured that families had the essentials to protect against the virus including access to masks, thermometers, testing and vaccines.

NMAP has stepped into this space to consider long term housing strategies for this latest wave of new arrivals. YCHI joins in this effort, maintaining the YCHI name and working under the 501c3 status of NMAP. We will continue to support new arrivals and are excited about this collaboration.

Carla Hunt and Peter Sillin join the NMAP board to continue to expand upon the work along with NMAP board members Rachel Houlihan, Executive Director, Grace Tezo and Michael Burgmaire.

Please feel free to reach out to Peter Sillin: sillin@gmail.com or Carla Hunt: musseit@yahoo.com to learn more.

To donate to YCHI through NMAP: Checks can be mailed to: NMAP, 23 Ledgewood Dr. Yarmouth, ME 04096 (Place YCHI in the memo line.)

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Hunt

Yarmouth Food Pantry

The Yarmouth Community Food Pantry had a busy 2022 serving over 60 families a month during open hours which are Tuesday and Friday 10 am - noon. The pantry delivers to over 20 families which is an increase from 2021. 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 and come to the Pantry door to pick up a bag of food. 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 the St. Bart's members that volunteer at the pantry doing so many important jobs including distribution of food during regular open pantry hours, delivering food weekly to families, picking up donated and rescued food from Good Shepard Food Bank, Hannaford and more, helping with food drives and contributing food to the Thanksgiving and Holiday food baskets.

If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation, don't hesitate to reach out to Anne Ball, anneball@maine.rr.com. The pantry is grateful for all the ways St. Barts members contribute and support the pantry. We couldn't do it without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Ball, Member
Yarmouth Community Food Pantry Steering Committee

Spring 2022 Youth Service Program

Each spring the Youth program at St. Bart's chooses a community outreach organization to support. This year we chose the emergency domestic violence shelter, Through These Doors, located in Portland.

The response from the congregation was so generous and we filled an incredible amount of their wish list items! Our congregation donated comforters, bed sheets, pajamas, coffee maker, coffee press, packs of diapers, potholders, underwear/bras, body wash, conditioner, lotion, deodorant and toothpaste.

Thank you for keeping the "light" of love and hope and peace shining for those experiencing domestic violence in our community!

Respectfully submitted,
The Youth Education Committee

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Our scheduled Blood Drives in 2022 were canceled due to lack of American Red Cross Staff. We are waiting to hear from the Red Cross as to when they will have enough staff for drives. We hope maybe this winter or spring.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tom Hyndman, Chair*

FUNDRAISING REPORTS

Preface

We had another very successful year with our fundraising events. Net funds from the Art Show and the Lobster Bake were donated solely in support of our Outreach programs. Thanks go to all the Chairpersons and volunteers who make these events happen.

Christmas Fair

Our annual Christmas Fair was held on December 3rd. This year, more than ever before, the magic surrounding this event was very evident. Though your Wardens were titular co-chairs, the table chairs and their volunteers, as well as volunteers who coordinated all the behind-the-scenes things that make this a well-oiled machine, didn't just make this day a success, but made the whole day a joy!

It was **not** a beautiful day, with rain falling steadily, but the Christmas spirit and the wonderful things being offered for sale, made our guests feel warm and welcome, and they eagerly purchased the goods that were all around the fair. There were so many treasures: St. Bart's famous table arrangements, wreaths, baked goods, fudge, frozen foods to take away, jewelry, books, jellies, homemade vanilla, a large variety of crafted goods, from sweaters to cuddly stuffed animals, and our special silent auction which featured both gift certificates and beautiful creations donated by our parishioners. The net for the day was a whopping \$15,380.

Our thanks to all who contributed and/or shopped!

*Respectfully submitted,
Laurie and Michele*

Art Show

St. Bart's 14th annual Yarmouth Art Festival was a great success. Over 30 volunteers -- most from St. Bart's but several from outside -- helped organize, mount and staff the show. Art lovers were in the church continuously during the show Oct. 19-22.

This show seems to have gained a reputation among artists and buyers. Nearly 700 pieces were submitted for jurying in the show from all over Maine (165 were selected for the show), and buyers were lined up at the door before opening Oct. 19. We sold 77 pieces for gross sales of \$28,882 during the in-person and online phases of the show. Sale commissions and entry fees totaled \$15,000, all to benefit Yarmouth Food Pantry, Friendship House in South Portland, and St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry in Portland.

If you're interested in being part of this year's event, contact Joe Michaud.

*Respectfully submitted,
Joe Michaud*

Lobster Bake

The Membership Committee is responsible for organizing and implementing the Lobster Bake Fund Raiser. In August we organized another very successful curb-side Lobster Bake (more than 100 dinners served!) thanks to Jeff Diggins and his team. We raised about \$4,000. All the net proceeds went to our Outreach community partner Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative.

*Respectfully submitted,
Susie Soule and Anne Berg, Co-chairs*

Hannaford Gift Card Program

2022 was another successful year for our Hannaford Gift Cards program as we earned \$5,800. We give a hearty thanks to the 31 members of the parish who participated! This year was our third-best ever – in the last two years we earned more as we ate at home much more during the first years of the pandemic.



Earning money to support St. Bart's every time you shop at Hannaford and 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.

*Respectfully submitted,
John Duncan*

2022 Parish Registry

Baptisms

Grace Katherine Albert (11/27/22)

Funerals

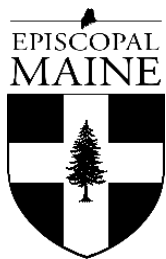
Ellen van Pelt Wells (7/2/22)

Jessie Moore (9/17/22)

Interments

Ellen van Pelt Wells (7/2/22)

Nancy and Harold Hopkins (7/5/22)



St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Yarmouth, ME A Congregation of The Episcopal Diocese of Maine

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Priest-in-Charge Email:	amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org
Music Director:	Dr. Christina Edelen
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Intern:	Mary Curlew
Sr. Warden:	Michele Johns
Jr. Warden:	Laurie Hyndman
Pastoral Care:	Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
Pastoral Care Email:	pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org
Parish Administrator:	Teri Coviello
Office Email:	admin@stbartsyarmouth.org
Office Hours:	Tue-Thur, 9-3
Telephone:	207.846.9244
Website:	www.stbartsyarmouth.org