



Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church  
Yarmouth, Maine

# 2024 Annual Report

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## 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

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**January 24, 2024,**

Following 9:30 AM worship service

Meeting opened at 10:58 AM

Hybrid format--In person and via Zoom

**Opening Prayer:** Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

**Greetings and overview from the Wardens:** Laurie Hyndman

Laurie thanked the members attending this meeting both in church and by Zoom. She reminded those present to sign the red book indicating attendance at the Annual Meeting.

**Reading of the Affirmation by:** Laurie Hyndman

The affirmation, for all those attending and intending to vote, was read by Laurie Hyndman:

“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 Episcopal Church and the Diocese of Maine.”

**Warden’s Report Summary:** Laurie Hyndman

Laurie thanked Harriet Davis and Teri Coviello for the preparation of the Annual Report.

Laurie thanked Deb Wathen Finn for her support of the Vestry and Lu Tingley for her support as well; both Vestry member stepped down before the completion of their respective terms. Laurie also thanked the members of the Executive Committee (EC) who have completed their roles: Michele Johns, Ann Donaghy and Susie Peixotto. They were recognized for their contributions on the EC.

Laurie stated that the experiment of hiring a part time priest has been very successful and should no longer be thought of in the experiment phase. She highlighted the relationships, spiritual growth, and values of St. Bart’s.

**Priest’s Report Summary:** Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Amanda began by saying a heartfelt thank you to all and recognizing that her time with St. Bart’s has paralleled growth of her son Carsten age one, and now three years old. She expressed gratitude for embracing her and her family and stated the depth of connection feels immeasurable. She added that the Mutual Ministry (MM) Committee continues to be a place for Amanda to safely check in on her role; this includes her hours worked in her part time role. She indicated feeling validated by the MM committee and the Vestry to support her 30 hour per week ministry.

Amanda said it is an incredible gift that she is not the CEO, rather she is the CFO –the Chief Faith Officer. She further stated she feels blessed to be the faith leader supported by the Wardens who take on roles that aren't in her domain. Part of the model of this church is to ask Vestry and Committee Chairs to stay energized and have to support for the importance of committee leadership transition. Amanda mentioned the importance of opportunities for continued growth and learning as evidenced by the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training in which the Vestry participated. Amanda aims for a community where people of all backgrounds and experiences are included. She emphasized that St. Bart's needs to be aware of ways for continued growth.

Amanda gave thanks to our Worship Committee –who identified values and then expanded on them; these values reflect the incredible ways that St. Bart's is different, inclusive, and caring for all

The Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) leadership and members were thanked, Amanda expressed gratitude for the depth of their caring and compassion.

Amanda encouraged parishioners to call her if they needed her support and shared her contact information by offering her business cards

She gave ongoing thanks to “the incredible staff” including Christina, Teri, Cory, and Mary.

Amanda stated her “heart sings” by coming together with worship, studies, and the ways we let God into our hearts here at church and when we go out into the Community. She reminded us that “deepen” and “creativity” were her words for 2023, and “sustenance” and “spirituality” are her words for 2024.

**Motion/Vote to accept 2023 Annual Meeting minutes:**

Laurie requested a motion to accept the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. So moved by David Elliot. Seconded by Arthur Wolverton. No Discussion. Approved by all (majority).

**Presentation of 2024 Budget and BG&E Expenditures– Ann Donaghy**

Ann stated she is seeking two votes. She thanked all for the trust parishioners placed in her for the past four years and to Anne Jacobs who stepped into the treasurer's role. Ann said she appreciated members' truth and generosity. The monies coming into the church are very, very important. The gifts to the church make it possible for the important work that is part of St. Barts.

The past year St. Bart's ended up ahead of budget. One bright spot, out of the blue, was a very generous and unexpected gift of \$10K; this gift was voted by the Vestry to go to the endowment. St. Bart's income was close to last year with some increased expenses of:

1. Amanda's increase in hours to 30 per week.
2. BG&E building and grounds expenses

3. Higher diocesan assessment -last year was an anomaly.

We have returned to more income than expenses although the margin, noted above is less.

**Question/Answer period on budget:**

Questions asked and discussions included the following:

- The plate of unrestricted gifts was very generous. That was not repeated in the budget since two of the previous generous plate givers have now made pledges.

**Motion/Vote to accept the 2024 budget as presented by:** Anne Berg. Seconded by Curt Scribner. No discussion. Approved by majority.

The Building Grounds and Equipment (BG&E) fund was created about 3 years ago with the purpose to have a fund for BG&E expenses. This has had a line item in the Annual Budget towards the BG&E fund. Now we'd like to have members review projects and vote on them. It was noted that long range BG&E plans including paving the parking lot, painting, and roof replacement. The committee is being thoughtful in our upkeep of our beautiful building and grounds. Other upgrades and new projects are mentioned in report but will not be funded by this BG&E Fund.

- A question was asked: Could there be plumbing for an upstairs bathroom as it would benefit the choir and other users of the second floor of the church? Ann stated this topic is on the list and has an estimate of what it will cost. Also, there is a great need to move the freezer out of the basement.
- Ann reviewed there are several upgrades that are of high priority.
- Another question posed was if the library could have a flooring upgrade to make the space more inviting?

**Motion/Vote to accept the planned BG&E projects (estimated to be \$90-100K) as presented by:** Arthur Wolverton. Seconded by Jan Burson. Discussion (noted above). Approved by majority

**Present slate for Vestry and nominations for delegates to the Maine Diocesan Convention.** Laurie presented the proposed slate of nominees for the Vestry and Delegates to the Diocesan Annual Convention. The nominating slate included:

**ELECTIONS**

**Vestry Elections**

- Susan Garrett – 3-year term
- Joe Michaud – 1-year term
- Susie Peixotto – 1-year term
- Gary Sylvester – 3-year term

**Officers – To be elected for 1 year**

- Laurie Hyndman: Senior Warden
- Joe Michaud: Junior Warden
- Anne Jacobs: Treasurer
- Susan Garrett: Clerk

**Delegates to Diocesan Annual Convention October 2024:**

- Chrystena Hahn
- Harriet Davis
- Elizabeth Ring
- Pal Covie (Alternate)

**Motion/Vote to close nominations for Vestry and delegates to the Diocesan Convention** made by Barbara Barhydt. Seconded by Ann Donaghy. Discussion: none. Approved by All (majority).

**Motion/Vote to adjourn** was made by Jan Burson. Seconded by Judy Shank. Discussion: none. Approved by all (majority).

**Meeting adjourned at: 11.42 AM.**

**Closing Prayer:** Mary Curlew, *postulant for the priesthood from the Diocese of MA, pastoral intern at St. Bart's.*

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

**Attendance notes:** 73 St. Bart's members attended the Annual meeting "in person"; please refer to the St. Bart's Annual Meeting Register for the signatures of those in attendance.

**Attendance Via Zoom:** No members attended by Zoom.

**Returning Vestry:**

Kathy Abernathy (1 year remaining)  
Pal Covie (2 years remaining)  
Harriet Davis (2 years remaining)  
Laurie Hyndman (2 years remaining)  
Anne Jacobs (2 years remaining)  
Mike Perfetti (2 years remaining)  
Peter Sillin (1 year remaining)

## Warden's Report

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2024 has proven to be another exciting year at St. Bart's. We continue to see attendance at our services grow and we have welcomed 27 new members this year. We attribute this to the Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson's dynamic spiritual leadership, sense of humor and pastoral care; our incredible music program led by Dr. Christina Edelen; our talented choir; our Deacon, Corey Walmer; our intern, Mary Curlew; the indomitable Teri Coviello; and the many members of our congregation who have volunteered their time and talent in so many ways. In addition, our Vestry has dedicated its time together to ensure the faithful stewardship of this remarkable faith community.

Notable this year was asking Amanda to become our Rector. Amanda joined St. Bart's as our Priest-in-Charge, which Bishop Brown described as "Rent a priest." As Rector, she now has a tenured position, reflecting our commitment to her and hers to us. While Amanda is still part-time, she is now with us 30 hours a week and we are very grateful.

We have been fortunate to have wonderful financial leadership and are in a healthy financial position. Our budget is based on responsible planning, and we have ended the year on budget. We are grateful for the financial support of our community.

Over the past few years our Building & Grounds committee and long-range planning group have addressed deferred maintenance issues, as well as incomplete projects from our 2012 renovations. We initiated a capital campaign at the beginning of the summer to fund a variety of projects. Thanks to the generosity of so many, we reached our goal of \$200,000, and many of the projects are already completed. Included are a bathroom on the second floor, a finished meeting space upstairs, a generator, heat pumps, a freezer, and moisture control for our basement. Many thanks to Michele Johns and Dennis Fitzgibbons for leading the campaign, as well as those on the committee.

There is so much to celebrate, especially our many community events that not only bring us together, but also introduce others to St. Bart's – The Yarmouth Art Festival, The Lobster Bake, Christmas Fair, Day of Service, our Common Table gatherings, the Contradance, Evensongs, and so much more.

We want to recognize the members of our Vestry who are stepping down this year. In these uncertain times, Susie Peixotto has tirelessly led us on a path to a safer church, working to develop a safe church policy, the implementation of security practices and continued vigilance. Susie stayed on the Vestry an additional year to ensure that this initiative is part of our on-going oversight. Peter Sillin has brought his sensibilities and calm, thoughtful approach to the Vestry and has shared the leadership of Outreach with Catherine Richards, as well as a commitment to New Mainers. And, last, but not least, Joe Michaud, who stood by my side this year as Junior Warden. This on top of his steady and capable hand as head of Building & Grounds, founder and leader of the Yarmouth Art Festival, "general contractor" for maintenance of St. Bart's, and



go-to-guy for just about everything. His quiet, thoughtful, and insightful experience has been invaluable to me.

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.

2024 was a great year of growth, spiritually and practically, for this wonderful faith community.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Laurie Hyndman, Senior Warden*  
*Joe Michaud, Junior Warden*

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## Treasurer's Report

### 2024 Financial Results

I am happy to report that the financial health of St. Bart's remains strong. We ended 2024 with surplus funds from operations of \$42,150, which was higher than our budget. The vestry voted to transfer this surplus into our Building, Grounds & Equipment Fund, to bolster that fund after some major expenses in 2024. Given our favorable financial position at year end, the vestry once again voted to pay "gifts of gratitude" to Amanda, Christina and Teri, as well as a gift certificate to Mary, in recognition of the many ways they each have contributed to the well-being of our parish.

You will note on the Cash Accounts and Fund Balances Report below, 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 \$143,313, thanks in large part to 17 pledgers who pre-paid \$82,962 of their 2025 pledge. The balance in our Vanguard account benefited from a strong stock market and ended the year at \$294,017. The Finance Committee reviews the investment strategy for these funds and monitors the asset allocation.

Activity in our other, non-operating funds can be seen in the Cash Accounts & Fund Balances Report. Included here are reports from the Committee Chairs for the Memorial Garden, Building & Grounds, Outreach, and Endowment. Their reports describe the activity during 2024 that was financially supported by the respective funds whose balances you see on this report. In addition to charitable donations of \$3,000 from our Operating Fund, an additional \$17,145 of charitable donations were paid from funds raised by the Art Show, Lobster Bake, and a Sea Dogs game (recorded in the Outreach Fund).

The 2024 Capital Campaign income and expenses are included in the Building & Grounds Fund. Of the total \$204,620 in pledges and other gifts, St. Bart's has received \$139,060 as of

12/31/2024. The Campaign provided for pledges to be paid in 2024-2026. And, \$113,383 was spent on the campaign projects which were within the campaign's budget.

## 2025 Budget

The vestry is happy to present the proposed 2025 budget for your consideration and approval at the Annual Meeting. We thank all of you who have generously pledged your support and made donations, which allow us to support our various ministries.

Assumptions used for the preparation of this proposed budget include:

- Pledge income of \$250,000 (the Stewardship Goal was met)
- Other Income in 2024 includes gifts of \$15,000 from a member who did not pledge. Since there's no pledge for 2025, the budget doesn't include it.
- Salary costs assume:
  - Rector at 30 hours/week (same as 2024), plus a 3% increase
  - 3% increase for our Music Director
  - 3% increase for Parish Administrator on her anniversary date, July 1
- Increased energy and servicing costs expected in part for the generator and the dehumidifiers to be installed in the basement.
- Allocation to Building, Grounds & Equipment Reserves of \$21,000.
- Building insurance premiums have increased.
- Continued costs for Church Programs reflecting initiatives from our committee chairs and lay leaders.
- Charitable donations from operations of \$3,120 plus fundraising events are projected to total over \$20,000.
- Diocesan Assessment is similar to 2024.

## Major Property Maintenance Projects

This year, we will also be asking for your consideration and approval at the Annual Meeting of a list of major property maintenance projects for 2025 to be paid from our Building, Grounds & Equipment Fund.

<u>Planned for 2025:</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>
Drainage ditch cleanout (begun in 2024)	\$ 3,000
Total from Building, Grounds & Equipment Fund	\$ 3,000
Explore sanctuary floor repair/replacement.	
Additional projects, described in the Building & Grounds Report, covered by the Capital Campaign and/or new federal grant.	

Future Maintenance Projects:

Re-shingle roof (by 2033)	\$50,000
Window repair/replacement (per window as needed)	1,600
Tree management (every 3 or 4 years, or as needed)	5,000
Replace 1 of 2 sewer pumps (as needed)	3,000
Internal painting: sanctuary, narthex & stairwell (by 2030)	20,000
Heating system repairs (every 3 years)	2,000
Elevator repairs (every 5 years)	5,000

**Finance Committee**

We continue to benefit from the wisdom and guidance from members of our Finance Committee. The Committee meets regularly to review our financial reports and recommend to our Treasurer how best to manage the financial affairs of St. Bart's. Members of this committee in 2024 were: Anne Jacobs (Treasurer), Ann Donaghy, Tom Hyndman, Anne Berg, Joe Michaud, Susan Garrett, and Jim Berg. Many thanks to them for their service.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Anne Jacobs, Treasurer*

## Budget & Operating Results 2024 and Proposed Budget Summary 2025

	2024		<b>Proposed 2025 Budget</b>
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Operating Income:</u>			
Pledge payments	244,000	252,898	250,000
Plate & Unrestricted	12,000	30,973	13,750
Restricted	2,000	2,321	2,325
Hannaford Card	5,500	4,768	4,475
Events - Christmas Fair	14,000	18,453	16,000
Rent, interest & other	16,992	18,219	17,646
<b>Total Operating Income:</b>	<b>294,492</b>	<b>327,632</b>	<b>304,196</b>
<u>Operating Expenditures:</u>			
Compensation & Benefits	146,863	154,408	150,111
Rector support	2,225	2,508	2,750
Bookkeeping	7,000	4,915	6,448
Building & grounds	42,410	27,073	41,596
Allocation to BG&E Fund	14,000	21,000	21,000
Office & Admin	17,678	18,347	19,710
Church programs	19,321	10,448	16,270
Charitable Gifts (Outreach)	3,000	3,001	3,120
Diocesan Assessment	38,151	38,096	36,735
Miscellaneous Expense	1,000	5,686	2,000
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>291,648</b>	<b>285,482</b>	<b>299,740</b>
Net change to Operating Reserves	2,844	42,150	4,456
Transferred to Reserves	(2,844)	(42,150)	(4,456)
Net Balance	-	-	-
Additional Charitable Gifts from Art Show, Lobster Bake, and Sea Dogs Game		17,145	TBD

## Cash & Investment Accounts and Fund Balances 12/31/24

	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>Balance</u> <u>12/31/2024</u>
<u>Cash and Investment Accounts:</u>		
Main Operating Account (BSI)	152,023	143,313
Rector's Discretionary (BSI)	2,803	1,703
Hannaford Card (BSI)	3,398	2,640
Debit Card (BSI)	2,084	2,477
Vanguard Investment Account	232,288	294,017
Fidelity Endowmewnt	76,743	117,866
 <u>Fund Balances</u>		
Memorial Garden Building Grounds & Equipment*	13,756	20,105
Unrestricted Reserve Fund	163,472	140,153
Rector's Discretionary Fund	143,429	185,158
Front Garden Fund	2,803	2,058
Operating Fund	1,028	1,028
Outreach Fund	0	0
Endowment Fund	13	0
	76,743	117,866

\* includes capital campaign income and expenses

[NOTE: Fund balances are held within the cash accounts.]

## Rector's Report

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*Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.  
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.  
- Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus*

The text above is the second verse of my favorite hymn, "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song," by Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, a Catholic order of sisters dedicated to lives of simplicity, service, and devotion to God. The text resonates with me as we begin our fourth year of shared ministry together at St. Bart's. We are on an incredible shared journey of faith and life, and our praise of Jesus is the song we sing and the story we tell in both our words and our actions. As long as we journey together, may Jesus be our song, our inspiration, and our joy!

One of the greatest joys for me of this past year was becoming the Rector at St. Bart's. I have cherished the work we've been doing together and the ministries we shared as your Priest-in-Charge. And, to have the opportunity to shift that work and my title – though, it doesn't change that much in terms of what we're doing and why we're doing it – becoming your Rector has given me a deeper sense of place and purpose here at St. Bart's and I'm grateful to the Vestry for the invitation to become your Rector. I am also so grateful to Bishop Brown for coming to our community in September to formally recognize this change in title and for helping us celebrate.

I kicked off 2024 by attending an Advocacy Day for Gun Safety at the Maine State House. It was an honor to hold the flag of the Episcopal Diocese on the stairs of the great hall as leaders, including our Bishop, bore witness to the need for safety measures to be put in place to protect our communities from the threat of gun violence. Some weeks later, I was back at the State House to provide the opening invocation in the Senate at the invitation of Yarmouth's State Senators.

For the past year I have served on the Clergy Formation Committee for the Diocese. This committee plans three events each year that further the formation, education, and well-being of the clergy in Maine. I served on a similar committee for my Lutheran colleagues in the past and it has been wonderful finding an outlet for my gifts on this committee. In 2025, I will step into the role of co-chair of this committee alongside Deacon Heather Sylvester. This will be a two-year commitment. I look forward to working more closely with Heather in the upcoming year.

On July 19th, I preached and led worship at the Diocese of Maine's summer camp for children, Bishopswood, in Hope, ME on Megunticook Lake. What a wonderful opportunity this was to see the camp and to engage with the campers and staff. If you haven't yet been to Camp

Bishopswood or if you know of a young person who might be interested, please let me know and I'd be happy to connect you and the young person with this wonderful ministry.

As I continue to be rostered as a pastor in the ELCA, I continue to have responsibilities to the denomination and my local expression of it. As such, this year I attended the New England Synod Assembly in Worcester Massachusetts from June 6-8. This is the first time since starting at St. Bart's that I attended the Synod Assembly in person, however, it was important to attend this year because the Assembly voted on and called a new Bishop. Bishops in the Lutheran tradition serve 6-year terms and our previous Bishop had served two terms and planned to retire. At our Assembly this year, we called the Rev. Nathan Piphon to serve as the next Bishop of New England. He started his term this past summer and was installed in September.

#### Pastoral Acts in 2024:

Funerals: Charles Calvin (6/22), Joan Tilney (9/21)

Interments: Charles Calvin (6/22), Marshall Souder Lawson (7/5)

Weddings - Melanie & Alan Nichols (3/23), Lu Tingley & Milton Eaton (5/11),  
Kelsey & Carlton Allen (8/31)

Baptisms: Noah Wise (4/21), Meg Woolverton (8/20), Walker Jones (11/17)

I am grateful to each of you who have invited me to come alongside you this past year in your joy, in your grief, in your wonder, and in your everyday lives. And I am ever so grateful to the members of the Pastoral Care Committee who help to strategize, organize, and offer care in so many ways. One highlight of this past year was at a gathering of the OceanView Saints – the group of St. Bart's members who live in the OceanView facilities and who gather periodically for fellowship. John Perkins purchased t-shirts for all of us and had "OceanView Saints" screen printed on them!



Stemming from the Vestry's spring retreat where we were guided by St. Bart's Member Maria Guarino to explore our Spiritual Gifts, I created a Spiritual Gifts Inventory for the whole congregation to use to discover their own God-given gifts this fall. The inventory guides the participant toward some of the traditional Spiritual gifts that are talked about in the scriptures. Following the invitation to complete the inventory, the Vestry organized a Committee Fair which took place on Sunday, October 20th. The inventory resources I used helped us point people towards participation in certain committees based on the Spiritual Gifts that were lifted up for them in the survey. We received wonderful feedback on both the inventory and the committee fair. I have had subsequent conversations with many folks about their Spiritual Gifts – both the surprises and the affirmations that it had for them.

St. Bart's continues to be blessed by a diligent staff and dedicated intern. This past spring, our Deacon, Corey, stepped back from serving as our Deacon to be able to move to South Carolina to provide care and support to her son's family as they adapted to a new health diagnosis for her daughter-in-law. Our intern, Mary, is in her final year with us as she is about to conclude her seminary studies and prepare for her ordination and first call. Christina brings a wealth of knowledge and gifts to our music ministry at St. Bart's. The wonderful quarterly Evensong services and Lessons and Carols are a testament to her leadership and passion – as well as the dedication and passion of our choir! Teri is the engine of our office – she is a caring, empathetic frontline worker who is also diligent and thorough in her administrative tasks. We are blessed!

For the past year, I have served on the Development Committee for the Maine Council of Churches. This volunteer role couples my skills in and joy of fundraising with the fantastic ministries and programming of a ministry that seeks "To speak with a prophetic voice of faith, connecting people within, through, and beyond the church to create a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world." If you haven't connected to the Maine Council of Churches and the fantastic programming they undertake, I urge you to do so.



I was proud to represent St. Bart's at Yarmouth's first ever Pride Festival this past June. Organized by a staff member at First Unitarian of Yarmouth, this event was well-attended and celebratory. At the recommendation of some of the queer members of St. Bart's, we purchased a button-making machine and hosted a table where people could make their own Pride buttons. Many folks made buttons with their pronouns on them or buttons with different identity flags. It was a joy to be able to share the love and welcome of our community with the wider Yarmouth Community.

The words that guided and grounded me in 2024 were "spirituality" and "sustenance." In 2025, the words that have come to me are "joy" and "wonder." It continues to be an immense joy and honor to serve as your Rector at St. Bart's. Thank you for all the ways you contribute to making the ministries in our little corner of God's creation as meaningful and joyful as you do!

Respectfully submitted,  
*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

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### Pastoral Care Committee

- **Support for Parishioners and Eucharist Visits**

The Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) is composed of 7 members who support our Rector and provide a connection with parishioners through frequent communication. Committee members support parishioners with the goal of deepening awareness and compassion of those in need. Six members are licensed Eucharist Visitors and are available to offer this service upon request, in accordance with Safe Church practices. Parishioners are encouraged to contact anyone on the committee when they are facing challenges and seek support. Inquiries are confidential. Please contact the Committee through e-mails (such as the [pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org](mailto:pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org) and individual member e-mails) or phone calls, if you would like to talk with a member or schedule a Eucharist Visit. Pastoral Care emergencies should be referred to Amanda or the Committee chairs.

- **Meals and a Subcommittee of Chefs**

The Pastoral Care Committee has a tradition of offering meals at times of special need, such as a new baby, surgery, death in the family, illness, etc., for two weeks (occasionally for longer periods). The meals are prepared by the 7-member Pastoral Care Committee and a subcommittee of volunteer chefs. At this year's Committee fair, the subcommittee grew to 13 volunteers with the addition of 7 new members. We welcome the new members and look forward to continuing this tradition of preparing meals to nourish each other, with compassion and sustenance. Please contact the Pastoral Care Committee if you or another member needs this form of support.

- **Prayer List**

Prayers are offered for family members and friends who have been entrusted to our St. Bart's Prayer List, which are printed in the weekly e-bulletin and read at services as part of the Prayers of the People. The prayer list policy is available on the church web page: [https://www.stbartsyarmouth.org/uploads/1/3/6/6/136632817/prayer\\_list.6.13.22.pdf](https://www.stbartsyarmouth.org/uploads/1/3/6/6/136632817/prayer_list.6.13.22.pdf) Requests to add a name may be submitted to a PCC member, the Pastoral Care e-mail, or the Church office. Permission to announce the person's name and their connection to the St. Bart's parishioner will be sought when requests are made. PCC members contact parishioners throughout the year for support and to keep the list current.

- **Healing Services and Personal Prayers**

In 2024, healing services were offered on March 31, June 30, and September 29. Personal prayers are offered on the first Sunday of every month. A special thanks to Imelda Schaefer, John Perkins, Susannah White, and Mary Curlew for providing this gift to the congregation.

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

In 2024, the inventory of 14 items included lap robes, baby blankets, and shawls. Five were distributed, including one baby blanket. The PCC is grateful for the generous gifts received from the St. Bart's knitters for this vital ministry. Requests for a shawl may be submitted to PCC members or through the PCC e-mail.

- **Memorial and Funeral Services**

In 2024, the PCC provided logistical support to two families planning a memorial/funeral service and assistance on the day of the service, including on-site receptions.

- **Pastoral Care Presentations**

Two presentations were offered in the spring of 2024, which focused on the caregivers of loved ones with dementia. Links to both presentations are found on the PCC page:

<https://www.stbartsyarmouth.org/pastoral-care.html>

1. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Susan Wehry spoke about the "The Challenges & Gifts Unique to Dementia Caregivers". She is a board-certified geriatric psychiatrist with almost 40 years of experience, a professor at UNE, and the director of AgingME, a Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Project to create a more age-friendly health system.
2. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, **Lori Campbell, MA, LSW**, outlined the resources available to caregivers at Southern Maine Area Agency on Aging (SMAA). Lori is a licensed social worker and a Family Caregiver Resource Specialist in SMAA's Family Caregiver Support Program. She has worked at SMAA for 34 years in a variety of capacities, supporting older adults and their family caregivers in southern Maine.

Both events were well attended with up to 50 participants at each event. Many thanks to David Elliott for initiating the series and securing Dr. Wehry as a speaker. Special thanks to the organizing subcommittee, which included David Elliott, Paule French, Pam Hobson, Susie Peixotto, and Barbara Barhydt. Thank you to everyone who helped make posters, promote the events, welcome the speakers, and record the events--specifically, Rev Amanda Gerken-Nelson, Teri Coviello, Harriet Davis, Laurie Hyndman, Joe Michaud, and the Pastoral Care Committee.

Members: Barbara Barhydt, Imelda Schaefer, Paule French, Pam Hobson, Susie Peixotto, John Perkins, Susannah White

Respectfully submitted,  
*Barbara Barhydt and Imelda Schaefer, Co-Chairs*

## Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is a weekly fellowship event that follows every St. Bart's Sunday service, except for Easter. Gathering informally with snacks and coffee after the service is an effective way of welcoming visitors and newcomers and keeping in touch with our parish family. We need as many people as possible to participate in hosting this fellowship.

Coffee Hour is a team where the duty dates are not assigned; hosts sign up for as many or as few Sundays as they are able. We always need more folks to share in the hosting duties so that no one is overburdened. Please consider signing up through the link that is posted in each e-bulletin. Jamie Michaud, coffee hour chairperson, will be happy to talk with you about the details of this duty.

Thanks go to the following people for providing Coffee Hour in 2024, and consider co-hosting with them in 2025: Kathy Abernathy, Barbara Barhydt, Anne Berg, Joanne & Jim Berg, Sarah Covie, Kathleen Damon, Linda Draper, Susan Garrett, Elizabeth, Kevin & Michael Gillan, Nancy Gunzelmann, Carol Hayes, Jordan Henshaw & Alison Gibraski, Pam Hobson, Carla Hunt, Michele Johns, Margaret Kimball, Jamie & Joe Michaud, Imelda Schaefer, Marcia Sharp, Peter Sillin, Jay & Basil Souder, Susan Soule, Susie Soule, Gary & Grayson Sylvester, Pam Waite, and Carrie Yardley.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jamie Michaud*

## Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee charge is to focus on building community throughout our parish family and providing opportunities for fellowship beyond worship.

### "Meet Our Members" Newsletter

In 2024, the Committee, with the help of our administrative assistant, Teri Coviello, continued distributing an electronic newsletter called "Meet Our Members" every 3-4 months. In each edition, about 3-4 members are introduced to the parish with their own self-written biographies and a couple of photos. This year's newsletters featured a total of 9 new members at St. Bart's.

### "Common Table" Program

In the spring of 2024, the Committee also organized its first round of a program called "Common Table," which sorts parishioners into groups of 6-8 people. Each group gathers for a meal in each other's homes or out at a restaurant once a month over the course of a few months. The purpose is for parishioners to strengthen relationships with each other in a casual setting outside of Sunday worship. Five groups of 8+ people were assembled in the spring with

great success! This format of fellowship seems to be valued by many members and we are continuing the program in 2025.

### Fellowship Survey

In June, the Committee distributed a “post-survey” for feedback on programming and to gauge any changed feelings about connectedness at St. Bart's after a year's worth of fellowship events & programming. Overall results:

- People feel connected to and engaged with other parishioners overall (response ratings range from 6 to 10, majority 8+)
- People are enjoying the “Meet Our Members” newsletter - we will continue this and have added past editions to the “Members Only” section of our website so folks can return to them in the future.
- A lot of participation in and enjoyment from Common Table dinners – these are continuing in 2025.
- Favorite events: cornhole tournament, Common Table, Carol sing & food drive, pancake supper, Day of Service, and Sea Dogs game.
- Consensus is that the parish appreciates the fellowship events very much but does not want the committee to burn out. The committee determined that organizing a monthly fellowship event is not quite sustainable unless we have more committee members—we will reduce the amount of programming offered in 2025.
- Words most frequently cited to characterize relationships with other members of St. Bart's after a year of Fellowship programs included *Close, Comfortable, Connected, Warm, Members, People, Know.*

### Recap of 2024 Fellowship Events

- January 20 - Lunch & Bowling at Pineland Farms (11 attendees)
- February 13 (with Youth) - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper (28 attendees)
- May 4 (with Outreach) - Day of Service with cookout (47 participants)
- June 8 - Sea Dogs game (30 attendees)
- July 28 - 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament (25 participants)
- October 6 - Lunch & Disc Golf at Pineland Farms (10 attendees)
- October 20 - Committee Fair at St. Bart's
- November 16 - Contradance at St. Bart's (36 attendees)
- December 8: Community Christmas Carol Sing-Along & Food Drive (48 attendees)

Respectfully submitted,

*The 2024 Fellowship Committee: Pal Covie (chair), Penni Groves, Celeste Pascarella, & Marcia Sharp*

## Adult Education

It is with great appreciation that we acknowledge Steve Hahn who stepped down this spring from leading the Adult Education Committee. Steve brought great knowledge and passion for learning that guided our community through some truly meaningful studies over the past three years and we are grateful for his time and efforts. The Adult Education Committee in 2024 was composed of Steve Hahn (through spring), Dan Hudkins, Elizabeth Ring, and Sukie Curtis (joined in the fall). The committee is charged with helping to form and organize educational and formational opportunities for our congregation. As such, numerous offerings were organized for 2024 including:

### **Province One Indigenous Relations Committee Zoom Discussions**

Members of St. Bart's were encouraged to participate in the Episcopal Church Province One's Indigenous Relations Committee discussion series, the fourth meeting of which took place online on March 13. The discussion focused on the impact of institutions such as the Carlisle Indian School (officially the United States Industrial School) in Carlisle, PA, and one of its graduates, Jim Thorpe, an Olympic and later a professional athlete. Indian Boarding Schools, whether sponsored by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, or religious institutions such as the Episcopal Church, were found in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to carry out a racist program for the assimilation of Indigenous people into the white mainstream culture. The Episcopal Church now seeks reconciliation for its role in the movement. Steve Hahn organized and encouraged participation in these discussions.

### **Book of Two Months Club**

Mary Curlew, our Pastoral Intern, led our first Book of Two Months Club conversations on the book *Eve Isn't Evil* by Julie F. Parker: The group met January 23rd to discuss the first half of the book and general impressions of Dr. Parker's perspective of reading Scripture from not only the context from which it was written but also from the context of our own lives. Mary led this discussion and 8 people attended. The group met again on March 19th and Dr. Parker led the group in a discussion of her book and how Scripture has informed her life. The group also discussed how scripture has and could be informative for their own lives. The session with Dr. Parker was recorded and is available to those interested in watching it.

Sukie Curtis facilitated two Book of Two Months Club offerings: in the spring, *The Greatest Prayer*, an examination of the Lord's Prayer, by John Dominic Crossan, a leading scholar of the historical Jesus and early Christianity; and in the fall, *The Great Transition*, a climate-change novel set in an imagined future, by Nick Fuller Googins, a Maine author. Both groups were well attended (by 12-18 people) and fostered some engaging conversations. Graciously, each of these studies was blessed by conversation with the authors during one of the two Zoom meetings. Reading *The Great Transition* led several participants to express a desire for more climate conversation *and action* at St. Bart's in the future.

### **Lenten Series on Religious Literacy in the Abrahamic Traditions**

The Lenten Series for 2024 was focused on Religious Literacy in the Abrahamic traditions and included sessions on: Christianity - the Liturgical tradition including the Great Schism, the Protestant reformation, and the Anglican tradition; the Free Church tradition including the Evangelical and Black traditions (Roy Partridge was a guest), the Jewish tradition and the Islamic tradition. Attendance at these sessions was thin. An initial sense that suggested (errantly) that the sessions could last more than 2 hours was a hindrance.

In the fall of 2024, Rev. Amanda helped to facilitate the first of several conversations with the Adult Education Committee and Susan Garrett, the liaison from the Vestry, to discuss adult educational programming moving forward. As one of the most successful programs, the Book of Two Months Club is continuing in early 2025 and the committee looks forward to offering opportunities for formation and education throughout the rest of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson and Susan Garrett, Vestry Liaison*

### **Youth Education**

The Youth Education Committee with the Fellowship Committee sponsored the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper. At the end of June we concluded Sunday School for the year and thanked our superlative Sunday School teachers for their love and time with the young people at St. Bart's.

Over the summer the committee deliberated on the future of the Sunday School program. After careful thought and discussion and prayer we made the recommendation to Rev. Amanda and the Vestry to end the program for the coming year. Instead, the committee changed direction and began working on ways to involve young people and their families in Sunday services and other St. Bart's activities.

We also welcomed a new committee member, Leanne Greisen. Leanne has generously offered her skills and time to a monthly post Sunday service crafts hour for youth.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Youth Education Committee: Elizabeth Gillan, Julie Bliven, Maria Guarino, Mary Curlew, Leanne Greisen, Dennis Fitzgibbons*

### **Music**

2024 was another wonderful year of music in worship! The choir continues to flourish, with a dedicated and faithful group of singers who lead us in song each Sunday. We have established a pattern of quarterly special music services, with three Choral Evensong services and a December Lessons and Carols service over the course of the year. In addition to these services and our regular Sunday mornings, we have had a Christmas Singalong, regular Lenten and

Advent services, and in February we offered a chamber music concert which raised money for the choir and music fund. In addition to our choir singers, we have several instrumentalists—flute, cello, trumpet, clarinet, piano, etc.—who regularly share their talents with us in the services.

Music is a valued and essential part of the St Bart's community, for which we are all grateful!

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

### Membership/Newcomers Committee

We are pleased to report that 2024 brought many wonderful Newcomer's to St. Bart's! One of the goals of this committee is to make sure that we introduce ourselves to anyone who is visiting us, to welcome them, answer any questions they may have, and guide them in any way that is needed. We also follow up by writing notes to anyone who has signed our guest book upon visiting. To follow up with this initial greeting process, we offer two Newcomers' Coffee Hours each year to which we invite both those who have been identified already or those who may wander in! This allows new people to meet members of the committee and spend a little time with Rev. Amanda. In 2024, we hosted Coffee Hours in February and November.

Once people feel ready to become a Member of St. Bart's, the committee, in consultation with Rev. Amanda, help to sponsor a special "Member Sunday" service where individuals or families are officially welcomed as new members of St. Bart's. In 2024, this was held in May and we welcomed 9 new families.

In August, the committee once again hosted our annual "Lobsters-To-Go" dinner event which netted almost \$3,400 for NMAP.

We welcomed two new members to our committee in the fall and are wrapping up the year with doing our annual review of Members in preparation for the Diocesan Parochial Report.

Let us know if you would like to be a part of our "Member Sunday" service. We hope to see you in 2025!

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

### Communications

The Communications team consists of Teri Coviello, Laurie Hyndman, and Harriet Davis, with Jamie Michaud as our Facebook manager and technical support from Joe Michaud. Our goal is to provide and keep current a variety of channels for our parishioners to access for news about

church activities. We continually update the St. Bart's website so that folks who are exploring church options in their area can find meaningful information about St. Bart's that also embodies our beliefs and persona. Our other job is to promote all the various St Bart's events to the wider public by sending out Press Releases and the posters beautifully created by Teri and Laurie. Jamie posts events and other news on the local town Facebook pages and keeps our St. Bart's Facebook page updated with a lot of postings. Teri also contributes postings to Facebook. Thank you, Jamie and Teri!

Please let any member of the committee know if you have any thoughts or suggestions for our communications efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Harriet Davis, Chair*

## Stewardship Committee

In October the Stewardship Committee announced the start of our 2025 annual budget pledge campaign with a "sow love" theme as adopted by the Worship & Music Committee. This passage from 2 Corinthians 9:6 is the basis for our theme: "the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us..."

Reverend Amanda spoke for the pledge campaign in a sermon, and also wrote that we at St. Bart's: "are sowing love: participating in worship, engaging with different committees and events, caring for each other and our neighbors, expanding our hearts and minds to the wideness of God's mercy and the depths of God's grace, and committing our time and resources to movements and needs greater than our own."

During the following Sundays, four parishioners shared testimonials about their gratitude for the warmth of our community. We were inspired by heartfelt stories from Fred Edelen, Susan Garrett, Penni Groves and Mike Perfetti.

The Stewardship Committee of 2024 was comprised of Paule French, Michele Johns, Jay and Basil Souder, Jeff Groves, Jamie Michaud, and John Duncan. In October we sent two letters, a financial report, a draft 2025 budget, and a pledge card to all our households. Soon thereafter, with the help of Vestry members and other volunteers (Jim Berg, Pam Hobson, Phil Chin, and Pamela Higgins) we reached out to everyone to answer questions and encourage the submission of pledges so that our Treasurer and the Finance Committee could prepare a 2025 budget for approval, first by the Vestry, and then, by the parish at our annual meeting. We were pleased that so many people submitted their pledges online, and thereby simplified the process for all involved.



The robust results of the 2025 pledge campaign – \$250,120 in pledges from 88 households – enabled us to meet the Vestry’s \$250,000 pledges goal. Details include: 41 pledge increases, 7 new and renewed pledgers, and 5 2024-pledging households who did not pledge for 2025 due to death and moving.

Clearly our St. Bart’s 2025 Season of Gratitude extends to our collective commitment to share our treasures as well. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
*John Duncan and Basil Souder for the Stewardship Committee*

### Capital Campaign

In early summer, a capital campaign, “Building for our Future”, approved by the Vestry was announced to address St. Bart’s major building facility needs for 2024. The campaign goal was to raise \$200,000. to address these needs. By late September, the committee announced the successful raising of a little over \$200,000. At this time, most of the projects have been completed. The biggest project is the foundation under the Sanctuary where moisture issues need to be addressed. This work will take place this year (2025). The members of the campaign committee and the Vestry were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who pledged to support these efforts. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dennis Fitzgibbons*

### Altar Guild

In 2024 the Altar Guild supported Sunday, mid-week, memorial, baptismal, and wedding services. We cared for our linens, chalices, and patens, and we purchased the consumable goods that we use for worship.

We welcomed a new member, Susan Garrett, and a new bread baker, Sukie Curtis. We accepted the retirement of Mary Louise Chin, with much gratitude for her years of faithful service.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Perkins*

### Altar Flowers

St. Bartholomew’s is fortunate to have a dedicated group of parishioners who provide floral arrangements for the altar on a weekly basis. Throughout the year we observe Lent and Advent Sundays by providing a green plant and provide special arrangements at Easter, All Saints Day

and Christmas. If there is a parishioner's funeral at St. Bart's, we offer to provide an altar arrangement for the family. Committee members create holiday arrangements for the Christmas Fair and always welcome anyone who wants to join in.

Altar arrangements can be as simple as bringing in flowers from your own garden, a bouquet from the farmer's market or one provided by a local florist. Members provide arrangements at their own expense but there is reimbursement for special arrangements.

This year we lost a couple of members but gained one new member for the coming year. If you are interested, please contact me and I will gladly show you the ins and outs of this special commitment to St. Bart's Sunday worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Imelda Schaefer, Chair*

## Worship and Music Committee

Many thanks are due to the wonderful members of the Worship & Music Committee: Christina Edelen (Music Director), Linda Perkins, Sarah Covie, Stephen White (new member!), Mary Curlew (Intern), and Corey Walmer (Deacon) who served on our committee through her departure in June 2024.

As a committee, we meet regularly to plan and prepare the liturgies, music, and aesthetics of worship for the different seasons of our liturgical year. This includes the Sunday morning services as well as special services like Evensong, midweek services (in Advent and Lent), Lessons & Carols, and special holidays (such as Ash Wednesday and Holy Week).

As a committee, we also meet once a year in retreat to delve deeper into our work of preparing meaningful worship for our community. At our 2023 retreat, we identified four values that guide the way we curate worship: Inclusive, Grounded, Challenging, and Creative. At our 2024 retreat, we had a discussion on the importance of inclusive and expansive language in our liturgies, music, prayers, and even other communications. Inclusive language means using pronouns and titles for God that are masculine, feminine, and gender neutral rather than just masculine, which has been the predominant gender for God in our tradition. Expansive language means using imagery and titles for God that evoke imagery that is non-gendered and non-human (e.g., our Rock, the great Creator, Breath of Life, etc.). Inclusive and expansive language are important aspects of our faith which seeks to both foster healthy relationships between us and God and to help us grow in our understanding of who God is for us and for the world.

As a result of this year's retreat, we have added the following sentence in our bulletin after listing the resources utilized for each service: "The values that guide our Worship & Music Committee's process for creating our liturgies are inclusive, grounded, challenging, and

creative. At St. Bart's, we strive to use language and imagery that is both inclusive and expansive for God and humanity.”

In response to our families' desire to have opportunities for children to engage in our worship services, we have added a Children's Message to each of our Sunday services. These had previously been done on the first Sunday when there was also Sunday school. However, the addition of these Children's Messages to our regular Sunday liturgies has been a blessing to our children as well as our whole community. Our intern, Mary, has offered wonderful creativity and thoughtfulness in preparing these messages.

We have seen a wonderful increase in attendance at our worship services, especially the holidays. In response to the significant number of attendees at our Easter service in 2024, the Worship & Music Committee – with the support of the Vestry – voted to offer **two** services on Easter morning in 2025.

We continue to partner with the Pastoral Care Committee to offer a healing service in the months when there is a 5th Sunday. Prayers continue to be offered in the chapel on the first Sunday of each month, as well, which are offered by volunteers from the Pastoral Care Committee. We are very grateful for the ways these offerings enrich our worship and faith life.

Our intern, Mary, has taken on the preparation and leadership of our Morning Prayer services on the 4th Sunday of the month which has been a tremendous blessing. As Mary prepares to conclude her internship with us in the spring of 2025, the Worship & Music committee will be considering how we'd like to curate worship on those 4th Sundays.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

### Tech A/V Committee

St. Bart's 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. We also stream and record funerals and other events as needed.

The A/V team occasionally does special projects, such as the recorded message and music for Christmas Day, and the Zoom online service for annual meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
*Joe Michaud, Chair*

## Memorial Garden

2024 was a busy year for St. Bart's in general, and the Memorial Garden was no exception. Margaret Betts and Liza Chandler, Co-Chairs, transitioned the Gardens to Joyce Cassidy over the winter months. Over the next seven months, aided by numerous Lay Weeders from St. Bart's and other volunteers, the five beds underwent most of a transformation from shade beds to sunny ones. Many plants were removed to make space for sun-loving native plants. Several inches of wood chips now surround the plants, aiding in reducing weeds and retaining moisture.

The refreshed Gardens provided a lovely backdrop for the important gathering around the Garden following the All Saints Day Service, on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Reverend Amanda led those in attendance in a short, shared reading and prayers under beautiful sunny skies.

I would like again to thank and acknowledge the decades of leadership Margaret Betts and Liza Chandler provided and thank them for their continued involvement and guidance. A special shout out to the many parishioners who provided help in the form of compost contributions, encouragement, and labor. Much gratitude to all the Lay Weeders who toiled in hot sun; dug deeply rooted plants; tenderly set in new additions; and brought compost to enrich the soil, and their smiles and laughter to enrich our lives.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Joyce Cassidy, Chair*

## Grounds & Buildings

The past year saw some important developments in St. Bart's physical facilities, both for maintaining our spaces and making important improvements.

Major **maintenance** projects in 2024 included repaving the parking lot, full repainting of the building, clearing the drainage stream, and replacing the kitchen refrigerator, all financed by the Vestry's Building & Grounds reserve fund in the budget.

Major **improvements** in 2024, funded by a successful \$200,000 capital campaign, included:

- Basement moisture remediation. This longstanding issue is invisible, but important to address for the long-term health of the building. The project involves sealing the gravel floor of the foundation, running large dehumidifiers in the space, and pumping any water outside. Early stages of this project began in fall 2024 and will be completed in spring 2025.
- Heat pumps in the offices and education wing, for more efficient heating and cooling.
- A generator to keep the building usable during outages.
- A new restroom on the second floor.
- A large meeting space on the second floor, with a 65" monitor for presentations and videos.

- A freezer on the second floor for pastoral care meals and Christmas fair products, to replace units in the basement that were aging and difficult to access.
- Enhanced storage spaces.

In 2025, we expect to make two improvements recommended by the Safety and Security Task Force. These will be funded by a federal Homeland Security grant whose application was spearheaded successfully by Michele Johns:

- Electronic keypad locks for the front door. This will strengthen security while making access easier compared to our current physical key-and-lockbox system.
- Improved parking lot lighting. This will improve visibility and security especially in the back of the lot.

In addition, we will explore repair or replacement of the sanctuary floor, continue work to clean out the drainage stream near the building, and install new plantings around the generator.

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 2025.

A loyal rotation of volunteers handles mowing each week in summer and sidewalk-clearing in winter. They are John Duncan, David Heald, Tom Hyndman, Kevin Gillan, Joe Michaud, and Peter Sillin. (See Joe Michaud if you'd like to join). Building & Grounds Committee members are Anne Berg, Ann Donaghy, Nancy Gunzelmann, Tom Hyndman, Joe Michaud, Susie Soule, Gary Sylvester, and Ben Yardley.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Joe Michaud*

## HR Committee

The Human Resources Committee completed its second year as a committee with Dennis Fitzgibbons, Cathy Thompson and Susan Garrett as members. This year the committee was able to identify and contract with B&B Cleaning as our new cleaning service and draft a policy on employment of members of the congregation which was subsequently approved by the Vestry. We also had the honor and privilege to draft, with the Diocese, a new agreement for Amanda as our Rector!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Garrett*

## Endowment Committee

The Endowment Fund currently has a value of \$120,528. The value has increased significantly since 2023 due to a strong stock market and a generous contribution by Peter and Liza Chandler. There were no requests for funds during 2024. The holdings of the fund are invested as follows: 1) 75% in stock funds, Vanguard Growth and Income and Fidelity U.S. Sustainable Index; 2) 25% in Fidelity Money Market. It should be noted that the Fidelity fund conforms to ESG standards (i.e., a green index).

Committee members are Bill Macleod, Abby Diggins, Vince Damasco, and Ed Simmons. Plans for 2025 include a presentation and discussion of the endowment to interested church members during the spring.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Ed Simmons*

## Nominating Committee Nominations for Vestry and Convention Delegates

### Vestry

Vestry Officers:

- Senior Warden: Laurie Hyndman
- Junior Warden: Susan Garrett
- Treasurer: Anne Jacobs
- Assistant Treasurer: Kevin Gillan
- Clerk: Harriet Davis

Returning Vestry members serving at large:

- Kathy Abernathy
- Pal Covie
- Mike Perfetti
- Gary Sylvester

New Vestry members to serve 3-year term:

- Jeff Groves
- Basil Souder
- Pam Waite

Delegates to Diocesan Annual Convention October 2025:

- Harriet Davis
- Elizabeth Ring
- Gary Sylvester
- Pal Covie (Alternate)

## OUTREACH REPORTS

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### Outreach Committee

Going into 2024, the hope was to continue to present opportunities for parishioners to engage and see where there was traction. This involved partnering with local efforts and organizations. Below are examples:

~ Our second annual Day of Service in early May met with broad interest and involvement. Almost 50 people volunteered at 4 organizations: Greater Portland Family Promise, Partners for World Health, Growing to Give, and Maine Needs. After a morning of volunteering, we shared a simple meal back at church. As always, this experience is about fellowship and service. The general sentiment was to try and do this more than once a year. This may capture different participants.

~ The State Street Emergency Overnight Shelter needed to reopen and asked area churches to help cover shifts to greet the residents and spend the night. Heather Sylvester, a deacon at Trinity Church and former St. Bart's parishioner, keeps us in the loop around these housing requests and needs.

~ Yarmouth Food Pantry asks us to participate in food drives to restock specific basic supplies during the summer and Thanksgiving meal items for their families. We successfully collected the desired items for both drives.

~ St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry similarly asks us to help collect items in both the spring (toothpaste) and fall (winter coats and boots).

~ Once again, the Art Fair asks Outreach to determine the recipients of the fair's proceeds. We were able to provide c. \$5,000 to each organization and had representatives from each come to speak about their group's purpose and work. This year's beneficiaries were the following:

>St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry has longstanding and deep connections to St. Bart's congregation through parishioner volunteers and diocesan sponsorship.

>Niwesok: From the Stars to Seeds is a collaboration of food and medicine providers who are working to rematriate traditional Wabanaki foods and healing practices for Wabanaki people. Their focus area is the Penobscot Bay region as a food hub and cultural center.

>Maine Afro Yoga Project has a focus on mental health and wellness primarily for people of color and immigrants. They run a trauma-informed yoga mindfulness project and nature programs. It is female founded/led and has a focus on maintaining and building community in a larger way.

~ As there were remaining funds in the Outreach budget, we were also able to give both Friendship House and Yarmouth Food Pantry a little more than \$1,000 each.

~ Leading up to Christmas, we organized The Giving Tree again to provide some extra love and support to local families and individuals. Through this effort, we reached 40 different people.

Reflecting on the past year, we hoped there might have been a new project for St. Bart's to align with or engage parishioners more. Nothing stuck, and so an opportunity to reimagine Outreach presents itself again. In early 2025, look for in-person conversations post-coffee hour. A few questions to contemplate ahead might be the following: What does it look like to respond to the community where we reside? What opportunities would you expect to be in place at St. Bart's? Who are we in the world? We want to hear your thoughts as well as what activities bring you meaning and purpose.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Catherine Richards, Chair*

### St Elizabeth's Jubilee Center & Essentials Pantry A Mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine

St. Elizabeth's is growing. Tuesday, December 3rd hit a weekly high point of nearly 500 visitors. When we consider that many of these visitors have family members living with them, it gives a larger perspective of the number of people St. Elizabeth's is supplying with essentials. Fortunately, the number of volunteers from the supporting churches and friends has also increased providing the necessary help needed on the busiest days when diapers, housewares or linens are distributed.

In addition, St. Elizabeth's has held very successful winter coat and boot distributions again this fall. The many donations of coats and boots from supporting churches have been overwhelming and have provided a backup supply for anyone who arrives needing a warm coat or boots. Also, the continued donations of pots, pans, dishes, bedding, towels, etc. have magically appeared to refill the shelves whenever they have been emptied out after a monthly distribution. St. Elizabeth's is very grateful for this generous support.

The biggest challenge St. Elizabeth's currently deals with is purchasing the essential supplies that are distributed on a regular basis. Toilet paper, bars of soap and feminine pads are handed out each week with a monthly cost of around \$850. Diapers are given out once a month at a cost of \$1,260. Laundry sheets, which have been donated, will have to be purchased adding to expenses. Finally, toothpaste and toothbrushes are provided and need to be purchased. With the growing number of visitors, the cost keeps increasing.

Recent surveys have shown that 96% of those who visit St. Elizabeth's live in Portland and the remaining 4% live in Westbrook, South Portland, Falmouth and Lewiston. About 80% of our neighbors speak Portuguese, French and Lingala. Most of this group speaks more than one language fluently. Approximately 5% speak English and another 5% speak Spanish as their primary language.

St Elizabeth's is very grateful for the many ways St. Bart's supports its mission through financial support, material donations and volunteers. Many thanks to the wonderful St. Bart's members who have volunteered this past year at St. Elizabeth's Essential's Pantry: Nancy Gunzelmann,



Pamela Trudo, Anne Berg, Susan Garrett, Pam Hobson, Jan Burson and Kathleen Damon. Anne Jacobs especially has dedicated many hours of amazing service over the past four years as Chairman of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Linda Draper, St. Bart's Representative*

## Friendship House

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

St. Bartholomew's has for more than 25 years supported this mission by preparing and delivering a meal (entrée, salad, bread and dessert) on the third Thursday of each month for 17 men. Many thanks go to Holly Mitchell, The Caruso Family, Carla Hunt/Andrew Tonks, the Hazard Family, Jamie Michaud, Catherine Richards, David Platt and Janice Drinan, Mary Calvin, Michele Johns and Nick Desiderio, and John and Linda Perkins who have generously cooked and delivered meals in 2024. Friendship House also has a Wish List of needed items that St. Bart's parishioners have provided. St. Bart's also supports them through financial donations.

Anyone interested in being part of this continuing outreach program would be most welcome. With thanks.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pam Hobson, Coordinator*

## YCHI (Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative)

The Yarmouth Compassionate Housing Initiative (YCHI) continues to operate under the umbrella of the New Mainer's Assistance Program (NMAP). YCHI, founded in 2016, is rooted in St. Bart's Episcopal Church under the leadership of Peter Sillin and Carla Hunt, who are also NMAP board members. The annual St. Bart's Lobster Bake continues to be a primary funder for the program as well as a few direct private funders.

We celebrate the success of so many in our community of new arrivals who have found employment as soon as they have become legally eligible to work. This includes adults and their children making their way through the Yarmouth school system. We celebrate the 2024 and imminent high school graduations of several students. Housing continues to be a major source of concern and YCHI continues to support those in need. We have also funded legal counsel for

a young man who arrived in Yarmouth as an unaccompanied minor. That person has made their way through the legal process and is now eligible for their green card.

Deep gratitude to all at St. Bart's who have supported the work of YCHI this year. This includes financial and moral support, as well as continued employment opportunities and labor involved in moving families into permanent housing. Please feel free to reach out to Peter Sillin: [sillin@gmail.com](mailto:sillin@gmail.com) or Carla Hunt: [carladhunt@proton.me](mailto:carladhunt@proton.me) to learn more. To donate to YCHI through NMAP: Checks can be mailed to NMAP, 23 Ledgewood Drive, Yarmouth, ME 04096 (Place YCHI in the memo line).

Respectfully submitted,  
*Carla Hunt, Peter Sillin*

### Yarmouth Food Pantry

The Yarmouth Community Food Pantry has had a busy 2024. Thank you to the St. Bart's Community for your support, volunteerism and donations. We rely on the support of all of Yarmouth's faith organizations, the residents and businesses and many volunteers who contribute hundreds of hours of volunteer time to support the pantry. Thank you for being part of that effort. Here are a few takeaways from 2024:

--New in 2024, Rosemont Market provides food rescue to the pantry every Tuesday and Friday morning. They give the pantry all sorts of things that are fine for consumption but might look a little tired or have another blemish unrelated to quality. This is a great new relationship providing wonderful food options for our pantry families.

--At Thanksgiving and Christmas, the pantry distributed 80 holiday baskets in November and 80 in December.

--In Spring of 2020, during the pandemic, the pantry started providing each pantry family a \$25 Hannaford Gift Card once a month. We were able to sustain this program with the help of various financial donations and through Yarmouth Cares About Neighbors (YCAN). Unfortunately, as of January 2025 this program is no longer going to be available due to budget constraints. We are proud that we could sustain it as long as we could.

--Lastly, the pantry is open to anyone in Yarmouth who needs food on Tuesday and Friday mornings 9-11am. If you want to volunteer for the pantry we have so many opportunities from food drives, to picking up donations, to needing members on our Steering Committee. Just reach out to Anne Ball, [anneball@maine.rr.com](mailto:anneball@maine.rr.com) and she will connect you with the right team member. If you want to donate food, please follow the "Yarmouth - Maine Community Food Pantry" on Facebook where we post pantry needs and volunteer opportunities. You may also drop any non-perishable food, personal care or household items in the outside bin at the pantry door. (Storer Street, back entrance to Yarmouth First Parish Church).

Respectfully submitted,  
*Anne Ball*

## Day of Service

The 2nd Annual St. Bart's Day of Service took place on Saturday, May 4th. 47 St. Bart's members participated by volunteering at 4 local organizations. The organizations included: Partners for World Health, Growing to Give, Maine Needs, and Portland Family Promise. A few parishioners helped plan and serve a scrumptious lunch to the volunteers who gathered at St. Bart's after the morning of service. The entire day was a wonderful team effort and collaboration to help serve our community and continue strengthening relationships.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pal Covie*

## Blood Drive

This year we hosted two drives, one in May and one in November. Both efforts were considered successes by the Red Cross, resulting in donations by 20 donors at each event. Thanks to those who helped take down and set up the church and chaperone the drives. And special thanks to those who gave blood. We are beginning to discuss the drive schedule for 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tom Hyndman*

## FUNDRAISING REPORTS

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### Christmas Fair

We are pleased to report that the 2024 Christmas Fair held on December 7th was another St. Bartholomew's success story. Many volunteers came together, both before and on the day of the event, to welcome people from the greater Yarmouth area through our doors. We also invited a non-profit--I'm Your Neighbor Books ("IYN")--to occupy a prime spot at the fair to promote the work they do. Over 300 people made purchases that day, netting our parish \$18,453. In addition to that impressive number, IYN has received donations of \$1,350 from 35 community members and gave away 50 children's books at the fair!

It was a cold day but made festive with the hot coffee and cocoa offered outside by Peter Sillin and Gary and Grayson Sylvester, and the caroling inside, provided by Rev. Amanda's parents' a Capella group, Maine Blend. There was a constant flow of cheerful traffic, followed by a miraculous cleanup with many hands on deck!

Table Chairs were Pam Hobson (baked goods), Julie Bliven and Elizabeth Gillan (books), Harriet Davis (crafts), Holly Mitchell (fudge), Barbara Barhydt (frozen gourmet foods), Nan White and Linda Perkins (home for the holidays), Kate Ciarimboli (jewelry), Hannah Ashley (scarves, bags, and belts), Carla Hunt and Laurie Hyndman (silent auction), Imelda Schaefer and Mary Calvin (table greens), Susie Soule, Anne Berg, and Nancy Gunzelmann (wreaths), and Tom Hyndman (checkout). Our kids' craft room, created by Leanne Griesen and Alexa Moon, was under appreciated, but the raw materials were repackaged for distribution to kiddos at our Christmas Eve service.

As is the case each year, there continue to be lessons learned and things that might be improved upon, but it is with gratitude to both the above-named volunteers and the many, many others who assisted in so many ways that we respectfully submit this report to you.

Respectfully submitted by Co-chairs,  
*Susan Garrett, Michele Johns, and Marcia Sharp*

### Art Show

The 16th annual Yarmouth Art Festival in October raised \$15,000 for 3 local nonprofits chosen by the Vestry: St. Elizabeth's Essentials Pantry, a low-barrier pantry in Portland serving non-food essentials to all those in need; Niweskok, a collaboration of food and medicine providers who are working to rematriate traditional Wabanaki foods and healing practices for Wabanaki people; and Maine Afro Yoga Project, which has a focus on mental health and wellness primarily for people of color and immigrants.

The event sold 78 of the 165 pieces on display and drew hundreds of visitors to St. Bart's over 4 days, Oct. 16-19, followed by two weeks of online sales.

St. Bart's started the Yarmouth Art Festival in 2009 as a way to explore using our space in different ways, and to showcase artists from all over Maine. The event has become popular with both artists and art lovers, and in 2024 drew nearly 700 entries for jurors to consider. About 40 volunteers helped with the show, including many from outside St. Bart's. Leaders for 2024 were Ann Donaghy, Susan Garrett, Nancy Gunzelmann, Laurie Hyndman, Tom Hyndman, Anne Jacobs, Joe Michaud, and Judy Shank.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Joe Michaud, Chair*

### Lobster Bake

In August, the Membership committee once again hosted our annual "Lobsters-To-Go" dinner event which netted almost \$3,400 for YCHI/NMAP. We sold over 100 Lobster dinners. Thanks to all the volunteers who prepare food, package the meals, and organize distribution. Special thanks to Cap'n Jeff Diggins for his generous offering to catch and prepare the lobsters.

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

### Hannaford Gift Card Program

2024 was another successful year for our Hannaford Gift Cards program as we earned nearly \$4,600. We give a hearty thanks to the 25 members of the parish who regularly participated!

Earning money to support St. Bart's every time you shop at Hannaford or Bow Street Market is worth the minor effort added to your grocery shopping process. Hannaford donates 5% of all you spend to St. Bart's. It's easy money! Please consider joining this effortless fundraising effort. For more information or to sign up, contact Tom Hyndman at 712-6343 or [tomhyndman@gmail.com](mailto:tomhyndman@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
*Tom Hyndman*

## 2024 Parish Registry

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### **Funerals**

Harry Charles Calvin (6/22)

Joan P Tilney (9/21)

### **Interments**

Harry Charles Calvin (Cal) (6/22)

Marshall Souder Lawson (7/5)

### **Weddings**

Melanie & Alan Nichols (3/23)

Lucie Hyde Tingley & Milton Alan Eaton (5/11)

Kelsey & Carlton Allen (8/31)

### **Baptisms**

Noah Paul Wise (4/21)

Margaret Ann LeYi Woolverton (8/20)

Walker Ripley Jones (11/17)





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

<b>Rector:</b>	The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson
<b>Rector Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org">amanda@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Music Director:</b>	Dr. Christina Edelen
<b>Intern:</b>	Mary Curlew
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Laurie Hyndman
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	Joe Michaud
<b>Pastoral Care:</b>	Imelda Schaefer, Barbara Barhydt
<b>Pastoral Care Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org">pastoralcare@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Parish Administrator:</b>	Teri Coviello
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tue – Thur, 9-3
<b>Office Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:admin@stbartsyarmouth.org">admin@stbartsyarmouth.org</a>
<b>Telephone:</b>	207.846.9244
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stbartsyarmouth.org">www.stbartsyarmouth.org</a>