



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

News from the Hill

September 2016

Poway, CA

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Teaching Is Who I Am

Welcome Home: Step a Little Closer

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits

It's September. Welcome home! It's so

refreshing to return to the rhythm of the fall within our faith family. Children and parents awaken our church patio each morning with excitement and attachment anxiety, musicians are rehearsing, Bible study classes are starting, Mary Lynn is preparing for her ordination to the priesthood, youth and adult confirmation classes are beginning, altar guild, lectors (readers) and the centering prayer ministry are gathering for their respective half-day retreats, auction items are being gathered, AA groups continuing to meet weekly, a group to support women who's spouses health is actively changing is forming, children fill up our classrooms at 10 a.m. and our youth group builds stronger ties. The finance team is faithfully leading us to fund our strategic plan – our prayerful response to God's urgent call, the liturgy team is planning Advent and Christmas, the Thrift Shop volunteers begin collecting items for the Christmas retail season. Did I mention the Red Sox are playing at Petco Park! .



Welcome home is a little different for everyone. For Ilene, from the day she helped start St. Bart's in the 1960s - despite the changes over the years in her life, our country and our parish -

she anticipated, with a joyful smile, the refreshed vibrancy of our campus. For Gilbert, who joined us a few years ago, we bring church to him as his body continues to challenge him. For Uzzell and Adriana, their daughter recently baptized, they enter their third month at St. Bart's. For Kevin, he is now home with his family after his most recent deployment. For Michelle, she can't wait to get out of the hospital. There are more than 1,200 individual moments to describe.

Welcome home. Building community is amazingly hard work. For three years now, we have faithfully given ourselves to this sacred work. This fall I invite you to step a little closer to Christ. Step a little closer into prayer, not only on Saturday and Sunday morning, but at home in one of our small groups. Prayer transforms everything within us and around us. Step a little closer into the lives of God's people as we serve them with abundant joy in Christ's name. Be a student of the church,

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Welcome Home: Step a Little Closer

continued from page 1

scripture and the Episcopal church or become a visitor, a tutor, a teacher's aide, a greeter, a food preparer, a missionary in North County, San Diego and Haiti. Join me as we step closer with intentional prayer and servanthood this fall.

Mother Teresa will become a saint in Rome on September 5. For myself, and many of us, she has been a saint for decades. Her grace, teachings and example continue to enable millions of people to experience God's love and the power of Jesus within them and to be hands of Christ to others. On September 11 at 4 p.m., join us as we gather together with our Christian brothers and sisters from Incarnation Lutheran Church and San Rafael Roman Catholic Church to honor her example and inspire ourselves to a life of prayer and service to others. We will sing and pray Vespers and participate in a food drive for Interfaith Community Services (ICS) Food Pantry in Escondido. Prayer

and serving was her example, the Gospel made real for you and me.

Welcome to St. Bart's. All are welcome - no exceptions. Challenge us to prove it as we live into our response to God's urgent call - a call to bring the Good News to our family members and countless local and global neighbors. Come discover the deep joy of giving of oneself more fully to Christ. Indeed, a joyful noise can be heard humming every day in countless hearts as we return to the rhythm of the fall at St. Bart's.

Faithfully yours,

Mark+

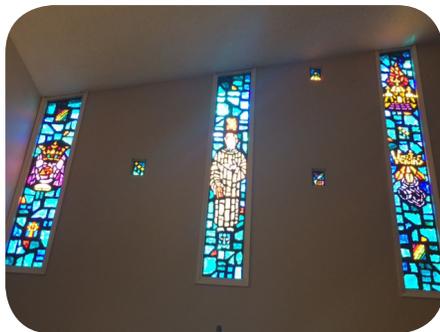
Take a Look at St. Bart's Windows

In July, I gave a tour of St. Bart's that included an explanation of the beautiful stained glass windows that adorn our church. You've probably looked up at these brilliant scenes during service and "read" a story. You are not the first to read windows.

While glass was used for ornamental purposes from the early Roman era (~200-1000ce). It was not until the 11th Century that it was used in Cathedral churches to tell the story about God. Stories were told in glass because so few people could read. However with glass window walls, they could see God's story and hear God's story told to them by others. Stained glass windows would eventually be known as the "Books of the Poor."

Upper Left Clerestory (Gospel Side)

(Top Left) This pane represents the crown, roses, apron and bread of St. Elizabeth queen of Hungary. She fed the poor against the will of her King by carrying bread in her apron. The King, alerted by spies demanded she drop her apron. As she did, roses fell to her feet - no bread - and she was spared.



(Top Center) This is the famous C.S. Lewis pane, great Christian laymen apologist of the 20th Century.

(Top Right) St. Augustine of Hippo, Doctor of the church and bishop who authored *The City of God*. "Veritas means Truth."

Lower Left Aisle Windows (Gospel Side)



Middle

(Lower Left) Alpha and Omega with the cross being the symbol of love.

(Middle Lower Left) This image depicts the Anchor which has always illustrated hope.

(Lower Right) Two symbols of faith. First The Fleur-de-lis that tells the story of the Virgin Mary and her absolute belief in her message from Gabriel, "Here I am. The Lord's servant." Below the Fleur-de-lis, the sword and story of Abraham's faith in that he was willing to sacrifice his son to God.



Left



Right

Upper Right Clerestory (Epistle Side)

These windows represent the two major and five minor Sacraments (BCP 858-860)

(Top Left) Confirmation, is symbolized by Bishop's laying on of hands. The cross and flame represent the Holy Spirit.

(Top Center) The Baptismal Shell and three drops of water representing the Trinity (BCP 299).

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Summer for Your Seminarian

As a part of my continuing education and formation, I participated in a 12-week Clinical Pastoral Education program through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Center. Clinical Pastoral Education, or C.P.E., is required by most of the Episcopalian seminaries in this country. The program incorporated weekly reading and writing assignments, and reflection in a group setting. It was very similar in structure to my seminary classes and I will be receiving credit towards my Master's in Divinity degree.

Students made rounds every afternoon and sometimes into the evening to visit with patients, assessing and addressing their spiritual needs. I visited an adult surgical oncology ward and a general medicine ward five days each week. Surgical oncology was pretty straightforward. Patients come for surgery or ongoing post-op treatment after previous surgery at the NIH or somewhere else.

The general medicine ward serves people with endocrine disorders and genetic diseases. These wards were very different and both challenging and rewarding in their own way. Most of the patients I served were 18 years and older. There are two pediatric wards here that were served by one of my classmates.

The National Institutes of Health is a collection of 27 institutes and centers sitting on a 300+ acre campus in Bethesda, Maryland. It was founded in 1953 with the specific purpose of conducting lifesaving medical research. The clinical center where I served is effectively an enormous research hospital with laboratories, classrooms, and of course, 234 overnight hospital beds and 83 day beds. According to their own statistics, the NIH has more than 7,000 inpatient visits and 100,000 outpatient visits each year.

All of the patients served at the NIH are a part of a research protocol. They have been screened by investigating physicians to be a part of some sort of trial treatment or natural history study around their condition. Natural history studies track the progression of (currently) incurable diseases, so that when curative treatments are available, there will be a wealth of information around how a certain disease or syndrome behaves.

Because of the experimental scope of the work done at NIH, no private insurance is accepted here. Once you are accepted for a study, and "on protocol" the NIH funds 100% your treatment and the research surrounding it. While all this may sound extravagant, keep in mind that this community has developed vaccines, stem cell transplants and pioneering AIDS research. As one can imagine, this is a very unique place. Also unique to the NIH is the idea of interdisciplinary and truly comprehensive treatment. Every patient is assigned a social worker, and has access to physical therapy, recreation therapy, pain and palliative medicine and, of course, spiritual care.

Throughout the summer, I was invited to interdisciplinary meetings on the floors where I served, and did a four-week rotation with the Pain and Palliative Care Team in one of the outpatient hospitals. Before arriving here, I envisioned Pain and

Palliative Care medicine being akin to Hospice, and it sometimes serves that function. Here however, they attend to the quality-of-life needs of the chronically ill, whether that be pharmacological pain management, acupuncture, etc.

I was one of four (volunteer) students accepted to the summer session. My classmates included, a gentleman (and fellow Episcopalian) from Virginia Theological Seminary, a lady from

the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City, and a lady from Wesleyan Seminary here in Washington, D.C. We were a cohesive cohort and I am thankful that we had an ecumenical and interfaith group to learn and grow with.

How did I make this summer work you might ask? I have an aunt and uncle who live about a mile-and-a-half away from the campus, and generously opened a room in their home to me. As a non-stipendiary volunteer, their generosity made this

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Take a Look at St. Bart's Windows

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(Top Right) A Jar of Olive oil with leaves and fruit of the tree together with the letters O and S (Oleum Sanctum), which depicts Holy Anointing with Oil, Unction (BCP 453).

Upper Clerestory Lower Images (Epistle side)

(Top Bottom Left) In Holy Matrimony at the base, the Holy Spirit is shown with wedding rings blessed by the cross.

(Top Bottom Center) Next is Ordination (BCP 525) and our Lord's charge to the Apostles of "Peace be with you." As the father sent me, I now send you. If you forgive any man's sins they are forgiven." (John 20:9-23) The crossed keys symbolize Ordination.

(Top Bottom Right) The Lamb of God that is the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Epistle Side (Lower)

On the right or Epistle side of the Chancel (Altar), the lower aisle windows picture the worship services of the people and clergy of the church. These three panes are a continuation of the right lower pane on the Gospel side.

(Epistle side, Left side Bottom) Altar and coals from which arises smoke and prayers heavenly bound.

(Epistle side, Middle Bottom) The scroll of the Torah or first 5 books of Scripture with an inkstand and quill represent the Hebrew background to the Christian tradition.

(Epistle side, Right Bottom) The last window depicts music through the lyre, trumpet and tambourine.

The tower windows represent the gifts of the Holy Spirit - blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might - in seven jeweled-rich forms.

The Dove with its Nimbus halo is symbolic of the Holy Spirit while the vertical

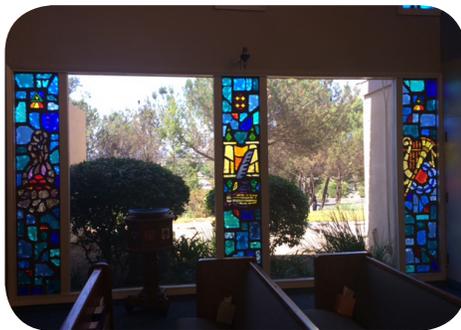
flowing lines of symbolized water represent the Trinity.

The window is meant enlighten the spirit of the congregation during the liturgy, while prayers head heavenward as praise to God.

The smaller Icons represent the Celtic Cross, Primary Rainbow, Three Greek Crosses, Loaves and Fishes, Cantonese Cross representing the gospels, Anchor Cross from the catacombs and the Epiphany star.

Now try to find them in the church.

~The Rev. William Zettinger



Angels Wanted

How do you show Jesus to a prisoner's child? The answer is simple, by letting Him shine through you! God has given us a great opportunity to reach out to families broken by crime. St. Bart's will once again be actively involved in Angel Tree Prison Fellowship for Christmas 2016.

St. Bart's will sponsor more than 130 kids, but we need your assistance to call caregivers to learn what the kids would like for Christmas. You will be calling five or six families and follow a script to gather the necessary information for gift selection.

Please consider helping with these calls. We will begin calling caregivers in October. Let your light shine by contacting Angel Tree Coordinator Rosalind Duddy at rosalindduddy@sbcglobal.net or 858-485-1770.

~Rosalind Duddy, Angel Tree Coordinator

Vestry Update

After taking the month of July off, your Vestry returned to work at the August 16 meeting. As is our usual practice we opened with a discussion of one of the chapters in the book we are studying this year, *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.

During the meeting, Donna Watson was announced to be the new Chairperson of the Personnel Committee and we received a very good update on the highly successful St. Bart's Preschool. Additionally, we learned that St. Bart's Bylaws are being updated by our Chancellor, Polly Getz and the donation link for the Haiti effort that had been briefed to the Vestry as part of our ongoing Outreach effort is up and running on the St. Bart's website.

Nathan Costa, our new Interim Director of Music, attended the meeting and provided an update on his new ministry and plans for the upcoming year. Jerry Blanton, the Vestry representative to the Giving Committee, provided an update on the status of our giving program this fall. Finally, Father Mark provided us with his Rector's Report, which is always a comprehensive status of Church issues.

The Vestry accepted the recommendation of the Personnel and Finance Committees to approve a part-time Assistant Sexton position, as well as, the recommendation of the Finance Committee to approve the budget for the fence project on the north side of the property. Thankfully, our neighbor has contributed almost half of the cost of the fence.

The Vestry and Officers participated in a Mutual Ministry Review on August 20. This review was facilitated by, Allan Dorsey, a consultant from the Diocese and former St. Bart's parishioner. This was an opportunity for lay leaders and clergy to look at past progress and victories, as well as areas that need special attention in the future. Our time together centered on how things get done and what gets done at St. Bart's. The conversation brought vestry members, lay leaders and clergy to a higher level of mutual understanding, as well as strengthened the leadership group as a team. Additionally, this meeting is designed to help the Rector know how the vestry and other lay leaders view his efforts and how he views the efforts of lay leaders and the vestry. The day centered around small group interaction followed by group discussion. We looked at the following questions.

- What have been the victories for St. Bartholomew's as a church community in the last 12-18 months?
- What have been some of the areas of growth for the vestry in the last 12-18 months? Efficiency? Clarity of

communication? Teamwork?

- Have there been disappointments or setbacks in the last 12-18 months? If so, what were they? Do these disappointments still need attention or are they water under the bridge?
- If the congregation were here with us, what would they say are the vestry's three greatest strengths? What would they say needs more attention by the vestry?



- What has the Rector done particularly well in the last 12-18 months?
- What has the vestry or other lay leadership done particularly well in the last 12-18 months?
- What would you like the Rector to pay more attention to in the future?
- What could the vestry do

differently to help the Rector in his role?

In terms of serving Christ's purpose, what one thing should be addressed at St. Bartholomew's in the next 12 months?

At the end of your term as a vestry member or lay leader, what needs to get done so you can say, "I contributed to St. Bartholomew's in a way that fed me spiritually and gave me a sense of satisfaction as a brother or sister in Christ's love?"

All in attendance agreed that the day was time well spent. We not only increased communication and trust among ourselves, but also came up with great input to these very important questions.

If you have questions or comments for the Vestry, please call or email:

Dan Crane, Senior Warden
858-775-0698, dan_crane2001@yahoo.com

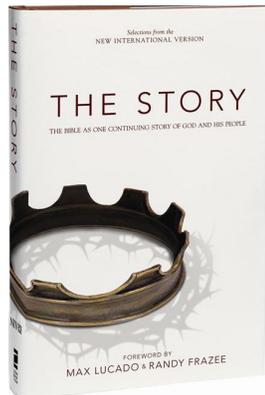
Mike Fuqua, Junior Warden
858-382-3297, michael.fuqua@gmail.com

It's Back-to-(Sunday) School Season!

We are looking forward to a new year of Sunday School at St. Bart's! Our 2016-2017 school-year Sunday School begins on September 11, with Sunday School returning to the 10 o'clock hour. Sunday School registrations continue on the patio before and after the 10:15 service every Sunday through September 11.

This year instead of starting in church, the children will begin Sunday School directly in their classrooms at 10 a.m. Children will return to their parents in church after the homily. This should allow for a good 45 minutes of Sunday School time. We are developing committed teacher teams of 3-4 teachers in each of our four classes: PreK, K-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade, and 4th-5th grade.

The overarching theme of our Sunday School curriculum this year is the story of God and God's people, and, of course, that includes us! Our PreK and 4th-5th grade classes will be using age-appropriate curricula connected to Deacon Bill's Wednesday morning Bible study gatherings will be using, Zondervan's *The Story*. Entering into God's story in creative and meaningful ways is an important piece of the spiritual formation of children, youth and adults. *The Story* curriculum is an excellent tool for introducing (or re-introducing) our kids to the amazing stories of God's entry into the lives of women and men and reminding them that God is in the midst of their lives, too.



Our K-1st and 2nd-3rd grade classes will be exploring the story of God's people through Godly Play, which has already been part of our Sunday School curriculum for many years. It is rooted in ancient storytelling and the educational theory and practice of Dr. Maria Montessori (1870-1952), which helps teach the children how to listen well to such storytelling and to be active in their learning and interpretations of scriptures and worship for their lives.

Children are invited to be active interpreters of what is of lasting importance in life and death. "Godly Play draws together the Scriptures, the experience of God, the worship traditions and reflections by Christians and our Jewish forebears into a kind of playful orthodoxy." (Jerome Berryman)



Part of our parish's Strategic Plan was to develop a budget to fund expansion of Godly Play program, to be inclusive

of Kindergarten through Grade One, including a classroom devoted to Godly Play. We will be doing this starting this fall, expanding Godly Play to include K-1st in addition to our 2nd-3rd grade class. Our former PreK classroom (the "purple room") has been converted into a second Godly Play classroom, with both Godly Play classrooms side-by-side.

Of course, none of this happens without the support of awesome parents and volunteers! We are so grateful to our teachers, greeters, parents and everyone who supports the faith formation of our children and youth - which, of course, means all of us. As Deacon Mary Lynn has reminded us, those who are baptized and confirmed have made a commitment to supporting and being present to our kids in their lives of faith. Please continue to pray about how you can be called to help, whether it's teaching, greeting, "aide-ing" or being a prayer warrior for one or more of our children.

~John Prust, DRE

A Summer of Fun with Sunday School & Children's Chapel

Our 9 a.m. summer Sunday School ended on St. Bart's Day, August 28. Despite the many benefits of having Sunday School between our Sunday worship services, after "trying it on" for the summer, we decided that we're not quite ready as a community to make the shift to the 9 o'clock hour. St. Bart's hopes to continue expanding its faith formation opportunities during the 9 a.m. Learning Hour, from seminars and Bible studies, to book study groups and "TED"-like talks.

Meanwhile, our clergy thoroughly enjoyed Children's Chapel this summer, and the opportunity it gave them to better know our children! Rev. Mary Lynn said, "it was a joy to pray, sing, and learn with the children this summer. We created a sacred space where we listened to God's Word, and wondered together about what we heard. My favorite part was hearing all of their brilliant questions and reflections!" Deacon Bill said, "I loved doing the children's chapel. When I did, I am reminded of how our kids are both the future and present day part of the church."



~John Prust, DRE

Join Others on the Journey

None of us has to walk the journey of grief alone. If you are struggling with issues related to grief due to the loss of someone you love, Rev. Mary Lynn invites you to walk alongside others in a new grief group beginning in mid-September. Please call Rev. Mary Lynn at 858-432-7106 for more information.



Pastoral Care Corner

Nancy Peterson

"My brother is mentally ill. He has schizophrenia, and I am responsible for making sure he can live independently. So I found myself praying all the time: praying before I spoke to him, praying after I spoke to him, praying in the car, praying all the time. And then I got a call from the Prayer Chain coordinator, and she asked me if I would be willing to take over for her. I realized that this was something that was part of my life on a daily basis, and it was easy for me to see that was what God wanted me to do. Prayer was already helping me in my day-to-day life, so having someone ask me to lead this ministry of prayer was a natural fit for me. In order to do what I'm called to do, I've had to learn how to prioritize the things that I do for others. Sometimes I find that I have to say "no," which can be really difficult. It's about figuring out what I'm called to, and what things make me happy. If you'd like to get involved in this ministry, contact me at: naninsan@gmail.com!"



*God willing
and the people consenting
The Rt. Rev. Martin Field
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to the Sacred Order of Priests

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10 a.m.*

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Your prayers and presence are requested



Around St. Bart's



St. Bart's Believers 2016 Playoff Team

Although the victory went to San Rafael, much fun was had by all. Playing for the Believers: Johnny, Natalie and Margie Polishuk, Derek Escobar, Barath Alli, Danny Shao, Jim Grandinetti, Kevin Berger, John Prust, Eric Hansen, David Tremaine, Diane Covell, Fr. Mark, Bill Kemnitzer and Natalie Hansen.



We enjoyed spending time with the Prayers and Squares ministry in August! The food was delicious, and the conversation was full of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for sharing your vision and fellowship with us. This is truly a ministry of reaching God's hands of love out to the world, as well as a ministry of devotion and prayer for the Prayers and Squares ministers themselves. Thank you for your ministry and leadership! ~Revs Chris Harris and Mary Lynn Coulson

Regular Meetings

SUNDAY

Interfaith Community Services (ICS) - Merle's Place

4-6 p.m. on the first and third Sunday of the month.

Contact Jill Henderson at 760-807-8445.

Daughters of the King

Third Sunday at 9:15 a.m., Room 3E

MONDAY

Boy Scouts:

7 p.m., Parish Hall

Health and Wellness Ministry:

First Monday at 6:30 p.m., Education Building, Room 3AB

TUESDAY

Centering Prayer:

5 p.m., Education Building, Room 3AB

The Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry:

Tuesdays (except fifth Tuesday) at 6:30 p.m., Quilt Room

WEDNESDAY

Interfaith Community Services (ICS):

Serve breakfast, fourth Wednesday at 6:00 a.m.

Contact Denny Walters at 760-432-8518.

Thrift Shop Work Night:

Last Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thrift Shop

THURSDAY

Book Guild:

Fourth Thursday, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room

B.P.U.S.A. - Bereaved Parents:

Fourth Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

P.A.S.S. - Parent Advocates Seeking Solutions:

Third Thursday, 7 p.m., South Parish Hall

SATURDAY

Psalm Singers:

Third Saturday 4:00 p.m., Sanctuary

AA MEETINGS:

Sundays at 6 p.m. - Conference Room

Mondays at 9:30 a.m. - Parish Hall (Women only)

Tuesdays at 12 p.m. - South Parish Hall

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. - South Parish Hall (Women only)

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m. - Parish Hall

Fridays at 12 p.m. - South Parish Hall

AL-ANON:

Mondays at 12 p.m. - South Parish Hall

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News from the Hill is a monthly publication of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway, CA 92064.

Editor: Kristeen Evans, Communications Manager

Deadline for submission of articles and announcements is the 10th of the month for the next month's newsletter. We welcome your submissions of information for publication. Please contact news@stbartschurch.org.

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Summer for Your Seminarian

experience possible for me.

By the time of publication, I will be back to Austin for the second of three years. It's hard to believe, that I am nearing the halfway point of my seminary education! In addition to being a full-time student, I will be doing a field placement externship the historic parish of St. David's in downtown Austin. I will serve there every Sunday during the school year, helping out at the altar and preaching twice per semester. More information about St. David's can be found at www.stdave.org.

I miss the community at St. Bart's and thank you for your continued prayers and support!

~Kelly Mahon



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The Rev. Mark C. McKone-Sweet, Rector 858-432-7107 | revmark@stbartschurch.org
The Rev. William Zettinger, Deacon 858-432-7108 | wzettinger@stbartschurch.org
The Rev. Mary Lynn Coulson, Curate 858-432-7106 | mlcoulson@stbartschurch.org
The Rev. Chris Harris, Curate 858-432-7114 | charris@stbartschurch.org

Honorary Clergy

The Rev. Robert Crafts, Priest-in-Residence
The Rev. Roy E. Hoffman, Priest-in-Residence

Music Ministry

Nathan Costa, Interim Director of Music 858-432-7112 | ncosta@stbartschurch.org
Janie Prim, Organist

Christian Formation for Children and Youth

John Prust, Director of Religious Education 858-432-7111 | jprust@stbartschurch.org
Maureen Hovannesian, Children's Ministry Assistant 858-432-7102 | children@stbartschurch.org

St. Bartholomew's Preschool

Cheri Hoffman, Director preschool@stbartschurch.org
Jen Shah, Administrator

Administrative Staff

Beth Dean, Parish Administrator 858-432-7110 | bdean@stbartschurch.org
Nina Zettinger, Accounting and Data Manager 858-432-7105 | nzettinger@stbartschurch.org
Mike Jewett, Sexton 858-432-7120

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Cathie Roy pastoralcare@stbartschurch.org

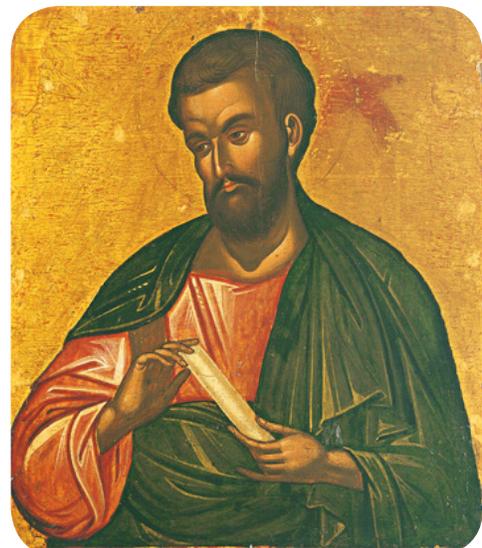
St. Bartholomew's Thrift Shop

Laurie Wathen, Manager stbarts@att.net

Vestry and Terms

Dan Crane, Senior Warden 2017
Mike Fuqua, Junior Warden 2018
Jerry Blanton 2017
Geoffrey Connie 2019
Derek Escobar 2018
Jim Grandinetti 2019
Jeffrey LaBerge 2017
Dan Morrisey 2017
Nancy Petersen 2019
Mike Richardson 2019
Cathie Roy 2018
Karen Tansey-Becerra 2018

Bill Angus, Treasurer
Pauline Getz, Chancellor
Anne Snyder, Clerk





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News from the Hill

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Teaching Is Who I Am

As I've been making the transition to a new job and life in southern California over the last few weeks, I've had to catch myself when strangers and new friends ask what it is that I do, what work has brought me to San Diego. "I'm a teacher," I often say, reflexively, before clarifying that, beginning this summer, I'm now serving as director of music of an Episcopal church in Poway. I suppose it may be only natural that, after nearly 20 years in the classroom and at a moment of transition, particularly during the down time of the summer months, I forget what it is that I do.

But I've also taken some solace and confidence in the reminder by Vice President and fellow Delawarean Joe Biden in his speech at the Democratic Convention: "being a teacher is not what [teachers] do, it's who they are."

And so this autumn I come to my work at St. Bartholomew's as a teacher - a teacher of song and singing, of music and musicianship, and also a teacher of Latin and Greek, literature, liturgy, and theology, for all of these fields influence me and my life. But I hope I come also with the humility that all good teachers I know possess, the willingness and ability to learn

from those they teach. Teaching is never a one-way street. Good teachers know their students well enough to know how and when to challenge and provoke, disturb and unsettle, as well as to nurture and cultivate nascent and sometimes unknown gifts and talents, to guide, celebrate, and console. They know that failure is but a moment of practice on the way toward mastery or success.



As I come to be part of a new community of faith, I look forward to learning who you are as individuals and as a whole, to learning your stories, dreams, and challenges, for it is only then that I can have any hope of teaching and offering my own talents and perspectives. Together, we are responsible for learning from and teaching each other, for "practicing" our faith together - aiming to get better at it each time we pray, sing and play. In this way, we minister in music and in all things to one another - whether we sing, play, or listen with the openness to being inspired by the holiness of beauty. I look forward to practicing - teaching and learning - a collective ministry in music and liturgy with you this year.

~Nathan Costa, Interim Director of Music