



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

News from the Hill

December 2018

Poway, CA

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Meditations This Advent

The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet

Dear friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you and yours
in good health and spirits.

I write you as I fly to Paul Kelly Mahon's
ordination to the priesthood. We are
flying over the fire areas north of San
Diego, and although the "skies are clear,"
the haze from the fires
covers the land as far
as the eye can see from
36,000 feet. I know that
below the haze are 9,000
homes and 45,000 lives
that must be rebuilt—
it's overwhelming to
imagine.

This very hour, members
of our youth group and
I were supposed to fly
to Haiti to visit our school. To bring the
Good News, made real and tangible, to
the hundreds of children we feed and
support each and every day. To build
more chairs and tables for the classrooms;
to share in simple fun and fellowship
with VBS games and art projects; and, as
a special treat, to watch movies at night.
This trip was to have been the fulfillment
of all the time, talent, and treasure our
youth have given. The disappointment is

understandable, the sadness we all feel
palpable.

Before my ordination, my mother had
some stoles made for me by an amazing
artist and seamstress named Laura. Laura
met with me before designing each stole.
For my Advent stole, she asked me to
describe in detail what Advent means to



me. I shared that Advent
is a time for growth and
for anticipation of the
hope and love of God
made manifest in each
person's heart, to be
affirmed and revealed
to the world. I described
the power of music,
specifically of Handel's
Messiah, to articulate
the awe-inspiring and

powerful, yet graceful, tapestry of God's
love embodied in the birth of Jesus. I
recounted these words from Isaiah and
Revelations, which especially resonate
with me: King of Kings, Lord of Lords,
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting [Spirit], Prince of Peace.

Laura then asked, "What do you want
people to see in your stole?" I want us, as
in all relationships, to be drawn into the

continued on page 2

Meditations This Advent

continued from page 1

The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet

mystery that is right before our eyes: to see, from a distance, one image; from a bit closer, another; and then from closer still—only a foot or two away—yet another. You may know that many stoles are designed with a cross over the heart of the priest. My Advent stole has stars—countless stars sewn over my heart, representing the many names for Jesus, and the stars that guided the magi.

Despite the smoke obscuring the lands as I look out this window, I know that if I get closer, I will see people—God’s people—trying to make God’s love real and tangible in a myriad of ways. I know that as I look up, into the full array of stars—discernible to the naked eye only on a clear night, at 36,000 feet—I will not be able to count them all. I know that the peace my heart feels at this very moment comes only from God, because my eyes have been seeking Jesus in the heavens and in the stars, in the sky and in the mountains, and in people, countless people. God made manifest.

We have a small gift for you this Advent. It’s a booklet, perfect for your pocket, purse, bedside table, or coffee table—a gentle

invitation to take a moment and look. Look for Jesus, whom the prophet Isaiah proclaimed the Prince of Peace, even if just for a moment. Can you be intentional each day in asking God to make Jesus real and tangible in your life? Can it be that this practice has been lost in today’s society? Join me in revitalizing it once more.

How will these meditations help? It’s a mystery. The same mystery that has drawn generations to look again and yet again, each time discovering deeper and deeper truths. The truth that God sees you and knows your worries, pains, fears, and troubles. The truth that God hears your prayers and yearns for you to know the comfort of the Prince of Peace. The truth that God’s love for you is everlasting.

Join us this Advent. Together, let’s anticipate sharing the Good News this season, in real and tangible ways, with our families, our neighbors, and the world. And may the Prince of Peace, made manifest in

your heart, be revealed for all to see.

Faithfully yours.



Christmas Flower & Music Donations

Lisa Saldamando, Bookkeeper

You can honor your loved ones on our Christmas Remembrance/Thanksgiving list, published in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day news insert, by making an offering to support altar flowers or our music ministry.

Envelopes are in the church or make your offering online. All donations and names are due to the church office by Monday, December 17 to be included in the Remembrance/Thanksgiving list. Contact Lisa Saldamando, lsaldamando@stbartschurch.org, with questions.



Hello

The Rev. Canon Allisyn Thomas

When I was asked to write a short article for the newsletter on my coming to St. Bart's in December that sounded fine. But once I sat down at my laptop to actually write something, I spent an inordinate amount of time trying to come up with a title that evoked "Hello," and then I thought being direct would probably work just fine.

As I said in my previous communication to you, I am excited to be able to return to full-time parish ministry. I am grateful beyond words for the privilege of working in the Bishop's office these last 5 years, but I have come to see being with people in community as we continually discover what it means to follow Jesus, is life-giving in a

way nothing else is for me.

And, the opportunity to be at St. Bart's with all of you is an amazing opportunity. You are a congregation that celebrates the joys of ministry as well as grapple with difficult questions together. Your motto at the entrance of the campus, "All are welcome, no exceptions," says it all and I feel so blessed to have been asked to join you in your common, rather our common, life together.

It is my hope that after I start on December 1st, to spend my initial time at the parish getting to know you better—please feel free to contact me, learning names (in all honesty not always my best trait), and what you

find important in your journeys of faith. From there I will be working on adult formation programs such as Lenten University, Sunday forums, working with you all to help make St. Bart's further live into its motto as a welcoming community, as well as the "normal" duties of a parish priest such as pastoral care, preaching, and liturgy. And no doubt I will get a surprise, or 100, along the way. I look forward to the adventure!

Blessings.



Moving Along

Liz Angus

The month of October marked the 52nd year our Thrift Shop has been serving the community-at-large. What started out as a rummage sale in 1966 has evolved into a 4,800 square foot resale store! We continue to be an important part of the outreach ministry of St. Bart's.

We have received notice from Legacy Property Management, our landlord's representative, that our lease will end in 15 months, at the end of February 2020. Our present location in the Carriage Center will be torn down and redeveloped. We are actively looking for another appropriate location. If you know of a property or of someone who could be of help, please contact Sumner Rollings, 858-829-1896 or sum.rollings@gmail.com.



Preschool Update

Jen Shah, Preschool Administrator

The past month has been super busy at St. Bart's preschool, with Trunk or Treat, the All Family Preschool Harvest Festival, All Saints Day Parade and our Pre-K Friday Spanish Class celebrating Día de los Muertos. In between, our preschoolers had fun with their classroom parties, projects, and of course our special lunch bunch enrichment days with Ms. Cheri and our teaching staff.

Our staff participated in the St. Bart's Christmas Bazaar with various homemade gifts items, such as succulent gardens and baked goods. The day was a big success and a lot of fun was had by the St. Bart's community at large.



Here at the preschool we are extremely thankful to all of our families and community support! We are eternally grateful to everyone who has referred our school to friends and neighbors. It shows in our growth. Enrollment for the year ahead is set to begin the week of January 14, 2019. Should you be looking for a preschool or know of anyone who might be interested in enrolling, please contact us for a tour.

It's hard to believe the holidays are almost here, we at the Preschool could not be more excited!

Our upcoming Advent Wreath, Polar Express and Rudolph Enrichment class will surely be popular with our students.

On December 17 and 18, the preschool will be holding its annual Christmas Pageant with a celebration in the Parish Hall afterwards. All are welcome to come and watch our student pageant which begins at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Best wishes to everyone in the St. Bart's Community for a wonderful holiday season!

What Happened to St. Bart's Peace Pole?

The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet

You may have noticed that the Peace Pole, which was in the garden outside the church offices, is missing. That Peace Pole now resides at the Temple Adat Shalom.

On October 30, members of the St. Bart's congregation participated in a vigil at Temple Adat Shalom to remember the victims of the tragedy in Pittsburg on October 27, 2018, and to pray together with the members of that congregation and those of many other faiths who gathered that night. We brought our Peace Pole to the event as a physical presence to symbolize the oneness of humanity and a common wish for a world at peace.

Our Peace Pole stood amidst the assembly. It was our wish that the pole find its new permanent home at Temple Adat Shalom as a symbol of that gathering and as a permanent reminder of the love and support people of all faiths can offer each other, not only in times of tragedy and grief, but more importantly, in a display of hope and prayer for a more peaceful future.

Costa and Ellen Dillon, who donated this Peace Pole to St. Bart's, have ordered a new one for us.



Q&A With Feeding San Diego at St. Bart's

Lisa Marie Oakes

These first few weeks of food distribution have been amazing! We've distributed over 1,500 pounds of food to our community so far and meeting the guests each week has truly been a blessing. There have been so many good suggestions and lots of questions about the program these past few weeks and we will try to address some of them.

Can I bring canned goods or other non-perishable items to donate?

Yes! If you bring items to church with you on Saturday or Sunday they will be distributed at the Sunday distribution. We are not able to store much so please bring items on Saturday evening or Sunday only and leave in the basket by the Serve Table or in the narthex (lobby) on Saturday night. Please don't bring expired or opened items. We will gladly accept unopened canned goods, toiletries, cleaning supplies, paper products and the like.

Can we donate backyard produce?

Yes! We would love to have your fresh fruits and vegetables. Please bring them on Sunday to church or directly to the distribution in the Parish Hall between 1:30 and 2 p.m. any Sunday.

Is there a way to get food delivered to people who can't come to the distribution?

If you know someone who could use the food, please come and get it for them and deliver it. We would be happy to fill bags for those who can't attend and have them delivered by a neighbor. We are open to expanding the ministry in the future and are exploring this idea with a local service group.

What's the greatest need/how can I help?

Our greatest need right now is for food pick-up drivers on Sunday mornings between 8 and 9 a.m. These volunteers go to Sprout's and/or Target and collect the fresh food these stores are donating and bring it back to St. Bart's to unload and weigh. If you have a mini van, SUV or truck, we could really use your help - once in a while or on a regular basis. Whatever works for you. Email feedingpeople@stbartschurch.org if you can assist.

I'd like to donate clothes - can I bring them to the food distribution?

We are not distributing clothing or household items - please bring these donations to the St. Bart's Thrift store on Poway Road. All items donated are sold at very low prices to the community and the money earned goes back into the community through various projects at St. Bart's.



Can I donate pet food?

Yes! Please bring any unopened pet supplies to church with you on Saturday or Sunday and we will distribute with the fresh food rescue items. No opened packages can be accepted.

I have meat in my freezer that I would like to donate, will you take that?

No, we are unable to accept items such as meats, dairy and the like from the public for distribution to ensure food safety for our guests.

Can I make a monetary donation?

Yes, although this is a self-sustaining project, any monetary donations will be used to promote the project or help with the purchase of signage, storage boxes and feeding the hungry in our community.

Can I come to get food? Can I bring neighbors or friends?

YES! Please come to get food. We are here to serve one another and the community around us. Bring a bag and come get fresh food. If you have neighbors or family members who could use a hand, invite them or bring them along. ALL ARE WELCOME, NO EXCEPTIONS

Can undocumented people get food here safely?

Yes, we will provide food to everyone who comes without the need to register with us or provide proof of residency, income or other information.

I still have questions or suggestions. Who can I talk to?

Please email Lisa Marie Oakes at feedingpeople@stbartschurch.org with questions or suggestions or call the office at St. Bart's, 858-487-2159. We'd love to talk to you about the program.

To sign-up to volunteer for distribution shifts please go to the St. Bart's web site at stbartschurch.org under the serve tab.

A collection of Christmas ornaments hanging from red dotted strings. There are five white ornaments and four red ornaments, each with a red bow at the top. The ornaments are arranged in a scattered pattern on the left side of the page.

Sunday
December 9
4 p.m.

Festival of Carols

Join the choirs and musical ensembles of St. Bartholomew's for an afternoon of carol singing as we open our hearts to the Christmas season. This is a community event featuring carols both traditional and modern, and a congregational sing-along!



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

16275 Pomerado Road
(858) 487-2159
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A Festival of Carols: A Celebration of our Music Ministry

John-Luke Addison, Director of Music

When I was in “design mode” for my first year of Director of Music, I knew I wanted to establish a framework for events to further amplify our Sunday liturgies, to reach a broader community and offer ‘against-the-grain’ ideas that perhaps wouldn’t work in a traditional Evensong or liturgical format. What popped in to my head instantly was an annual concert in Advent, that could facilitate all our various music groups coming together and offering a large-scale, celebratory, musical mosaic for the season. The idea became a Festival of Carols, and could be a great opportunity for individuals in our wider community to attend, especially visitors who are less aware of our thriving music program.

What is different about this Carol concert, is that it is

just that: a concert, not the traditional *Festival of Lessons and Carols* that King’s College, Cambridge has popularized over the years. The King’s service is very much a time for prayer and remembering our history from Genesis through the prophets, and hearing the story of Christ’s birth.

Our event is a celebratory, festal, feel-good event that will open all of our hearts into the Christmas spirit, as we sing together several seasonal selections and enjoy fellowship at a reception afterward. You will hear selections from the Handbell Choir, Schola Cantorum, String Ensemble, Brass Choir, Parish Choir, and Children and Youth Choirs, with music

ranging from 9th century Gregorian chant to 21st century anthems, as well as an opportunity to participate with singing Carols.

Some of the selections you will hear are: Felix Mendelssohn’s anthem, *Sleepers Wake*; John Rutter’s *Angels’ Carol*; Ola



Gjeilo’s *Spotless Rose*; Eric Whitacre’s *Lux Aurumque*; movements from Corelli’s *Christmas Concerto*, and several other pieces by Bach, Handel, di

Lasso, Willcocks, and many more. The congregation will be singing eight Carols with organ, string, and brass accompaniment, featuring brilliant harmonies and descants offered by the choir. In the future, the event

hopefully will become an annual Poway community event that could be offered multiple times on a weekend to facilitate popular demand.

Something I will always hearken to in my programming is my philosophy for accessibility, diversity, and variety. I like for every musical offering to have something for everyone, and this concert will undoubtedly fuel every soul, from every lover of Christmas to even Scrooge himself. I encourage you all to attend, and bring a friend, family member, or neighbor as we offer our community an arena for great joy and celebration in this Christmas season.

REGENERATION
A CONTEMPORARY
Worship Service

Sunday, January 20 4 p.m.

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The Questions Jesus Asks Us

The Rev. William H. Zettinger, Deacon-in-Residence

And Why They are Important

As we approach this season of Advent I find myself asking more and more questions about Jesus.

Recently I have re-read the book *Jesus as CEO* by Lauri Beth Jones. In it she asks the question, "was Jesus a great leader?"

Did you know that in the Gospels, Jesus asks more than 300 questions, many of which were direct and to the point? A characteristic that Jones finds is common among great leaders. Jesus' questions are directed not only to the people in his time, but also to us. They are there for us to ponder as we read the word inspired by God. If we believe that and I do, it's appropriate for us to receive those questions as though Jesus were addressing them to each one of us today.

One of the mistakes people make in reading Scripture is that they read it as a spectator. For many, the Scriptures are a collection of stories and events that took place thousands of years ago. True enough, we are reading historical accounts that were written for the people of their time. But how do we read those accounts and interpret them in our time? What do they mean to us and how can we get more out of them today? I think that's a good question for Advent.

If the truth be told, these ancient stories are our stories. We are in the narrative. We

are Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Deborah, Jeremiah, Ruth, the Apostles, Mary Magdalene, Mother Mary and the power in the hands of the Roman leaders like Herod and Pilate to name just a few.

Why did Peter deny Christ and run? Why do we run and hide sometimes? Mary Magdalene had a sinful past and a promising future, so do many of us. Peter was passionate and had a temper, so do I. Judas betrayed Christ for a small payoff. Have we ever been paid for something we should not have done? Jesus suffered and died but rose again and ascended to glory. So, will we rise again?

Jesus had doubts about the father. "My God my God why have you forsaken me." Yes, it's OK to doubt, to be like Thomas.

To read scripture as a mere spectator is to miss the point. Scripture is our story. We are in it. It is about us.

In the light of this revelation, there is another important and powerful key to unlocking the text. The key is simply this: whenever Jesus asks a question, answer it!

Do not wait to see what answer the Pharisees, the crowd, or Pilate is looking for to the question, "What

has this man done?" Answer the question, in your own words. This brings Scripture powerfully alive.

Pastor Eric von Atzigen offers this insight into why Jesus asked so many questions:

Jesus masterfully uses questions to teach vital spiritual truths. Jesus never asked a question because he needed to know the answer. He used questions to drill down into a new level of understanding...I find myself amazed at the power of these questions they cut into my soul.

I had never really thought about it in quite this way before, but Pastor Eric is right: Jesus' questions are powerful! And

they can open places in our hearts and lives that we never knew were there.

Here are a few of the questions Jesus asks. Use them for your prayerful meditation and reflection. You can look each one of them up for the context, but perhaps it's best to follow a technique that I often employ. When I am down, when I am disturbed, angry or confused.

Just let the question meet you where you are right now. The question may mean something for you that is very different than its original

context. But that's OK. Just pick a question, read it, consider it and answer it.

Why not during this season of Advent try a new beginning in your prayer life by answering these questions.

"Why are you afraid?" (Mark 4:40)

"What do you want me to do for you?" (Mark 10:51)

"Do you believe that I am able to do this?" (Matt. 9:28)

"Where is your faith?" (Luke 8:25)

"Why do you not understand what I say?" (John 8:43)

"Do you understand what I have done for you?" (John 13:12)

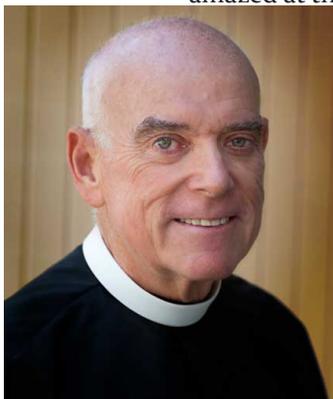
"Why do you call me 'Lord' and do not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46)

"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" (Luke 18:8)

"Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?" (Luke 24:38)

"Do you love me?" (John 21:17)

It's that last one that really resonates with me and maybe the hardest to answer. Do you love me? Do you love me? Wow! That is really a question for our time and time eternal, is it not.



Regular Meetings

SUNDAY

Junior & Intermediate Choir (ages 7-18)

11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Interfaith Community Services (ICS) - Merle's Place

1st & 3rd Sunday, 4-6 p.m.

Contact Jill Henderson, 760-807-8445

Daughters of the King

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

MONDAY

Boy Scouts

7 p.m., Parish Hall

Health and Wellness Ministry

1st Monday at 5:30 p.m., Education Building, Room 3AB

Hand Bell Choir

7 p.m., Choir Room

TUESDAY

Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry

Tuesdays (except fifth Tuesday), 1 p.m., Quilt Room

Centering Prayer

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

Our Space

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Interfaith Community Services (ICS)

Serve breakfast, fourth Wednesday 6 a.m.

Contact Denny Walters, 760-432-8518

Thrift Shop Work Night

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

Schola

6 p.m., Choir Room

Youth CREW

6 p.m., Youth Room

String Ensemble

7 p.m., Choir Room

THURSDAY

Junior Choir (ages 7-12)

4:30-5:15 p.m.

Intermediate Choir (ages 13-18)

5:15-6:30 p.m.

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

4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

Choir

7 p.m., Music Room

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Parish Hall

Support Groups

AA MEETINGS

Sundays, 6 p.m., Conference Room

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

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., South Parish Hall

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

Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., Parish Hall

Thursdays, 12 p.m., South Parish Hall (Beginners)

Fridays, 9:45 a.m., South Parish Hall (Women only)

Fridays, 12 p.m., South Parish Hall and 6 p.m., Room 3AB

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m., Conference Room

AL-ANON

Mondays, 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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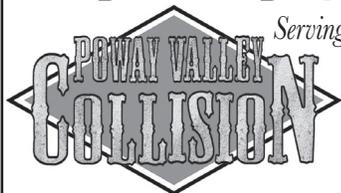
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Worship Services

Sundays: 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m.

Saturdays: 5 p.m.

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Clergy and Staff

Clergy

- The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop 619-481-5454
- The Rev. Mark C. McKone-Sweet, Rector 858-432-7107 | revmark@stbartschurch.org
- The Rev. Canon Allisyn Thomas, Associate Rector. 858-432-7114 | athomas@stbartschurch.org
- The Rev. Mary Lynn Coulson, Assistant Rector. 858-432-7106 | mlcoulson@stbartschurch.org

Honorary Clergy

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

Music Ministry

- John-Luke Addison, Director of Music, Principal Organist. 858-432-7112 | jladdison@stbartschurch.org
- Janie Prim, Associate Organist

Christian Formation for Children and Youth

- The Rev. Mary Lynn Coulson, Assistant Rector. 858-432-7106 | mlcoulson@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
- Kristeen Evans, Communications Manager 858-432-7104 | news@stbartschurch.org
- Lisa Saldamando, Bookkeeper 858-432-7105 | lsaldamando@stbartschurch.org
- Treasurer. 858-432-7119 | treasurer@stbartschurch.org
- Mike Jewett, Sexton. 858-432-7120

Pastoral Care Coordinator

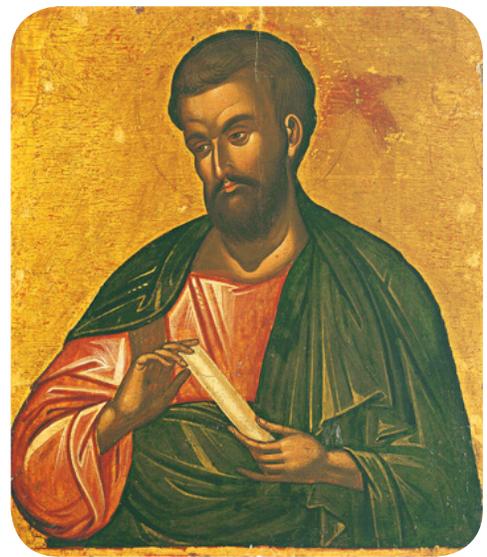
- Cathie Roy pastoralcare@stbartschurch.org

St. Bartholomew's Thrift Shop

- Laurie Wathen, Manager stbarts@att.net

Vestry and Terms

- Dan Crane, Senior Warden 2020
- Nancy Petersen, Junior Warden 2019
- Pat Blair 2020
- Helena Chan 2021
- Elaine Coke 2020
- Karen Crafts 2021
- Mark Davis 2020
- Costa Dillon 2019
- Jim Grandinetti 2019
- Mike Richardson 2019
- Cathie Roy 2021
- George Tynan 2021
- Noah Domke-Rojas, Youth Rep. 2019
- Terry McCune, Treasurer
- Pauline Getz-Enos, Chancellor
- Anne Snyder, Clerk





ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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stbartschurch.org

Change Service Requested

Advent & Christmas

AT ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

**CONTEMPLATIVE
CELTIC
EUCHARIST**
Saturdays 5 pm
in Advent

**DECEMBER 19
BLUE CHRISTMAS**
12 pm
7 pm

**DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE**
4 pm Pageant
7 pm Eucharist
9:30 pm Eucharist

**DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS**
10 am Eucharist



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