

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church ... A Christian Community of open minds, open hearts, and open arms.

April 2023

APRIL 23 IS A BIG DAY!

St. Bartholomew's is YOU, and to celebrate that, each year we hold an Annual Meeting of the parish. This year, the big day is April 23, the day after Earth Day.

The church, like a family, has a character that is not just a reflection of the traditions that have shaped it over time, but most importantly, of the people who participate in it. To offer your unique selves as a contribution to the church family is a mighty gift—a blessing. No one else can bring what you specifically bring, so in a sense, each one of you is building the future St B's each time you step into the community, whether it be for worship or some other activity.

The St. B's parish leaders, both lay and ordained, are committed to transparency in our ministries, in our operations, and in our governance. In that regard, you will hear about the *workings* of the church as well as the *work* of the church, and you will have opportunity to ask questions and make comments. We will share a single worship service together, have our annual meeting, and then enjoy a meal and fellowship time together in the Parish House.

This is an especially important year as St. B's navigates its future course, not only with a change of leadership after Flo's retirement, but also with a change in parish life as we emerge from three years of pandemic life. We can use this time to think about some of the specifics as we refine who we envision ourselves becoming as the parish of tomorrow. All living things are called to adapt to changing conditions, and this ability to adapt is a gift from God.

We are blessed to have a primary vision and mission that guides us: We will, with God's help, be a vibrant faith community that is a blazing beacon of God's transforming love in the world. God is calling us to take righteous risks. We accept this call, and will respond by seeking and serving Christ in ALL people.

The Annual Meeting is the time to tell the story of the previous year, and as that chapter of the story closes, we begin writing the next one. I can't wait to read what will be written before next year's Annual Meeting!

— Pan Conrad, Interim Rector

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Sunday Worship at St. B's

oin us for Sunday worship! We worship in the Church at 8:00 and 10:30 am.

You can also join us for our 10:30 am worship on Zoom.

Here's how you can join us on Zoom at 10:30 am:

This is the link: https://zoom.us/j/7641738777?pwd=d05KWmJPZ0ZZaHlmUlpRK2NiOFp6UT09.

or you can go to your own Zoom page and use this info:

The Meeting ID: 764 173 8777

The password: 703085

AND, you can come early to have some fun at our Zoom Coffee Hour.



Holy Week and Easter Worship

Palm Sunday (April 2) Blessing of the Palms and Passion at 8:00 am (in the Church) and 10:30 am (in the Church and on Zoom). The 10:30 service begins in the Parking Lot for the Blessing of the Palms and a procession into the Church.

Maundy Thursday (April 6) Eucharist & Footwashing at 7:30 pm (in the Church and on Zoom), followed by an all-night vigil in the Chapel.

Good Friday (April 7) services at

12:00 noon (Good Friday Liturgy) in the Church and

7:30 pm (Tenebrae) in the Church and on Zoom.

Holy Saturday (April 8) The Easter Vigil (with Holy Eucharist) at 7:30 pm (in the Church), followed by an **Agape Feast** in the Parish House. Please sign up in the Tower Room to let us know what you would like to contribute to the Feast.

Easter Day! (April 9) Join us for our Easter Sunday services at 8:00 am (in the Church) and at 10:30 am (in the Church and on Zoom).

(The link for Zoom worship is available here on our website.)

Easter Flowers

St. B's welcomes your special offering for **Easter flowers** for either Memorials (given in thanks for those who have come before) or Thanksgivings for the gifts of this life.

Please email names — and indicate whether "In Memory of" or "In Thanksgiving for" — to Maggie (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org) or use the form in the bulletin. You can mail the form or put it in the offering plate. Names are due by Palm Sunday. April 2.



Contributions may be mailed to the office, put in the offering plate, or given online at https://www.osvhub.com/stbs-md/giving/funds.

Maundy Thursday Vigil

April 6-7, 2023

by Glorius Sullivan

Vig.il - \n [fr vigil awake, watchful]: 1c: evening or nocturnal devotions or prayers; 2: the act of keeping awake at times when sleep is customary. (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary)

"COULD NONE OF YOU STAY AWAKE WITH ME FOR ONE HOUR?"

(Matthew 26:40)

St. Bartholomew's Church will hold a Virtual Vigil Maundy Thursday night, beginning April 6, immediately following the Maundy Thursday service. The Vigil will begin at approximately 9:00 pm and continue through noon on Good Friday, ending with the Good Friday Liturgy. The vigil will be staffed in hourly increments by hopefully at least two watchers. The watchers will begin each hour with short readings, and will use the remaining time to pray, meditate, or simply be still. The readings remind us of our God, our past, our present, and our future. The first of the readings will be the Christian story — our story — beginning with the creation (Genesis) and ending with Jesus' arrest at the garden of Gethsemane. Watchers throughout the night will then repeat Matthew 26:36-41. This reading reminds each of us of why we are at this place at this time.

"Could none of you stay awake with me for one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

The vigil will be off-site this year. The sign-up sheet is available throughout Lent in the Tower Room of the Church for anyone who feels called to take part in this virtual vigil. A list of the readings will be available next to the sign-up sheet. Take the time — one hour — to spend in quiet prayer and thought and know that you are not alone in this time of watching and waiting. If you have any questions, please contact Chuck or Glorius Sullivan (410-644-8110).

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Available Online . . .

On Our Website:

- ~ "A Moment of Peace and Quiet" a digital devotion.
- ~ Recordings of St. B's worship services.



- ~ Choral Evensong
- ~ Bach at St. Bartholomew's

Music



The St. Bartholomew's Handbell Choir rehearses on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month. If you are middle school age or older, come and join us for an exciting year of ringing. No prior musical experience is needed.

Contact Willis Keeling at 410-947-5507 for more information.





Calling Singers!

by Ted Davis

A singing opportunity awaits you! Please mark your calendar, and tell your singing friends, The St. Bartholomew Choir welcomes guest singers to take part in our concert of Mozart's epic Mass in C minor on Sunday evening, June 11, at 7:30 pm.

Thursday rehearsals begin **April 13** at 8:30 pm; final rehearsal with orchestra on Saturday, June 10 (late morning/early afternoon). A Saturday retreat day with potluck lunch is also in the planning (date in April or May TBD).

This event is an effort to revive a pre-pandemic annual event at St. Bartholomew's, last held in 2019. This year's version is expected to garner considerable excitement, and we welcome singers from the parish and community to be part of this short-term, good-fun singing opportunity.

For more details, contact Ted Davis at ted@stbs-md.org or speak with any member of the choir.

— Ted is St. B's Organist and Choirmaster

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

Baltimore, Maryland

presents

Mozart's Mass in C minor

a concert by the St. Bartholomew Choir and friends

Concert Sunday, June 11

with chamber orchestra

Rehearsals begin Thursday, April 13



One of Mozart's most esteemed works, the epic *Mass in C minor* was left incomplete at Mozart's untimely death in 1791. Filled with grandeur and mystery, the work has been beloved through the centuries since, and has figured prominently as a subject in theatre and cinema.

BACH AT ST. RTHOLOMEW'S

A series of concerts celebrating the keyboard masterworks of one of the most celebrated composers of all time, Johann Sebastian Bach



Concerts are free of charge.

Donations are gratefully accepted and will help support the parish outreach fund and future music events at St. Bartholomew's

April 16 & 30

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4711 Edmondson Avenue,

Baltimore

Phone 410-945-7263

www.stbs-md.org

On Facebook: "St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church" and "Music at St. Bartholomew's"



"Bach sollte nicht Bach, sondern Meer heissen" ("Bach should not be called Brook, he should be called Ocean.") --Ludwig van Beethoven SUNDAY, 4/16, 4:00 P.M.

Wine and informal lecture at 3:45

Bach to Dance

Organ: Toccata in F, BWV 540a Harpsichord: "French" Suite, b minor,

BWV 814

Harpsichord: Partita in D, BWV 828 Organ: Fugue in F, BWV 540b

SUNDAY, 4/30, 4:00 P.M.

Wine and informal lecture at 3:45

Bach to the Faith

Organ: Music from **Clavierübung III**, Bach's musical monument to his Lutheran faith.

Audience participation included!

Theodore S. (Ted) Davis

organ and harpsichord

Length of concerts is approx. 1 hour





St. Bartholomew's Church is located at 4711 Edmondson Avenue in Baltimore's Ten Hills neighborhood –

about two miles East of I-695 via Edmondson Avenue (Exit 14) or Route 40 (Exit 15), and about four miles west of downtown Baltimore via Rt. 40 (Franklin/Edmondson).

April

16

April

The Bethesda Chamber Singers at Saint Bartholomew's Church

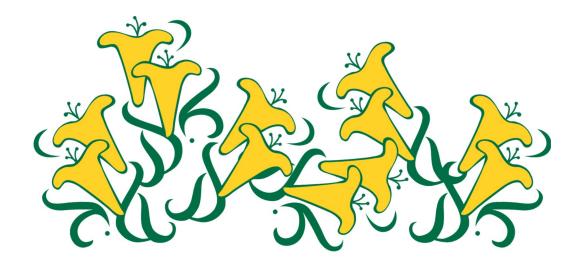
Saturday, May 20th, 2023 4:00 pm



Come enjoy a program of a cappella vocal music from a wide variety of styles and eras. Offerings will include sacred music from Byrd, Victoria, Duruflé, and McFerrin, and secular selections from Josquin, Poulenc, and Porter.

The concert is free; donations are welcome and will help support outreach and music programs at St. Bartholomew's.

Contact Diane Mountain for more information (410-945-4953).



Christ Came Juggling

Shared by Janet Aldrich

At the risk of tossing the gospel story of Mary and Mary in the garden into the air like juggling balls, I offer up this poem from an anthology compiled by my beloved Luci Shaw (see December 2022's Apostle). (Come to find out, Ms. Shaw was Madeleine L'Engle's editor for 35 years, which explains everything!) We know from the gospel that Jesus appeared to the women as a gardener after Jesus's solitary, unwitnessed break-away from the tomb. This poem gives playful, joyful imagery to that very act, with delightful, onomatopoeic metaphors: "flipping and bouncing" of "stone pages" that dissipated "those narrow letters" (presumably, the prohibitive Nazareth decree) "against the roots of dawn." Jesus as clown is not an image to be taken as offensive; years of cultural history offer up clowns as archetypes who cross and often break both physical and societal rules. They are known to challenge principals of society and natural order. (Doesn't this sound like Jesus?!) Re: Jesus's appearance as a gardener, I interpret in this poem that Jesus recreated the garden with "each slapping step/a new blossom spiked with joy" in the emergence from the tomb. Of the resurrection morning earthquake, perhaps the poem offers sound effects for that, too: "the chuckle in the dark,/that clean blast of laughter behind—..." It gets better! Upon Jesus's resurrection, WE, too, experience freedom from our own grief-stricken, tomb-like imprisonments: "Christ comes juggling our tombs/....and we fall out, dancing and juggling/our griefs like little balls of light." Alleluia! Christ is risen... and so are we! Alleluia!

Christ Came Juggling

Christ came juggling from the tomb flipping and bouncing death's stone pages, tossing those narrow letters high against the roots of dawn spread in cloud.

This Jesus, clown, came dancing in the dust of Judea, each slapping step a new blossom spiked with joy.

Hey! Listen—that chuckle in the dark, that clean blast of laughter behind—Christ comes juggling our tombs tossing them high and higher yet, until they hit the sun and break open and we fall out, dancing and juggling our griefs like sizzling balls of light.

~~ Eugene Warren



Rector Search Process: An Update

By Michael Sarbanes

We welcomed our Interim Rector Pan Conrad to St. B's. Pan will be with us as we conduct a search for a new Rector and we are already enjoying her enthusiasm and wisdom!

The search process for the next Rector is moving forward with guidance from search consultant Rev. Dina van Klaveren, who has been retained by the Vestry to help give us the wisdom of her experience in working with congregations who are searching for a new Rector.

The search process will include two major stages.

1. Development of a parish profile: This will be a process to gather input from as many members of the congregation as possible to help us discern what we are looking for in a new Rector, and will develop the profile that we will circulate to potential candidates. We will be lead through this process by the following co-chairs of a Profile Committee – Corinne Bowmaker, Marty Clark, and Angel Jackson. Amanda Harris serves as the Vestry liaison to the Profile Committee. The Committee has been recruiting additional members to make sure we have a good base

for reaching out and hearing the voices of as many people as possible. PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR SUNDAY, May 21 AFTER CHURCH FOR A "DAY OF DISCERNMENT" where we will gather to talk together about what is most essential to include in our profile.

2. Search Committee process: The Search Committee will circulate the Parish Profile to potential candidates and will vet resumes, conduct interviews, consult references, etc. with a view toward providing a recommendation to the Vestry to consider. We will be led through this process by Patricia Daniel, Michael Mountain, and Gay Warshaw, each of whom brings a depth of experience at St. B's that will be invaluable. This Committee is also reaching out to additional members to provide a faithful discernment that reflects the values of St. B's as we search for the right candidate to be St. B's new Rector.

— Michael is St. B's Senior Warden

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Vestry Highlights

At the Vestry Meeting on February 28:

- The Vestry discussed and approved the 2022 Parochial Report.
- The Vestry approved giving Rev. Flo the title "Rector Emerita."
- Michael Sarbanes provided an update on the plans for addressing committee membership needs this spring.

Highlights from the Vestry meetings on March 21 and 28 will be available in the May Apostle.

The Vestry normally meets monthly on the third and fourth Tuesday of the month. Vestry meetings are open, and all members and friends are welcome to attend. If you would like to come, please contact Maggie Caldwell (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org).

The Annual Meeting takes place on Sunday, April 23.

That day we will hold <u>one service only at 9:30 am</u>, to be followed by the meeting, then lunch in the Parish House



The Vestry Retreat takes place the weekend of May 5—7.

Please keep our Vestry in your prayers as they get to know one another, learn to work together, and discuss their hopes and concerns for the future of St. B's.

The Classics

Offering fellowship and education for adults ages 50 & up, the Classics meet in the Parish House, usually on the third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am!



<u>April 19</u> — Our program, presented by Interim Rector Pan Conrad, is "Earth Day, 53 Years Later." Bring a sandwich; we'll provide drinks and a sweet table.

Men's Breakfast at the Double T Diner

by Ed Hostetter

Nine men gathered last month for breakfast at what's become our favorite haunt. Clockwise from the left of our invisible photographer Marty, there were Neville, Bill, Caleb, Gordon, me (aka Ed), Brian, Dave, and Tom. As usual, we couldn't eat all that was served to us. By contrast, we had just the right amount of comradery—and spiritual food!

The highlight was our launch of a political campaign: Rosenberger for Governor 2026! The sole plank of the platform is abolishing both daylight saving time and standard time, splitting the difference year-round. For example, while I type these words the hour would be neither 11:43 nor 10:43 but 11:13. Although he may not win the race, he will get at least nine votes.



Join us if you can on Saturday morning the 8th of April at 8:30 (eastern daylight time) in the Double TT Diner, located at the corner of Route 40 and Rolling Road in Catonsville.

Need more info or a ride? Contact Brian Rosenberger (<u>bjrosenberger9273@gmail.com</u>) or Marty Clark (<u>peaceclark1@gmail.com</u>).

Celebrate the Resurrection!

by Debbie McClellan

Join us on Holy Saturday night, April 8, and experience the power of the Resurrection in our dramatic Easter Vigil service, beginning at 7:30 pm.

Immediately after the service, our festivities continue with an Agape Feast in the Parish House. This special celebratory meal features simple foods—bread, cheese, fruit, and wine—reminiscent of New Testament times.



If you are willing bring a finger food or a beverage to share at the Feast, please sign up on the list in the Parish House. We are looking for non-alcoholic beverages (juices) as well as wine; Easter breads, cheese, nuts, and fruit are particularly appropriate.

Please come and be part of the celebration!

Join Us for Our Next Sankofa Circle!

by Thelma Smullen and Chuck Sullivan

Thelma Smullen and Chuck Sullivan will begin a new 6-week Sankofa Circle on Tuesday, April 25th at 11:45 am on Zoom. We will meet each week for 90 minutes, ending at 1:15 pm.

What is a Sankofa Circle? It is group of people who gather in fellowship with one another in order to reflect on the Sunday sermon and lessons. If you cannot make Sunday worship, you can prepare by listening to the sermon via our St. B's website. The service is usually posted on Mondays.

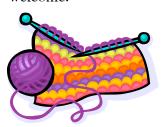


A Sankofa Circle is a great way to get to know one another better, deepen your faith and understanding, and share your joys and concerns as we worship together. If you have questions or want to join us please get in touch with Thelma (tasmullen@gmail.com) or Chuck (chgl@verizon.net). They will provide the zoom information.

Prayer Shawls and Sewing Bees

The Prayer Shawls Group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Parish House and on Zoom.

We craft shawls and prayer squares to give to parishioners and 40 West clients in need of comfort. The shawls are a tangible hug folks can keep with them all the time—a tangible reminder of our love and care for them, and God's love and care for them. Knitters and crocheters of any age and ability are welcome.



Please contact Leigh Snowden at lsnowde1@msn.com for more information or for the Zoom link. St. B's Sewing Bees meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the Hardy home for crafting and fellowship.



Any sort of handwork is encouraged—knitting, quilting, cross-stitch, scrapbooking, etc.

For information about the St. B's Sewing Bees, please contact Sharon Selleck at scobleselleck@gmail.com.

Zoom Church — A New Opportunity

By Bryan MacKay

I've been residing in California for the past three months, attending St. B's via Zoom church. It's different; not better, not worse, just different. It occurs to me that Zoom church offers an opportunity for each of us to recall Jesus's command to spread the good news.

I know most, if not all of us, are always looking for friends, even acquaintances, who we might invite to join us on Sunday mornings. Zoom church offers us the opportunity to invite friends who don't reside within easy Sunday morning commuting distance of west Baltimore. And it's a chance to think about shut-ins who might be physically unable to join us in person. Finally, you might have friends who are curious, but unwilling to take that big step of attending Sunday mornings as a visitor; now they can dip their toe into worship quietly, from afar, even anonymously.

What greater gift could you give someone than to facilitate beginning a relationship with God? So Invite A Friend — to Zoom Church!

— Bryan is Chair of the Newcomer's Committee

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Christian Formation for All Ages

At St B's we make sure to provide Christian Formation opportunities and thoughtful but fun info for all ages. Here are our choices!

The Cribbery, providing childcare for infants and children up to age 5, is open on Sundays from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Children's Word meets on Sunday mornings during the 10:30 am service. Just after the Epistle (Second) Reading, children in the church, age 3 through grade 5, gather with their teachers in the Undercroft.

D Group, for those in grades 6—12, meets on (mostly) alternate Sundays from 12:00 – 2:30 pm.

Episcopal 102 meets on Zoom on Mondays from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We're currently reading the Gospel According to Matthew. <u>Here's the Zoom link.</u>

Sunday Faith Forum meets on an occasional Sunday morning at 9:15 on Zoom. It is for older youth and adults. Here's the Zoom link.

- April 16 Come hear Abraham Jokt talk about his experience teaching in the Sudan. How did he end up in Maryland at UMBC? Hear about what he is studying and what he hopes to take back to reflect on with his students when he returns. Led by Celeste Thurston.
- April 30 Hope Harbor charts a new course to help revitalize West Baltimore. Launched by St. B's in 2010 as part of our strategic plan, this 501(c)3 organization is turning its focus to housing and related issues as a means to strengthen our local neighborhoods. Learn about what this amazingly talented organization is planning, for both the near term and more strategically. Led by Dave Mountain.
- May 7 "Change is coming, things are moving." Finally there is hope for West Baltimore! After decades of neglect (by policy), decay, and hopelessness, things are turning around for the community in which St. B's is located. Edmondson Village Shopping Center is being re-envisioned and redeveloped. The Uplands Stage II development is in progress, which we can see and hear when we are at church. And now there is hope that the disastrous Highway to Nowhere, that strip of concrete along Route 40 into the city that divided and destroyed neighborhoods along its length, will be removed and the communities reunited. Come and hear about the changes and the hopes of our community and ways you can be involved. Led by Corinne Bowmaker.



The Cribbery

providing child care for infants and children up to age 5 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Are you interested in finding out more about the Cribbery?

Stop by on Sunday morning and meet our wonderful

childcare provider Dona McIntyre.

Children's Word

by Steve Miller and Kobey DeVale

The Children's Word class led by Kobey DeVale and Steve Miller was a beehive of activity this past month, as we studied the lessons of Abram's Call, the Woman at the Well, and the Blind Man at the Pool of Siloam.

Discussion of Abram's Call focused on how we can trust God to guide our lives and take care of us. We made miniature altar replicates of the ones that Abram and his family made when they arrived in Canaan.

There was lots to talk about in the lesson of the Woman at the Well. We discussed the idea of acceptance, and how Jesus didn't care that the woman was a Samaritan and a sinner (aren't we all?) and how God accepts all of us no matter who we are and what we do. We also talked about Living Water and how God gives us what we need to live the best lives we can live. For that class our activity involved making a three-dimensional craft with a drawing of a well and attaching a "bucket" on a "rope" to go into the well.

And for the lesson of Jesus giving sight to the blind man, we discussed how we can see not only with our eyes, but also with our hearts, and how important it is to see others and to love and help them the best we can. Our craft for that lesson was a cut out heart with "googly eyes" and a message asking God to help us to open the eyes of our heart.

As in previous months, we were blessed to have members of the St. B's Youth join us in Children's Word last month. Special thanks this time to Audrey Chambers, Lex DeVale, and Phoebe Johnson for helping with crafts and keeping our children engaged in our discussions!

Just a reminder that we warmly welcome ALL children ages 3-fifth grade who attend worship to join us in our Children's Word discussions and activities. It's a wonderful way for them to break away from the service for 20-30 minutes, learn the Gospel, and create fellowship with others their age. Please let Kobey DeVale (kdevale@devale.net), Steve Miller (stmiller@umbc.edu) or Maggie Caldwell (mcaldwell@stbs-md.org) know if you would like more information about Children's Word, and/or if you would like to be involved in any way with it.

— Steve and Kobey are Children's Word Leaders







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D-Group at Work





Get Ready for D-Group!

St. B's D-Group, for youth entering grades 6 through 12, meets in the Youth House from 12:00 to 2:30 pm on (mostly) alternate Sundays. March gatherings are scheduled on the 5th and 19th. For more information, please contact Leaders Kathie or Marty Clark (peaceclark1@gmail.com). Gather for fun, fellowship, and faith. Invite a friend!

New Beginnings!

April 21-23

New Beginnings, a retreat for middle school youth, is a fantastic weekend at Camp Wright in Stevensville, MD. Previous New Beginners who have reached high school are the designer team and staff for the weekend. This makes for a perfect sense of what it means to be a part of the community. A whole weekend dedicated to youth working through the transitions of middle school through talks, skits and small group. A place where they can find community in Christ and mentors in high school students. Click here to register. (Registration closes on April 7.)



EYE (Episcopal Youth Event)!

July 4-8 in College Park, Maryland

For those who have completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12; Cost: \$400.



Attending EYE as a youth is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. EYE a transformational event created by youth for youth. Youth who crave connection and want to see that the Church is bigger than their congregations and diocese should attend this 2,000-person contemplative worship experience with Presiding Bishop Curry preaching and live music. They will hear speakers from around the world, including our very own Rev. Chris McCloud. Youth from all nine provinces in The Episcopal Church are on the planning team. Attending EYE this year is coming home to a new age of faith meant to reinvigorate a post-Covid church experience. Church is here for our youth and the Church wants to know what our youth are looking for. Learn more and register here.

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Sign Up for a Tour of Baltimore County's Recycling Center!

by Leah B. Kulp

Why can't plastic bags be recycled? How is single-stream recycling sorted? Does Baltimore County make money on recycling? Let's find out! Come and see!

Creation Caretakers has arranged a group tour of Baltimore County's Cockeysville Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), the physical plant where single stream recycling is sorted (the real deal, operated by the Baltimore County Department of Works Solid Waste Management). Our free, 90-minute tour is scheduled on a school holiday, 1:30 pm,



Monday afternoon, April 3, 2023 (the day after Palm Sunday). Parishioners and friends fourth grade and up are invited!

Reservations are required as our group must consist of 10 to 30 participants (no more, no less). We will forward you the visitor's guide and arrange car pools, as parking space at the facility is limited. Please RSVP by email to Leah at elbiekay1@gmail.com with the subject line "Recycling Center Tour" to firm up your reservation and get directions.

See you there!

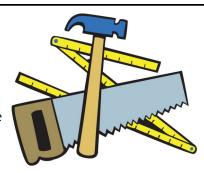
— Leah is Chairman of the Creation Caretakers

Property Update

by Dave Murray

- Durable Slate performed a drone review of our Church & Parish House slate roofs; some repair is needed,
- The Parish House boilers and oil tanks were checked for leaks and operational capability,
- Started evaluation of Parish House boiler system & possible upgrade,
- Annual tractor maintenance was performed,
- A kitchen cabinet door hinge was replaced,
- The doorway between kitchen and kitchenette was repaired,
- A new doorbell was installed for the 40West door,
- Construction Plans for the new boiler and 40 West accessible entrance were finalized.

— Dave is a member of the Property Committee



Going Solar! A Personal Story

by Cynthia Wagner

Back in 2000, we needed a new boiler for our house in Catonsville. I was excited about the possibility of using geothermal technology to heat our house. Reality hit hard when we were told that we were looking at about \$60,000 to install geothermal AND get our big, 1923 house better insulated, new windows, etc. to make the geothermal work. We also looked at solar, but we had a lot of trees so that option not viable. We ended up purchasing an efficient natural gas boiler. That was back then.

Fast forward to 2022—we live in a smaller, 1940's house, without the trees, and we decided to investigate buying solar roof panels to provide electrical power to our residence. We interviewed two solar companies; we got similar quotes and signed our contract with one company back in August of 2022. We also needed to get a new roof installed, as ours was well over 10 years old. The panels are guaranteed for 25 years, so they want to make sure the roof will

last that long. We were scheduled for installation in late November, early December, but opted to wait until January as the *tax-credit* for solar went up from 26% to 30% in January of 2023.

Success: In January 2023 we had 18 panels installed on our roof, each with their own microinverter. Those should cover 85% of our electric usage, saving about 12,731 pounds of CO₂ per year! Not to mention that it is fun to watch the electric meter move backwards! So, 23 years after first looking into solar for our residential electric, we are finally limiting our use of fossil fuels for keeping us warm and cool...

We will be receiving \$1000 back from a Maryland Energy Administration grant and will get a 30% tax credit on the total cost of the project when we file our taxes in 2024. Within ten years or so, we will "break even" and then our savings will be more than our input.

— Cynthia is a member of the Creation Caretakers

Financial Position as of February 28, 2023

— Financial information is provided by John Schroeder, Treasurer

February 28, 2023	Current Month	Current Month	Year to Date	Year to Date
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Total Income	33,201.95	49,192.68	165,836.53	98,385.20
Total Expenses	(45,854.59)	(50,943.79)	(101,840.24)	<u>(101,887.52</u>)
Difference	(12,652.64)	(1,751.11)	63,996.29	(3,502.32)

St. B's Budget for 2023

by Michael Haynie

The Finance Committee would like to thank each of you for your financial commitment to St.
Bartholomew's for this past fiscal year 2022. Although we did not quite achieve our budgetary goals in 2022, the efforts of this parish continue to be remarkable. With the challenging financial climate in mind for the parish, individuals, and country, the budgeting process for this current year was done with much care and discernment. In fact, there were seven (7) versions of the budget before it was passed by our Vestry on February 21, 2023. There have been some significant changes highlighted below:

Income

- Pledge income was kept equal to what was budgeted in 2022. Although we did not achieve this number in 2022, we were not far off and believe the hardships of the economy were a hardship to many.
- Faith Pledge We have added a new revenue category called "Faith Pledge". The monies in line item are from congregants (as well as nonmembers) who contribute for a number of reasons outside of their normal giving or pledge. Last year, as a example, one parishioner issued a "Jesus birthday" challenge in December and that type of donation(s) would be recorded in the Faith Pledge revenue line. As a result, you will not see a deficit at the bottom line of our budget as our "Faith" will now be located here.
- Open Plate Continues to be income which has mystified the Finance Committee, as the giving has been awesome! We increased this line item because of the upward trends over the past three years. Our prayer is that those who give to open plate would become pledgers. However everything in due time.
- Community Use You may be aware we now have two other churches who use our worship space and we are excited and grateful to have them with us in addition to the community

- groups such as AA and NA. These community groups have been as cheerful contributors as they can to our needs to cover expenses such as heat, light, oil, etc.
- House Sale Income We have also increased the contribution from the sale of the house we owned on St. Agnes Lane a few years ago. In the past three years we have appropriated \$9000 dollars towards the operational needs of the parish and in 2023 we upped that to \$25,000 dollars to offset any operational deficit in this transitional year for St. Bartholomew's.

Expenses

We have kept much of the ministry expenses intact to their traditional spending and have used creativity and other asset areas to fund some expenses keeping pressure off our operating budget.

- Youth Pilgrimage is one area where we agreed we would not contribute this year the usual \$3,000 dollars. As a result of the pandemic and the inability of our youth to travel, this fund is in very good shape (you can find this on the Funds sheet).
- Kiva Micro loans also was cut back slightly (this line is funded as a percentage of income) as we have begun to see repayment of loans which gives us the source to issue new loans.
- Clergy Discretionary This is the fund our rector uses to assist those in need. Because we have parishioners who always step up as needed to assist the rector in assisting others, we have cut this fund, taking pressure off the operating budget.
- Travel expenses This area was cut to what
 was appropriated in 2022. However, we believe
 there is sufficient funding available for our
 clergy to conduct the community business and
 visits necessary.

St. B's Budget for 2023 (continued)

 Utilities - Continue to be high as a result of increased cost. We are also investigating with the Property Committee how we can be more efficient in our energy sources and usage.

Staff Compensation

Given the high rate of inflation, we felt it necessary to ensure some percentage of increase was given to our most valuable resource which is our people. The Diocese of Maryland recommended 5% increases which we appropriated. Thanks to each of our staff persons for their commitment and dedication to St. Bartholomew's and we are praying next year we can do more.

Bottom Line

As I mentioned in the opening paragraph, you no longer see a deficit at the bottom as our "Faith budgets" that we have passed at St. B's for at least the last twenty years. Our faith giving is now an actionable revenue category. I am very optimistic we will achieve this projected budget and we are off to a resounding start the first two months!! God is the Greatest!! I would also like to take time to thank our Wardens, Vestry members, Finance Committee, and Bookkeeper, Kathy Schultheis, for their astute discernment, commitment and vigilance of our treasure.

Please <u>email</u> or call me if you have any specific questions I can address or bring them to the Annual Meeting in a few weeks.

"Lord, I lift up our church finances. May we sow generously into our church without reluctance or compulsion. Make all grace abound so we have all we need for every good work You've assigned us. Make us rich in ways that result in generosity on our part so You will be praised." - Amen!

Finance Committee Members:

Mike Haynie - Chair

Corinne Bowmaker

Drew Brown

Bates Churchill

Robin Murray

Dick Parker

The Rev. Pan Conrad - Interim Rector

Mike Sarbanes - Sr. Warden

Pat Williams - Ir. Warden

Gordon Piché - Vestry rep.

John Schroeder - Treasurer

John DeVale - Assistant Treasurer

— Mike is Chair of the Finance Committee

An Update on Edmondson Village — and An Opportunity

by Corinne Bowmaker

Why is anyone at St. B's interested in Edmondson Village? For one thing, It is considered the first shopping center of its kind, built in 1947 in the colonial style. It is the hub of our community in West Baltimore, the central marketplace and area around which the community is focused along this part of Route 40. It's 2 blocks from St. Bs and where we decided in 1957 that we would stay in the midst of block-busting and white flight.

But as we've seen, Edmondson Village has been in steep decline for decades due to uncaring absentee landlords and decades of inadequate resources due to a legacy of red-lining. If you've driven by the shopping center in the past few years, you've seen it. There are few stores remaining. Two suspicious fires have caused scarring destruction recently. The burned-out sections have not been rebuilt, but demolished. leaving gaping holes. Earlier this year 5 students from Edmondson High School were shot while getting lunch there, one 16-year old dying of his wounds.

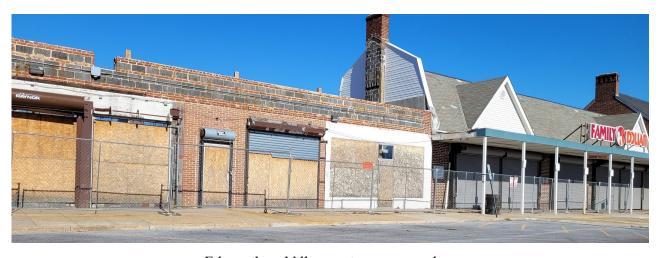
But there is new hope! A group called ChicagoTREND is purchasing the shopping center on April 30. TREND was formed in 2016, supported by the MacArthur and other foundations with the

mission of buying declining commercial property in marginal neighborhoods in order to change the downward trajectory of those communities. They redevelop and restore the properties and bring in new retail tenants. TREND provides flexible debt financing for retailers. Their objective is to lower early stage risk and give incentive to quality merchants to open new stores in transitioning black neighborhoods. It is a black-owned enterprise supporting black retail ownership in black communities. 90% of the dollars invested in their projects are from developers or entrepreneurs of color.

TREND has received funding from Baltimore City and State of MD for this project. They have four other shopping centers with this model in Chicago and Baltimore. The other is Walbrook Junction now in its second year of redevelopment.

This is a once-in-20-year opportunity for Edmondson Village.

TREND invites the community and those interested in impact investing to be a part of the renaissance. At the start of the project, they offer an opportunity for small investors to invest through crowd-sourcing. For a minimum investment of \$1000, you can own a part



Edmondson Village as it appears today.

An Update on Edmondson Village — and An Opportunity (continued)

of the redeveloped shopping center. Returns on investments will be 49% of the annual profit to investors in proportion to their investment. It's a new pretty cool way to "impact invest."

What about St. B's itself investing? As a matter of fact, this proposal will be presented to the Vestry this month. The project and its aims seem to dovetail into our missions of helping our neighbors, uplifting our community, and supporting minority enterprise. Is this a way to be a blazing beacon by making a faith investment? Stay tuned.

Where can you get more information, read about ChicagoTREND and its CEO, Lyneir Richardson, see photos of the proposed project and read all the small print? The website is smallchange.co (not com). There you'll find crowdsourcing projects from all over, but Edmondson Village is near the top. You'll

see that the minimum investment of \$100,000 has been surpassed and is now close to \$260,000 in small investments by the community.

As with all investments, there is risk. Investors could lose all their money or returns could be low and take a while to be realized.

At the same time, this is an extraordinary opportunity to help our community turn around. Change is coming - we see the second phase of the Uplands Project begin right next door. And now there is also funding to plan dismantling the portion of Route 40 known as the Highway to Nowhere and to reconnect the communities divided by concrete.

Take a look at <u>smallchange.co</u> if you are interested. And if so, investing is easy — you can do it right online at the website.

— Corinne is a member of the Finance Committee



Edmondson Village as it might appear when redeveloped and restored.

Wanted: Artists and Crafters! Showcase Your Work to a Great Audience for a Great Cause

Are you an artist or a craftsperson? St. B's celebrates the arts and crafts community with its inaugural Artisan Market, to be held on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 am-3:00 pm on the parish grounds. Right now, we're looking for people to get in on the ground floor of this amazing event.

The event will be open to all artists and craftspeople who are either members of St. B's or friends of St. B's. We're interested in providing a forum for anyone who wants to display their wares, whether they paint, draw, do woodworking, do photography, do mosaics, make jewelry, sculpt, quilt, sew, knit, crochet, make candles, do needlework – or honestly, anything else – there's a place here for you. All we ask is that any items displayed be appropriate for the church environment.

Display spaces are 8 feet x 10 feet, and those interested can purchase up to two spaces. Spaces are \$50 each, and St. B's can provide 1 table in either 6-foot or 8-foot lengths. Please note that all payments received are final; St. B's does not issue refunds.

Please see the REGISTRATION FORM on page 23.

Those who exhibit need only pay their registration fee; they can reap all the proceeds from sales of their products. Exhibitors are responsible for making their own arrangements for sales (cash, credit, etc.); St. B's does not have the capability to process sales.

All monies collected from registration fees go toward the church's Outreach programs, which benefit the community.

The event will go on rain or shine; setup will be on the first and second floors of our Parish House, as well as outdoors, weather permitting (and if extra space is needed).

Oh, and shoppers... mark your calendars too! This is an excellent opportunity to pick up some amazing gifts and unique household items. There will be no charge for admission and, of course, parking is free.

For more information, contact Celeste Thurston at jazzedupct@comcast.net.



1st Annual Artisan Market

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church – Baltimore Saturday, April 29, 2023 – 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Registration Form

This first **Artisan Market** is open to all artists and crafters who are members of St. Bartholomew's Church and/ or who are friends of St. B's. **All items for sale must be made by the participating artisan/crafter.**

Please complete this form and return it with the \$50 payment (per 8-foot x 10-foot space; maximum 2 spaces) to Celeste Thurston at the email below. The Market will take place in our Parish House on the first and second floors as well as outdoors in the courtyard.

Organizers will determine indoor space assignments based on products' variety and weight. Any artisan opting for an outdoor space should indicate that preference. Show is rain or shine. Registration/payment deadline: April 1, 2023.

Name(or company name, if applic	able):		
Connection to St. B's (check one)	Member	Flea market contribut	or Local Friend of St. B's
Phone:	Email:		
Product(s) you make:			_
Price range of your products:			
Special needs: Electric: Yes	No: Able t	o climb steps: Yes No)
Do you need a table? If yes, please	e specify: 6-fo	ot table 8-foot	table
Note:			
1. One table available per space fr spaces are eligible to get two table			tables; those who purchase two
2. Make checks payable to: St. Ba	rtholomew's Chu	rch.	
3. All sellers are responsible for m capability to process payments on		0	•
Note: Artisan Market organizers r appropriate for a church event.	eserve the right to	o review proposed items to	assure that the items are
Questions? Please contact Celeste	Thurston: jazzed	lupct@comcast.net.	
Organizers' Use only:			
Space #			
Registration received on		Check #	
Date confirmation emailed			

"Bmore2gether" with KIVA

by Margaret Schotto

The mission of the KIVA Committee at St. Bartholomew's — We loan because we want to help our global neighbors start, sustain, or expand a community-based business to alleviate poverty, especially among children and youth.

This month the KIVA Committee chose 4 loans which included ones to Paraguay, Fiji, and Samoa — countries that we have not contributed to loans before. Recipients are working to support themselves through their work as a seamstress, a butcher, and someone who is making pancakes on the roadside to sell to her fellow community members as they travel to and from work. We also supported a refugee who is trying to set up a classroom to better teach other refugees. Read more about these recipients below:



Fiji — Katalaini: she uses her seamstress skills to support her family. She believes that by providing a better finish to her clothes, she can improve their quality and charge slightly higher prices.

So Katalaini has applied for a loan to buy an industrial sewing machine, fabrics, a proper table, sewing

kits, and other dressmaking equipment. She is sure this will boost the quality and quantity of her finished garments.

Katalaini plans to reinvest any extra profits back into her venture.

Paraguay — Emprendedora Villa Ybate Group:

Gregoria is a member and representative for this group. She is a single mother with two children. Through her work, she can take care of her children and her mother. Gregoria learned her business from and with her mother, from selection, daily work, until the sale.



She rents a small shop in her community. Gregoria says that there is a high demand for chorizo and other types of sausages. With the previous loan Georgia was able to buy a meat grinder, supplies, and condiments for producing homemade sausages. With this loan Georgia wants to buy a freezer to store meat and other products. She is grateful and excited for the growth she has experienced and the support she receives. At the start of the year, she was able to buy all the supplies needed for her children to continue their studies.

The other women in this group sell clothes, cleaning products, fruits, and vegetables. Gregoria appears in the photo alone because the group has met very few times (there are many case of dengue fever chikungunya in the country). In this group: Yenifer Raquel, Ruben Dario, Ana Elizabeth, Ignacia Del Pilar, Celsa Cristina, Gregoria Del Rosario, Leonarda , Patricia Beatriz , Hermelinda , Samira Arami , Janina Jazmin, Luciana , Rosanna , Patricia Damiana , Lilian Viviana , Teresa Concepcion

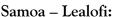
"Bmore2gether" with KIVA (continued)

Palestine - Falhallah:

Fathallah is a single refugee man who lives with his family in a village near Nablus, West Bank. He works in the education field, and he is interested in it so he decided to start new work in this field preparing an educational room for children to help people understand the importance of education and to improve their skills.



For, that he turned to Palestine for Credit and Development "FATEN" to request a loan to buy new educational equipment and a board for his work, which will help him to increase his income. He hopes you will help him by funding his loan.





Lealofi is a 30-year-old married woman with four children. She makes and sells pancakes in her community to earn a living. She has two years of experience with this business. Lealofi is requesting a loan to buy bags of flour, sugar, a large frying pan, a new oven,

cooking oil, a strainer, and yeast. She plans to use her profits to expand her business. She has been a member of SPBD since 2023.

The KIVA loan committee has chosen loans totaling \$96,850 since its start in 2015. Funding from St. Bartholomew's totals \$30,562 so about \$66,000 has been repaid and loaned back out. We have made 245 loans in 40 different countries. If you are interested in joining the KIVA Committee to pick the recipients of St. B's loans, we will meet next by Zoom on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Please contact Mary Buchanan Maryhb3820@gmail.com for more information and to receive the Zoom link. All are welcome!

— Margaret is a member of the KIVA Committee



Sit-Down Meal Service Returns to My Brother's Keeper

by Bonnie Kutch

My Brother's Keeper has finally been able to resume serving a hot lunch on-site in their dining room. In 2020, they moved to a Grab-And-Go bagged lunch model as COVID protocols were implemented. This later transitioned to a hybrid model, that also offered an eat-in hot meal service a few times a week. Now, the sit-down service is available all week, replacing the bagged take-away lunch. They never stopped serving a midday meal, but as times changed, they looked for ways to continue to support the Irvington community in this way.

Kevin Mason, My Brother's Keeper's Executive Director, framed the hot meal service as a way to not only provide sustenance for their Irvington guests, but also a way to foster self-efficacy, responsibility, and independence. Also, when guests come into the building for a meal, they are also exposed to the myriad of other job search, health care, legal support and other services that are offered.

My Brother's Keeper's chef, Michael Sanders, is excited to create menus that expose guests to different foods and different cultures. He incorporates fresh produce, low salt and low sugar food items, herbs, spices, fish and healthier cuts of meat into his meals. He also has transitioned to healthier drink options, to influence guests who may be consuming sugar laden soft drinks.

The daily lunch is currently served to about seventy guests, down from about 100 since moving to a sit-down meal. They expect the number to grow to closer to 100 as the community adjusts to the new format.

St. Bartholomew's Outreach Committee will continue our association with and support for My Brother's Keeper. We will migrate to donating items that support the chef's planned menu for the month, instead of items appropriate for brown bag lunches. So, instead of deli meats for sandwiches, we will provide fresh produce, frozen or canned fruit and

vegetables, fresh or frozen meats or fish. Here is a list for those who want to make their own donations:

Fresh, frozen, or canned fruits and vegetables			
Single serve fruit cups			
Single serve bottled natural juices or water			
Single serve desserts			
Sun Chips or other healthy chips or snacks			
Powdered drink mixes for iced tea or lemonade			
Packages of peanut butter or cheese crackers			
Fresh or frozen all beef hot dogs			
Fresh or frozen hamburger patties			

My Brother's Keeper is located at 4207 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore MD 21229. The side door, at the driveway, should be used for dropping off donations. Ring the doorbell, and be patient, someone will respond. Drop offs can be delivered on Monday through Friday between 9:30 am and 2:00 pm.

For more information, visit their website at https://www.catholiccharities-md.org/services/my-brothers-keeper/ or call 667-600-2950.

My Brother's Keeper would like to invite the community to the Spring Festival that they are sponsoring on Saturday, April 1st. It will be held at St. Joseph's Monastery, 3801 Old Frederick Road from 11:00 am to 2:30 pm. In addition to all of the food and fun activities that they have planned, they will offer information about jobs, resources for expectant mothers, and updates on the resources and services currently provided at My Brother's Keeper. Families are welcome to attend.

Kevin Mason, and his staff continue to express their appreciation for our continued generosity. When you visit My Brother's Keeper, you can see the impact that they have on the community.

— Bonnie is a member of the Outreach Committee

CSA at St. B's



St. Bartholomew's Church will again be a pick-up site for the One Straw Farm CSA this year, with fresh fruits and vegetables available for pick up every Thursday afternoon between 3:30 and 7:00 pm. They are using a program to better enable the customization of your

share online each week, so you do need to register for it at the link below. You can rate your preferences ahead of time, adjust your custom box each week online, and purchase extra items if you choose. Join with your friends, purchase a share (either small, large, or jumbo), and then volunteer to staff the pick-up site a few times during the <u>24-week season</u>, from June 8 – November 16, 2023. A great chance to get excellent produce, support local organic agriculture, and meet your neighbors!

2023 CSA Details:

Small/Half Share ~ 5 items/week = \$480

Large/Full Share ~ 9 items/week = \$840

Jumbo Share $\sim 11-12$ items/week = \$1080

For 24 weeks (06/8—11/16)

With the new payment plan, you have a choice of paying in four installments, or paying in full at the sign-up. You can also choose to have it delivered every other week, purchase extras, put your box on hold, or move it to another week if needed. And the CSA will also offer other specials during the season.

Here is the link to join this year, be <u>sure</u> to use the "2023 Custom Drop-off Share (THU)" button and sign up for the <u>St. Bartholomew's location</u>: https://onestrawfarm.csaware.com/2023-custom-drop-off-share-thu-C2492.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a mutually beneficial relationship between farmers and the community in which participants provide funding for the farmer in advance in exchange for produce during the growing season. Items vary according to the season (with 30 fruits and vegetables overall). For example, greens for the whole time, strawberries and sugar snap peas in spring, tomatoes and watermelon in summer, and hard squashes in fall. Membership is accepted throughout the growing season, members who sign up after the season has begun may do so at a prorated price. If there are at least ten shares purchased at our site, One Straw Farm will provide some produce each week for a the 40 West Assistance and Referral Center).

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Your prayers are requested for members and friends of St. B's ...



Lucy Marshall; Vince Marsiglia; Shirley Nathan Pulliam; Larry Brown; Sandra DeSilva; Mary Warfield; Phoenix DeVale; Irene Hardy; Stephanie Brooks-Wiggins; Tijon Cox and family; Rodney Michel; Tim Wolf; Zach, Dana, and Zoe Przybyszewski; Mary Lou Fralic; Vici-Lyn; Debbie McClellan; Margaret Schotto; Cathy Brookman; Bryce Kaspar; Barbara Haughey; Verna Harrison; Kate Henshall; Dorn Wagner; Tiger Watts; Mercedes Hill; Jane Piché; Larry Bucher; Bates Churchill; Helen Langa; Cam Trowbridge; Mary Helen Sprecher; 40 West Assistance and Referral Center Clients; Heidi; Theresa Thomas; Meg and Shaun; Kathy and Andy; Don and Angel; Nathan; Jean McElroy; Tom McNeil; James Cooper; Kimberly Hayes; Marc Posner; Gloria Davitt; John and Janice Blouin; Ed McClellan; Sue Goodall; Hazel Twist Schroeder; Dana Coggan; Betty Shelton; Mason Henry; Steve Freeman; Camille Madison; Henry Novian; Stanley and Darlene; Mother Adrienne Hymes; April Asbury; Ian Fralic; Bill

Stamatakis; Margaret Blades; Elizabeth Belden; those in our midst who are un—or under-employed & the homeless; AND any others we name at this time.

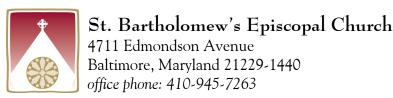


The deadline for the May issue of *The Apostle* is <u>Saturday</u>, <u>April 15</u>.

Please e-mail articles to mcaldwell@stbs-md.org.

To submit typewritten or handwritten material, place it in Maggie Caldwell's mailbox outside of the Church Office. All articles must include a contact name and email or phone number. Publication of *The Apostle* is on the last Sunday of the month.





4711 Edmondson Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21229-1440

office phone: 410-945-7263

Worship & Christian Formation

Sunday Worship & Formation

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am and 10:30 am

The 10:30 services are also available on Zoom. Please visit our website to learn how you can join us. Childcare is available for children up to age 5 in the Parish House from 10:00 am-12:00 pm

Sunday Christian Formation

Faith Forum for Adults and Older Youth:

Mostly Alternate Sundays from 9:15—10:00 am

Children's Word for Children Age 3 (by 09/01) — Grade 5:

During the 10:30 am service; in church

Youth Group for Grades 6—12:

Meets on most alternate Sundays at 12:00 pm in the Youth House.

Weekday Worship & Formation

Noonday Prayer is said every weekday and Saturdays at 12 noon by parishioners (at home).

For more information about our worship or programs, please contact us at 410-945-7263 or office@stbs-md.org or visit www.stbs-md.org.