



Volume 44, Issue 1 January 2024

Reflections from the Priest in Charge:

Happy New Year! After a wonderfully full Advent season and beginning of Christmas-tide, I look forward to 2024, both for the new opportunities that it will bring and the chance to become more of who we are called to be as God's people at St. Bart's.

As I look at the past two months, I am truly thankful for Advent and Christmas seasons filled with the blessings of sacred worship: the Wednesday Healing Eucharists at noon, beautiful Lessons and Carols, a spirited Choir, incredible musicians, a wonderful Confirmation service, Compline every Thursday evening, and sacred singing by candlelight on Christmas Eve. So many opportunities to gather in praise and thanksgiving for God's gift of life and love. I find so much hope for what our world can be — a place of mercy, justice, and peace — as we are strengthened by the Word, nourished at the Table, and grow in community each week.

Speaking of community, I am so grateful for our life together: our times of fellowship, food, and learning, from our coffee hours with such delicious food after to the services to our Advent/Christmas Party with Bishop Richards; from Wednesday Bible Study to Sunday classes and Centering Prayer, and seasonal programs. These offerings provide a wonderful way for small and large groups to come more fully to know one another and help us to grow in our love of Christ and one another, as the people of St. Bart's.

It is exciting to see the many ways this community responds to our call to serve others. From serving children through our Christmas Toy Drive, to serving families in need through Casseroles for Christ and Walking Tall Ministries, to adopting teachers and staff members at LBC Middle School (27 of 30 teachers and staff have been adopted! – read more about it in this newsletter!), to serving seniors through the Kay Bryden Brown Bag Ministry. Much of this good work is supported by generous donations from the BLTs and the Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser.

Save the Date for our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21, 2024, as we will be sharing more of what's been happening at St. Bart's in 2023 and our plans for 2024. Where will the Spirit lead us in the coming year? I am excited to see the new ministries, new opportunities to serve and welcome, and new chances to share Christ's light and love in the world that will open to us this year. The possibilities in God are endless! May you all have a blessed beginning of 2024, as we continue our faith journey together as the family of St. Bart's.

Joseph+

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Sr. Warden's Report

WOW 2024 Already!

As outgoing Senior Warden, I want to thank everyone for all the support I received this year. It has been a very successful year, the support for all the outreach programs, existing & new, and the financial contributions to support the church. The Mission Committee, Father Joseph, Deacon Pam, Janice Furman, and the congregation have been so supportive. The expression is "it takes a village" but I am changing it to say "It takes St. Bart's" to make a successful year.

Bobbie Quinn



A special note from Florence Usery

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to all who have made my recovery more bearable with cards, visits, prayers, and well wishes.

May all my family at St. Bart's have a Blessed and Joyful New Year!

Pastoral Emergencies

All pastoral concerns including:
hospitalizations, illnesses, deaths, child concerns,
or relationship issues may go directly to Father Joseph via his
secured email at priest@saintbart.org
or by phone at 803-279-4622.

All concerns will be held in the strictest of confidence.

St. Bartholomew's Vision Statement

God has called us to be a diverse community where all may encounter God's love. God strengthens and nourishes us through the sacraments and speaks to us through scripture, tradition, and reason.

Our worship services are fully accessible in person and online, supported by a variety of music, good sermons, and relevant teaching. We provide a unique mix of the traditional and contemporary in both music and liturgy.

We strive, with God's help, to serve all who hunger for the unconditional love of Jesus Christ, spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

All have a place here.

- *St. Bartholomew's Vision Statement Adopted by the Mission Committee on May 21, 2023*

NEW ADULT EDUCATION CLASS BEGINS ON JANUARY 14TH - "JESUS AND THE DISINHERITED"

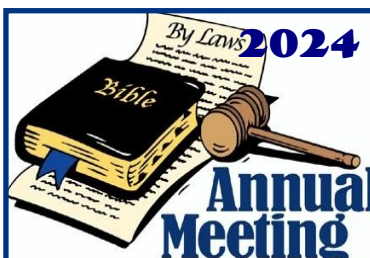
Beloved,

Blessings as this Christmas season transitions to a time of Epiphany. In this Epiphany season, adult formation will be exploring themes evidenced by the Magi as they assembled from different kingdoms and cultures to travel together on paths...illuminated by a star...to bring precious gifts and pay homage to the new born King. We are reminded that God is the God of all . We are all God's beloved children.

Beginning Sunday January 14th. John and MaryAnne Good will be facilitating a discussion of Howard Thurman's highly acclaimed and powerful theological treatise, "Jesus and the Disinherited". 5 sessions will cover the approximately 100 page book. The book is available on Amazon, or you may call or email Janice to order a copy for you at no cost to you ... [803-279-4622 Ext 1](tel:803-279-4622) OR admin@saintbart.org. Go ahead and order your book now. Email me with any questions at: deacon@saintbart.org

Peace,
Deacon Pam

**Dec 13th
Bishop's Visitation
with those
Confirmed
and Received**



**Saint Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting - 2024
Will be held on Sunday, January 21st
immediately following the morning service
Please plan on attending!**

ARTICLE'S FOR ANNUAL REPORT ARE DUE BY JANUARY 10TH

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK

A checkbook is a theological document; it will tell you who and what you worship.

Billy Graham

Year to Date receipts through November, 2023:

	OPERATING FUND		
	Actual	Need	Difference
Pledge	\$262,979.00	\$259,766.87	\$ 3,212.13
Other	\$24,807.92	\$ 10,449.89	\$14,358.03
TOTAL	\$287,786.92	\$270,216.76	\$17,570.16

.....
 If you are a member who has not pledged, please consider doing so. Just contact the church office, get a pledge card, and drop it in the offering plate. Pledges are welcome at any time during the year.



A Wish and a Prayer

When you wish upon a birthday candle, God hears it as a prayer. These dreams of your heart ascend to His heart, where they ignite in hope. Hope for happy days ahead, for making more good memories. Hope for loved ones coming together, sharing

smiles and stories and hugs. For reasons to celebrate – big and small – and for joy upon joy. Each candle, like each year of your life, represents God’s faithful care for you. He is always working things together for your good, bringing you more grace, making your hopes and dreams come true.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mildred Owens**
- 3 Joanna Butler-Whitaker**
- 9 Emma Black**
- 9 David Black**
- 10 Dino Pierucci**
- 14 Anne Mayer**
- 14 Charles Duchscher**
- 17 Sebastian Jones**
- 20 Anne Zboran**
- 24 Vicki Oglesby**
- 24 Pam Jenkins**
- 26 Andy MacMurray**



An Anniversary Blessing

To celebrate
 the day of your marriage
 is to celebrate Love, itself;
 For rare is the joy
 of a perfect match.

To honour
 the day of your marriage,
 is to honour Life, itself;

For as one,
Together
 you are a true inspiration.

May God continue
 to Bless your marriage
 with Love and Happiness.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 John & Gisele Morris**
- 21 Kyle & Emily Waddell**



We invite you to purchase altar flowers in *Loving Memory of* or in *Thanksgiving of*, by signing up for a Sunday in the Flower Book, located in the Narthex. or by contacting Janice at admin@saintbart.org. The cost is \$45 and may be paid by cash or check, earmarked “altar flowers” in the Sunday collection, or by text-to-give: Text SAINTBART Flowers \$45 to 73256 using your text messaging. Standard rates do apply.



Half the school year is over and I would like to thank each of you for your prayers, contributions, commitment and generosity to LBC Middle School staff and students. THANK YOU! We are really providing
HOPE...Helping Others Prepare to Excel.

Our year in review to date:

Weekly, we visit the school to pick up prayer requests and pray outside the school to support our LBC family.

July - We "Chalked the Walk" for teacher's and then again for student's first day of school to welcome both groups back. We packed, delivered and distributed over 500 bookbags (one for every student) with a binder filled with paper, a pencil bag (with pencils, coloring pencils and a pen), a toothbrush, toothpaste and deodorant. We presented the principal with a prayer bowl. Father Joseph blessed the school and all within with the most beautiful blessing. The Superintendent of Aiken County Schools surprised LBCMS with a visit and joined us in the Blessing Ceremony. We also prepared, delivered and hosted a Welcome Back Breakfast for the staff.

August - We provided a variety of flavored pretzels for one of the Teacher's Meetings..." Gotta be a bit twisted to work with middle school students, so please enjoy these pretzels!"

September - We distributed tea bags with a Bible verse to encourage and lift staff in prayer. We provided a tote full of snacks for Saturday School.

October - We provided bowls of Halloween candy for a Teacher's Meeting. We provided clothes and gift cards for several students displaced due to an emergency or out on homebound due to illness.

November - YOU began to adopt staff members to provide some extra attention, love and prayer support. Many of you had goodie bags delivered to your adoptee and some delivered your goodie bags yourself and even met your adopted staff member.

December - We packed and distributed a Christmas bag to each staff member. Items in bag included pencils, pens, highlighters, lined paper, copier paper, candy and a soap infused scrubber or callus buster. Many of you sent gifts for your adoptee. We hosted the celebratory Hot Cocoa Party (with all the fixings and then some), on the last day of the 2nd term for the 350 students who passed or exceeded their MAPP goals. We served all these drinks in less than an hour!

Looking Forward

Anyone who adopted a staff member will continue to reach out to them monthly through May. Ideas include gifting a favorite drink or candy, a desk-top plant, a card specifying how you addressed their prayer requests, note pads, a gift card to a coffee shop or restaurant or any other clever idea. You can celebrate their half or belated or current birthday. (Marcia Godfrey or Barb McCall were teachers and could help you with ideas.)

January - We will provide all staff with hand cream and a roll of lifesavers...Sometimes you have to care for yourself! We will distribute a pencil and poem to each student.

February - We will gift all staff with a bag of Hershey's kisses.

March - We will put candy in each of the work rooms to help staff get through the 3rd quarter.

April - We will provide all staff with a tissue canister that reads either "Thankful", "Blessed", "Joyful" or "Grateful"

May - End of school year. We will gift each teacher a ream of copier paper.

We will probably be asked to sponsor and host some type of end of the year celebratory event

It takes the entire ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S Village to provide this yearly support for our LBC family. If you would like to get more involved, visit the school or even become a mentor, please contact Julie Bush at alsojules@yahoo.com or 336-602-6754.

Visit our bulletin board in the Parish Hall to read the beautiful thank you card from the staff at LBC Middle School to Saint Bartholomew's.

SHINING OUR LIGHT

Thank you to everyone who made our Celebration Sunday such a wonderful event
and to everyone who made a pledge for 2024!

If you have not had a chance to make your pledge, there is still time. To make your Shining Our Light 2024 Pledge, just pick up a pledge card on your way into church on Sunday and drop it in the offering plate. OR, to make your pledge online and/or set up automatic payment, please use the following link:

<https://onrealm.org/saintbart/AddPledge/operating-pledge>

EpiscoPals Lunch

The EpiscoPals is a monthly luncheon gathering for Adults 50+. It is a fun, relaxed time of fellowship and to eat good food! We meet for lunch on the 3rd Thursday of each month in a different location. On January 18, 2024 we will gather at the French Market Grille West on Fury's Ferry Road at 11:30. Please sign up with Phone Number in the Narthex.

For more information contact Mike Osteen at [803-315-3549](tel:803-315-3549)

Hope to see you there



ST. BART'S TEAM AT THE MASTER'S TABLE

We will be serving at the Master's Table on the **Second Monday of each month**.

This month, January 8th for both Food Prep starting at **8:30 am** and

Dining Servers that ends at 12:30 pm

MINISTRY OF THE MONTH

JANUARY

Kay Bryden Brown Bag Ministry

Below is a list of items needed to fill bags for
January. Please Bring Donations no later
than Sunday, Jan. 21st.

- 2 - Cans of Soup
- 1 - Box of Crackers
- 1 - Peanut Butter
- 1 - Jelly
- 1 - Box of Mac and Cheese
- 1 - Box of Pasta
- 1 - Jar of Spaghetti Sauce
- 1 - Box of Powdered Milk
- 1 - Box of Kleenex



Although the Kay Bryden Brown Bag Committee believes personal participation is preferred, we know for some people this is difficult. For a suggested donation of \$20 designated for Brown Bag, we will do the shopping for you.

For more information contact John Doughty via text at 304-615-8181

Keeping the Dream Alive: Why Dr. King's Message Still Matters

16th Annual Interfaith Celebration



The most diverse interfaith event in the CSRA:
Baha'is, Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jews,
Muslims, Religious Humanists, Sikhs
& Unitarian Universalists

Sacred Heart Cultural Center
1301 Greene St, Augusta, GA
Wednesday, January 17, 2024
6:30 Gathering Music
7:00 Service

Service is free and open to the public.

The Progressive Religious Coalition Presents

Jon Meacham

Jon Meacham is a Pulitzer Prize-winning author of 15 bestsellers. Two of great current relevance are: *His Truth Is Marching on: John Lewis and the Power of Hope* and *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels*. He is a distinguished visiting professor at Vanderbilt University, a contributing writer for The New York Times Book Review, a fellow of the Society of American Historians, and a frequent commentator on MSNBC and CNN.

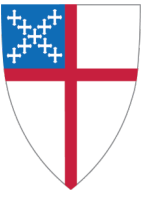
For more information, go to prcaugusta.com



MEACHAM



These brave folks served 350 cups of hot cocoa to the LBC Middle Schoolers in less than an hour! Thank you for loving our school!



The Scroll

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
471 West Martintown Road
North Augusta, SC 29841

Impacting lives through love, acceptance, and service

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:00 A.M. *Sunday School*

10:00 A.M. *Holy Eucharist Rite II*

10:00 A.M. *Live Streaming to Facebook & YouTube*

11:00 A.M. *Coffee Hour in Parish Hall*

Our Mission: Rooted in the Episcopal tradition; growing disciples of a loving God, reaching out to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Diocese

Upper South Carolina

Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Richards

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Joseph Shippen

priest@saintbart.org

Deacon

The Rev. Deacon Pam Crossley

deacon@saintbart.org

Senior Warden

Bobbie Quinn

srwarden@saintbart.org

Junior Warden

John Doughty

jrwarden@saintbart.org

Treasurer

Zeny Vo

finance@saintbart.org

Youth Ministry

AnneMarie MacMurray

STAFF

Organist/Choirmaster

Jessica Dollar Jones

music@saintbart.org

Parish Administrator

Janice Furman

admin@saintbart.org

Church Phone (803) 279-4622

Website www.saintbart.org

Scroll Editor: Janice Furman

Please submit articles by the 20th of the month by e-mail to:

admin@saintbart.org

Any suggestions? Submit to same.