



# Annual Report

## 2015 Highlights

## The Seal of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

*The banner, commissioned for the 60th anniversary of St. Bartholomew's and in dedication of the Rev. Dixon Kinser's ministry, tells the story of who we are.*

**The Three Knives:** Knives are the historic symbol of the apostle Bartholomew for whom we are named. The blades represent the manner of his martyrdom, which was death by flaying.

**St. George's Cross:** The red cross on white is known as St. George's Cross. It has been a symbol of the British nation and kingdom dating back to the middle ages, and therefore points to our Anglican heritage and communion membership. When E.P. Dandridge, first rector of Christ Church Cathedral, became bishop of the Diocese, he called upon members of St. George's parish for help in planting this church.

**Chi Rho:** Underneath the cross to the right is the Chi Rho. These are the first two letters of the Greek word Christos (Christ), and they proclaim our allegiance to Jesus above all else. The Chi Rho symbolizes Christ and our shared roots with Christ Church Cathedral.



**Bushel of Wheat:** This is the classical symbol of the harvest, and biblically always relates to evangelism. It is a historic symbol for the feast of Pentecost, and provides a nod to St. Bartholomew's rich charismatic heritage. It also represents the Diocese of TN because the same image adorns the old Diocesan crest.

**Seven Hills:** The seven alternating green and gold stripes represent the Seven Hills neighborhood in which our church is located.

**The Colors:** The colors of the banner were selected to match and complement the magnificent jewel tones in our current stained glass windows. The Chi Rho and Bushel of Wheat symbols can also be found in our windows.

**Inverted Reredos:** Finally, the shape of the whole banner mirrors an inverted version of our sanctuary's reredos, the large section of wooden panels behind the altar. Our banner shape is a mirror image of this focal point, and hints at the bow shaped roof so prominent in our nave.

# From the Rector

---

*The canons of our church instruct each parish in the diocese to have an annual meeting where the community can be informed of the work of the vestry and vote on a budget.*

*Our goal is not only to fulfill these expectations but to also invite the community to share in the ongoing vision of how the rector and vestry believe God is calling us to actually be the Body of Christ in this part of His vineyard.*

*The attached reports will give you a brief summary of the work the vestry did in 2015, and collectively will reflect our goal to provide a safe place for followers of Jesus to live together, grow together, and serve together.*

*Recent research published in USA today reported that 58% of churches in America have less than 100 members. We are certainly bigger than that!*

*Our size demands an infrastructure that needs to be maintained. Sometimes we may question the stewardship of such a large percentage of our budget directed towards facilities and personnel, but we couldn't do what we do, nor provide the services desired by the community, without our campus or staff.*

*As this annual report reflects, we are doing as much as we can with the resources entrusted to us. Both staff and vestry alike appreciate the need to gather together once a year so that we might all catch the vision that drives us as a faith community.*

*We are all on a journey which, like the interstate system that weaves throughout this vast country, often needs work.*

*We gather together to listen for God's direction and guidance in order to stay on the right track, and when necessary, making*

*a turn, removing a hindrance, or realigning the wheels. We do it together because that is what the church is, a community of people who are seeking the way of God together.*

*If you have any questions about the information in this report, please contact the vestry liaison first, and they will help you find the answers.*

*Thanks for sharing this journey with us.*

*A fellow traveler in Christ*



Rector



# contents:



From the Rector  
& Wardens  
p. 3, 5 - 7



Treasurers  
Report  
p. 8



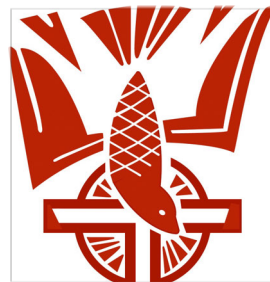
Children, Youth & Family  
Formation  
p. 9 - 12



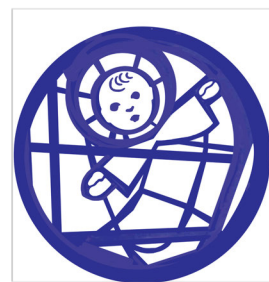
Worship  
Adult Formation &  
Fellowship  
p. 13 - 15



Mission &  
Outreach  
p. 16 - 17



Bookstore  
Pastoral Care  
p. 18 - 20



Preschool & M.D.O.  
Community Relations  
p. 21 - 24



Creation Care  
& Facilities  
p. 25 - 27





# From the Wardens

---

## Building the Church Budget

The building of the operating budget for St. B's always begins with a vision for ministry determined by the rector, in close collaboration with the 12 member vestry. Being committed to prayer, reading of the scriptures, and openness with one another are prerequisites to the discernment that goes into this vision for our church. That vision is necessarily coupled with data:

- The number of individuals and families counted as members,
- The demographics and the level of commitment/stewardship of the members, and
- The operational requirements of the facilities.

The above data on the church influences the size and extent of church ministry, but does not influence the vision and mission, itself.

## Translating Vision & Mission to the Budget

At St. B's, the vision for the church includes vibrant worship, formation for all ages, a robust teen's and children's ministry, extensive mission and outreach, strong pastoral care and family life, and all consistent with our mission to equip followers of Jesus.

This vision, coupled with the size of our membership, drives staffing which is typically the largest operating expense for a church. St. B's 2016 staffing expenses comprise about 56% of our operating budget (a 3.8% increase over 2015) in line with other churches of our size.

Staffing expenses contribute directly to person-to-person ministry which is one of the many strengths of our church:

- Fr Jerry Smith – adult formation, pastoral care
  - Fr. Travis Hines – adult formation, mission and outreach\**
  - David Madeira – worship, pastoral care
  - Carla Schober – children's formation, pastoral care
  - Steven LeFevbre – youth formation, mission and outreach, pastoral care\**
  - Sally Chambers – parish family life, communications, pastoral care
  - Teresa Robinson – worship, parish operations
  - Leslie Tomlinson (formerly Hicks) – parish operations
- \* new hires in 2015*

## 2015 Budget Enhancements

In setting the budget for 2015, the vestry and rector made an ambitious plan to increase staffing by one full time position, hiring one full time associate priest (Fr. Travis Hines) and one full time youth minister (Steven LeFevbre) to replace the previously combined position held by Fr. Dixon Kinser, who now serves as Rector at St. Paul's Winston Salem, N.C.. In addition, the vestry voted to increase spending on mission and outreach to 10% of our operating budget.

These changes required an increase of 12% in the overall budgeted giving to the church in 2015. While this budget was ambitious, the demographics of our church, gradually increasing collections (giving had exceeded budget in the previous two years, with excess set aside for long term growth) indicated to us that St. B's would rise to the challenge of the mission and vision set out for the church. Broad consensus was achieved in the vestry and with the finance committee prior to setting the 2015 budget.

### Attendance & Average Giving

In 2015, total attendance at St. B's increased by 4.3%, and the average contribution per contributing member increased by 11%, an impressive achievement. However, a 5.4% drop in the number of actively contributing members and a weak 20% participation of members in the "Called. Confirmed. Committed." stewardship campaign, an individualized and confidential stewardship awareness and participation plan, also indicated that, among some, participation in the financial health of the church is optional.

Although we experienced one of the strongest years of giving on record, with overall undesignated giving up 6% over the prior year, reduced participation meant that we fell 5% short (\$74,034) of our 2015 budget. Fortunately, the monies set aside from exceeding the budget in the 2013-2014 (\$62,403) is available to help cover the budget shortfall in 2015. Thus, continued growth in attendance demonstrates that the ministry provided by the church is affirmed.

### Stewardship Participation

The drop in the number of actively contributing members, even in light of increased attendance, demonstrates that continued teaching and increased emphasis on the spiritual discipline of stewardship is warranted. This year's "Called. Confirmed. Committed." campaign has been redesigned for more clarity. Vestry and staff will work toward gaining 100% participation of members in campaign participation in 2016. These activities are designed to strengthen the spiritual health of individuals, as well as ministries, and are consistent with the overall vision and mission of the church, which does not change.



#### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*CALLED  
CONFIRMED  
COMMITTED*

The vestry invites you to make a commitment to partner with God and our church in 2016. We invite you to commit time, treasure & talent towards the work of God here at St. B's. Please prayerfully, intentionally and joyfully consider your commitment.

## The Wardens continued

In summary, God decides the ultimate vision and mission for St. B's. Vestry, staff, and a committed core pray and communicate about the church's financial needs, but it is not been our way to strong arm financial support from members. God seeks cheerful, voluntary, contributors and continued spiritual growth for the church. This vision requires enthusiastic teaching and encouraging of the *Way of St. B's*: Worship, External Formation, Internal Formation, Evangelism, Social Action, and Stewardship.

It is our fervent prayer that all who wish to partake in the growing of God's Kingdom here on earth through the church will participate in ALL the aspects of spiritual discipline, including the building of the church budget through stewardship.

Finally, a hearty THANK YOU to those of you who helped to sustain the continued financial health of the church again this year.

Natasha Deane, Sr. Warden  
[srwarden@stbs.net](mailto:srwarden@stbs.net)

Seth Swihart, Jr. Warden  
[sethswihart@gmail.com](mailto:sethswihart@gmail.com)



*The church family gathers for worship (below) and fellowship (above) to celebrate the feast of St. Bartholomew*







# Treasurer's Report

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your Treasurer for the past two years.

I have watched your vestry wrestle with how God wants your contributions to be used. How much should be used to continue the focus on the strengths of St. Bartholomew's: Children's Formation, Youth Formation, Worship, and Mission & Outreach. Formation, Worship, and Mission & Outreach each consume more than 20% of the total annual expenses. This is a tough balance to maintain. Your vestry is to be congratulated.

By many financial measures, 2015 was a financial success. Undesignated contributions were 6.2% above 2014. As you may recall, we effectively replaced Dixon with Travis and Steven in 2015. While this gave us expanded ministry opportunities, it also caused the budget to increase more than an average year. The 2015 budgeted expenses were 12.4% more than actual 2014 expenses. Until December, it looked like we were going to fully fund the ambitious 2015 budget. However, December contributions were below our average of the last several years both in dollars and as a percentage of the total year. Therefore, even though contributions were up and expenses were kept under budget, we still spent \$74,034 more in 2015 than our contributions. Fortunately, because of sound past financial management, we were able to fund this shortfall without borrowing.

The coming year will be another financial challenge. While the 2016 budgeted expenses developed in November are only 4% over 2015 expenses, they are 9.5% over actual 2014 contributions. The challenge is compounded by our historical giving pattern. On average no month but December exceeds 9% of our total giving. Over the past six years December giving has averaged 17.1% of our total. December giving has been as much as 21.1% of the annual total and as low as 13.1% of the total. This typically causes a cash crunch in the July to September timeframe. The two charts, one showing monthly giving and the other showing monthly expenses, illustrate the point. Monthly expenses are relatively stable and monthly contributions vary considerably.

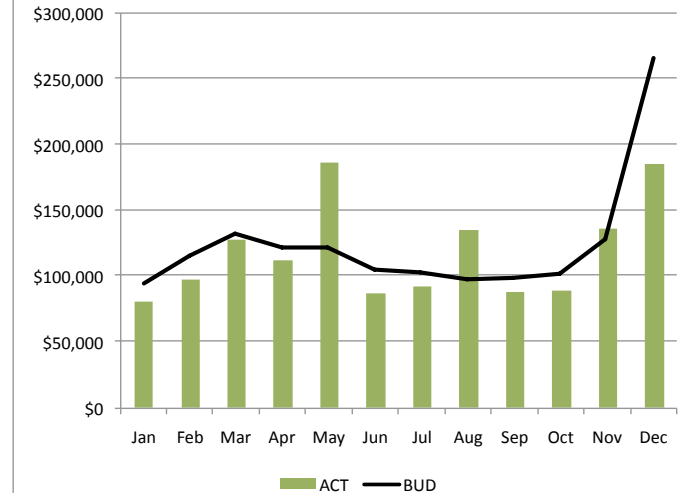
I have faith that God is in charge and the vestry will be praying and listening to God and the congregation as we continue to try to allocate our resources in accordance with God's plan.

## Contact

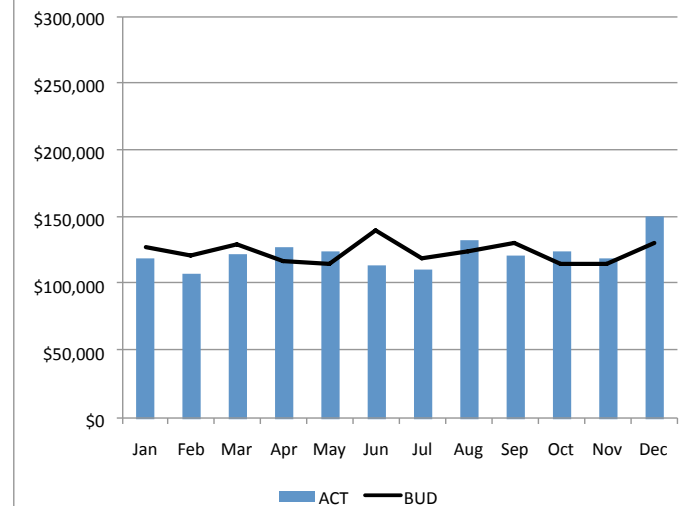
**Bob Garth**  
Treasurer

[RDGarth@yahoo.com](mailto:RDGarth@yahoo.com)

## Giving



## Expenses





# Children & Family Formation

St. Bartholomew's believes the Holy Spirit works in and through children in the same way as adults. The past year was a busy and exciting season for Children's Formation. We are beyond grateful for the Children's Formation staff and volunteers.

## Below are some of the highlights from 2015:

- Carla Schober, Director of Family and Children's Formation, took a three month Sabbatical and in Carla's words, "The timing was God ordained." On behalf of Carla and the St. B's community, thank you to the Children's Formation Team for all of their support and work during Carla's Sabbatical.

## Children's Formation Offerings

- *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:* A Montessori approach to the religious formation of children based on the conviction that God and the child are in relationship.
- *Traditional Sunday school:* Each lesson is written exclusively in-house for the unique parish personality and mission of St. B's. This curriculum is based on Scripture, liturgy, and our Anglican tradition.
- *New Beginnings:* This is our Nursery ministry and we continue to

take our responsibility seriously of caring for your young child. We seek to reach out and show God's love to our youngest parishioners and their parents. Families with newborns are offered meals cooked by parishioners for up to four weeks by our Meals for New Parents ministry.

- *1st Communion Class:* basic table manners for younger children, ages 4-6.
- *5th/6th grade Club:* Offers extra opportunities to walk out their faith through friendship, activities, and service. We are excited about the direction of the Club as attendance and participation increased in 2015.
- *Kaleidoscope:* Week long elementary Kids' Day Camp in June. Last summer was a great success as 30 kids participated in games, arts and crafts, and devotionals.
- *The Christmas Eve Pageant:* This reenactment of the nativity is led by parish children 2 yrs – 6th grade. Participation is open to visitors as well as members.
- *Formation Classes Open House:* The Children's Formation Team have continued to feel a strong desire to engage with the parents

and families of the children in our community. Additionally, it is their desire for you to know the staff and volunteers investing in your child's spiritual formation.

- The Nursing Mom's Room was recently renovated to provide a comfortable and adequate space for our nursing mom's.



*A magi gets ready to offer his gift to the baby Jesus at the Christmas Eve Pageant.*



## Children & Family continued



*Meredith Flynn helping a tutorial student prepare their Valentine's Lunch for family & friends.*

### Contact

#### Melissa Culbreth

*Vestry Representative*  
[melissacul@aol.com](mailto:melissacul@aol.com)

#### Carla Schober

*Director of Children & Family Formation*  
[cschober@stbs.net](mailto:cschober@stbs.net)

### St. B's Homeschool Tutorial

In Spring of 2014, the Vestry approved a Montessori-inspired, two-day a week homeschool tutorial led by Meredith Flynn. The group meets at St. B's on Tuesdays and Thursdays using the Catechesis Atrium and hallway for classroom space.

The vision of the tutorial is to be a ministry to St. B's families, to nurture friendships and a sense of belonging in the church, and to recognize God's hand at work in all that we learn and do.

Twelve children participated in the tutorial in the 2014-2015 school year with Corinne Michel teaching art and Meredith Flynn teaching the remaining subjects. Eleven guest speakers, nine of whom are St. B's members, came to speak to the students.

### Looking Forward

*Sacred Communion:* A first Communion class for 1st - 3rd graders during Eastertide.

*Homeschool Tutorial:* The Vestry approved the homeschool tutorial as an official St. B's self-sustaining, ministry. Trained catechist Deborah Whiteside joined as a teaching assistant. The program has now 15 students between the ages of 5 and 10.

*Kaleidoscope:* The 2016 theme for Kaleidoscope, our elementary aged day camp will be the "Saints."

*Volunteers:* The need continues for Nursery and Sunday School volunteers.

Please prayerfully consider serving, we welcome interested teens and adults.

*Meals for new Parents:* The need has increased need for volunteers to provide meals for new parents. Please contact Gaylene Latham at [nursery@stbs.net](mailto:nursery@stbs.net) if you'd like to help.

*Children's Formation Curriculum:* We are looking for writers and editors to assist with our lessons. Please contact Carla Schober if you are interested.

### Children's Formation Team:

- Assistant Director of Children & Family Formation: *Josh Martin*
- Nursery Director: *Gaylene Latham*
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
Director: *Alicia Lewis*
- Children's Classes Director: *Elizabeth Madeira*
- Volunteer Rotating Sunday morning assistants: *Celina Chanthachine, Adria Lambert, Dawn Wyant, and Debora Whiteside*



*Ben Hornsby volunteering in the nursery*



# Youth Formation

## Purpose:

Youth formation at St. B's exists as a place where young people can belong, in whatever capacity that they are able, to a community of Jesus followers. In our together-ness, we discover God's love that is working tirelessly to make all things new. Our calling is to cooperate with God and to join him in this redemption and reconciliation.

## Leadership:

2015 was the first full calendar year that saw new ministry leadership under Director Steven Lefebvre. While the core of the program largely remained the same as previous years, some minor tweaks were made.

The Youth Vestry, comprised of parents who have children participating in the program, was also created. The group meets periodically to provide feedback on the program, to discuss upcoming events, and to review the financial performance of the ministry.

The current roster of volunteers include, Heather Lefebvre, Molly Cole, Lindsey Lee, and Jay Kinnard.

## Programming:

To foster spiritual growth in a communal setting, every event strived to create a safe space, emphasizing confidentiality and acceptance.

Regular gathering times on Sundays and Wednesdays were the staple of the ministry.

On *Sunday mornings*, Film School, which served to intersect the liturgy with modern day culture, was offered. By articulating personal life stories, movie stories, and God's story through the scriptures, the youth were encouraged to identify and apply ways to interact and respond to situations.

*Sunday evenings* saw the children participate in "Liturgy." They discussed parts of the Bible within the context of our Episcopal heritage. During 2015, Revelation and the Old Testament Minor Prophets were studied.

The purpose of *Wednesday evening Journey groups* was to teach our youth how to make real and lasting change in the way of Jesus by learning to listen to one another, themselves, and to the voice of God.

The ever popular *Super Commando Game Nights*, which was held one Friday per month, taught the youth how to play together and to respect a body of rules that stressed neighborly love, honesty, and group before self.

## Contact

### Steven Lefebvre

Director of Youth and Young Adult Formation  
[slefbvre@stbs.net](mailto:slefbvre@stbs.net)

### Chris Prichard

Vestry Representative  
[csprichard@yahoo.com](mailto:csprichard@yahoo.com)



Teens hanging out on a Sunday morning in the youth room.



## Youth continued

### Special Events:

Three special events were organized and consisted of two retreats and a pilgrimage. Both retreats were held at Dubose Conference Center and the pilgrimage was a trek to Washington, D.C.

The *Forgiveness Retreat* happened in the spring with twelve youth in attendance. The youth were encouraged to reflect on past conflict with others and to think about what they were responsible for during those times.

Twelve students and 2 adults made the pilgrimage to our nation's capital where they explored different humanity organizations and their respective causes. The International Justice Mission and its advocacy efforts to get the End Modern Slavery Act passed by Congress became their focus to provide assistance. The youth met with Representatives to urge them to sponsor the bill.

The *Significance Retreat* was held during the fall. Fifteen youth attended and were asked to think about how culture and society define their

significance contrasted with how God defines our significance.

### Looking Ahead

2016 should prove to be another exciting year for the ministry. Additional volunteers who have a passion for fostering the spiritual growth of our teenagers are needed to strengthen the program.



Youth pilgrims getting ready to depart for Washington DC



Teens on their fall retreat.



# Worship

Worship at St. B's is a ministry involving 9 leadership positions, and over 100 lay volunteers under those leaders. These leaders have expressed a positive and thankful spirit as they look back over the past year and express desires for the one ahead.

## Vergers:

*The vergers were grateful for*

- A smooth time while Fr. Jerry was on sabbatical and vacation and Fr. Travis was assuming his new position at church.
- The chance to attend the verger conference in St. Louis in October.
- Getting to collaborate with the priests to help plan special liturgies.
- Many children serving in the acolyte ministry.
- Verging at the Diocesan convention, and with ordinations and installments at other churches.
- Five acolytes training to become thurifiers (carrying incense).

*Some hopes for the upcoming year:*

- More acolytes for the 10:30 service
- Continuing to develop a checklist of everything the vergers are responsible to do before, during, and after services.

## Music Ministry:

*David Madeira, Director of Music, is thankful for much*

- Well-attended Choral Evensong services.
- A new sound engineer, Matthew Shepard, who is learning quickly under David Schober.

- New singers added to the Chamber Singers and Parish Choir. New instruments as well.
- A growing children's choir with 2 directors who view the children's part as a valued part of worship.
- Wednesday night dinners for children's choir and their families provide fellowship and good community.
- The family Christmas Concert celebrated the multiple gifts in our community and brought a spirit of family and camaraderie.
- Music volunteers give their time and talent in the true spirit of worship without evidence of pride and "showy-ness".

*Hopes for the next year:*

- Volunteers to help Julia McGirt with the Wednesday night suppers.
- More percussion volunteers for the choir, and a few more vocalists and instrumentalists.
- Moving forward in creating a music internship for a Church Music Major from Belmont.



*Members of the parish choir sing at Lessons & Carols*

## Contact

### Mimi Heldman

*Vestry Representative*  
[mimi.heldman@comcast.net](mailto:mimi.heldman@comcast.net)

### Bev Mahan, Verger

[verger@stbs.net](mailto:verger@stbs.net)

### David Madeira, Director of Music

[dmadeira@stbs.net](mailto:dmadeira@stbs.net)

### Beth Ramsay, Readers

[beth.ramsay1@gmail.com](mailto:beth.ramsay1@gmail.com)

### Phyllis Xanthopoulos, Prayer Desk

[hpxanthop@aol.com](mailto:hpxanthop@aol.com)

### Tom Mahan, Chalice Bearers

[tommahan@workinstitute.com](mailto:tommahan@workinstitute.com)

### Tim Villager, 8:30 Ushers

[timv@realtracs.com](mailto:timv@realtracs.com)

### Tom Hutchinson, 10:30 Ushers

[thutchinson16@yahoo.com](mailto:thutchinson16@yahoo.com)

### Sue Pichert, Greeters

[spichert@yahoo.com](mailto:spichert@yahoo.com)

### Thorunn McCoy, Altar and Flower Guild

[tmccoy@email.usn.org](mailto:tmccoy@email.usn.org)

### Jerry Smith, Daily Morning Prayer:

[jerrysmith@stbs.net](mailto:jerrysmith@stbs.net)



## Worship continued

### Readers:

Beth Ramsey continues to provide reading opportunities for the volunteer readers at both services. She also provides clear schedules, ways to switch or re-schedule, and guidelines for those reading. There are several parent/child and husband/wife combinations serving as readers, and varied ages and voices.

### Prayer Desk:

The prayer team is thankful to get to pray for those who come to the Prayer Desk, and would welcome more requests from the people. They are looking for more who feel called to join the Prayer Team.

### Chalice Bearers:

There are both men and women serving as Chalice -bearers, and all seems to be going smoothly.

### Ushers:

Tim Villager was very pleased with his ushering team over the past year. *Looking ahead, he would welcome some women ushers to come on board.*

### Greeters:

*Sue Pichert is thankful for:*

- A training, recognition, and feedback lunch held in October, with lots of good input.
- More success in getting visitor cards filled out and turned in
- Follow-up e-mails that are sent out to visitors seem to be appreciated.

•Volunteers are seeking out, greeting, and talking to visitors, even on their unscheduled weeks.

*Hopes for the upcoming year:*

- More greeting volunteers for the late service.
- More visitors filling out forms.
- More members wearing name-tags.

### Altar and Flower Guild:

*Thorunn McCoy is thankful for:*

- 15 members serve on the Altar Guild.
- 10 members serve on the Flower Guild.
- Creativity and generosity were abundant.

*Hopes for the upcoming year:*

- New volunteers for altar and flower guilds.
- Volunteers will want to stay long-term, and will feel supported.
- Looking toward a Guild dinner in the Spring.

### Daily Morning Prayer:

Volunteers read Morning Prayer four mornings a week at 7:30 a.m. This opportunity is in place to encourage members toward a personal daily discipline of prayer, scripture reading, and community.

It is evident that very careful and detailed planning goes on behind the scenes so that St. B's members can have meaningful and rich worship, both on Sundays and during the week. The leaders and volunteers who assist in all our areas of worship know a sense of purpose and enthusiasm that is contagious and encouraging for all who experience worship at St. B's.



*Two of our young members of the Flower Guild*



*A Sunday morning Altar team praying before service begins.*





# Adult Formation & Fellowship

It has been a year full of promise and achievement for our many fellowship and formation activities! Here I will discuss the highlights in the most identifiable areas, but will note at the outset that a huge step forward in our getting to know each other as a church community was accomplished with the launch of the St. B's **church directory app** that many of you now have and use to identify members and others with whom you see and worship with each week! A great big shout out to Sally Chambers for this much-needed communications tool!

**Newcomers:** This year saw the introduction of "Open Places." These informal gatherings in homes are geared to help new and established attendees connect with one another. They have proved helpful for not only those who are new, but also, for those who have been here a while but don't feel very connected in our community. We rely, of course, on the good work of our greeters each and every Sunday to make new folks feel welcome and answer questions that they may have. The new St. B's campus maps designed by our own Amy Nelson also help newcomers learn their way around our church campus.

**Feasts:** We have had many fun and super well-attended feast celebrations this year, including Suzy Floyd's retirement party, the Bishop's reception, the Pentecost party (a birthday party for the church), and the feast of St. B's, which calls the community back together after the

summer and reminds us to live, grow, and serve here at St. B's.

**St. B's Women:** this dynamic group has been super active this year with many high profile and enjoyable events. St. B's Women publishes a monthly email newsletter to keep women informed of all events and opportunities. These can also be found on the St. B's website.

Some Highlights for the St. B's Women in 2015

- Spring Retreat in April at St. Mary's Sewanee – attended by 60 individuals
- Magdalene – Thistle Farms Graduation on May 29 – lunch was served to 200 guests who comprised the graduates from the Magdalene House, their families and guests
- Open Table outreach in September and ongoing support for Room at the Inn (RITI)

•Operation Christmas Child in November

•A series of small groups and events for St. B's women including a book club, outdoor club, and crafting group – all meeting throughout the year

**Adult Formation:** Lifebuilders and Centering prayer are offered all year save for a break in the summer for adults. We offered a very well attended class poetry class on Sunday mornings, as well as Anglicanism 101, and a class on vocation in daily life on Wednesday evenings.

## Contact

**Gregg Allen**

*Vestry Representative*

[Gregg.AllenM.D@medsolutions.com](mailto:Gregg.AllenM.D@medsolutions.com)



*St. B's Women gather at St. Mary's in Sewanee for their annual Spring Retreat.*



# Mission & Outreach

2015 marked a year of change for the Mission and Outreach Committee. Many of our long term members transitioned off after years of dedicated service. Nancy Hyer and John Deane left at the beginning of the year, and Langley Granbery, Suzie Woolwine, and Shirley Garth at the the end of the year. The commitment and wisdom of these long term members has created a strong foundation that will continue to shape the Missions and Outreach Committee for years to come. We also welcomed Father Travis to the committee upon his arrival to St. B's. Fr. Travis will serve as an advisor to the committee.

*2015 also saw the Mission and Outreach budget increased to a full 10% of the St. Bartholomew's operations budget.*

**We began 2015 with our focus to increase our involvement with organizations we support, and to raise awareness of the these organizations and also of the M&O Committee.**

To that end we:

- Developed a communication plan outlining themes for each quarter, assigning organizations to receive coverage in the weekly, e-news, Branch, missions bulletin board, mission minute, website, prayers, and donation drives.
- Created and conducted a mission and outreach survey to discern the congregation's areas of interest and involvement, and to guide the committee's focus and decision-making. Eighty congregants responded to the survey. The responses affirmed the committee's current areas of focus.

- Further defined the organizational liaison role to increase our responsiveness to our partner agencies. We developed a monthly report template to allow our ministry partners to share prayer requests, volunteer needs, and wish list items.

- Conducted several donation drives for our partner agencies with great success: food for Charis, items for refugee welcome kits for Siloam, school supplies for St. Luke's Community House, and winter clothing for Room in the Inn. The response to these drives was amazing. Thank you to all who donated!

- Hosted missionaries that St. B's supports and engaged with them while they were in town. Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand from Ethiopia, Africa, in June, and Bishop Paul and Grace Mbithi from Nairobi, Kenya, in October.

Towards the end of the year, we reviewed our current mission statement and created a statement of purpose that undergirds our intent to fulfill the broader St. B's mission. The working draft for 2016 states: **The Mission and Outreach Committee participates in fulfilling the mission of St. B's by cultivating partnerships with individuals and organizations—local, national, and global – who demonstrate commitment to transformative change through the Gospel by extending hope, healing, love and provision in the name of Jesus. Mission and Outreach further supports this mission by education the St. B's community about needs and opportunities to engage their gifts in service.**



*Fr. Travis prays with Grace and Paul Mbithi on the visit to St. B's*



*Fr. Travis with Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy on their visit to St. B's.*





*The Powells: (L to R) Susan, Evan, Meredith, Mark and Ethan*

### Contact

#### **Kristin Chapman**

Vestry Representative  
[jasontruss@gmail.com](mailto:jasontruss@gmail.com)

#### **Brooke Schroeder**

M&O Committee Chair  
[mission@stbs.net](mailto:mission@stbs.net)

With the budget year change in 2015, the Mission and Outreach Committee did not use funding applications to allocate monies. Instead, our current partners were asked to submit an end of year report. The committee decided to continue funding the same 16 organizations at their monthly support level through 2015. These organizations are divided into three areas: Anglican and Global Outreach, Local and Diocesan Outreach, and Long Term Missions.

#### **Anglican and Global Outreach**

- New Life Restoration Ministries
- Clayton and Teresa Ingalls with Frontiers
- Don Paul Gross with InterVarsity
- Trinity School for Ministry
- Dana & Dave Mennen with Bridges International
- Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand with SAMS

#### **Local and Diocesan Outreach:**

- Nathan Lee with Send Musicians To Prison
- Open Table Nashville
- Room in the Inn
- St. Luke's Community House
- Thistle Farms - Women of Magdalene House
- Rooftop
- Siloam
- Charis Ministries
- STARS
- Young Life

#### **Long Term Missionaries:**

The Powells serving in Germany with Teach Beyond

The Powells continue ministering to numerous individuals and groups to help missionaries with orientation, debriefing, repatriation, and even training on how to sustain a ministry. They help resolve psychological, spiritual, and conflict challenges, as well as guide self-care, life-balances, and decision-making. They also help deal with conflict and community building when and wherever

it is needed.

In addition to the budget allocations, the committee was able to provide three new ministries with a one time gift from its discretionary fund: a gift towards building a new seminary in the Ethiopia, and a gift to the Tiny House Campaign for Open Table. St. B's, as a congregation, set a goal of raising \$15,000 to fund one of the Tiny Houses. In December, St. B's reached that goal and will be able to help build one house in the tiny 18 house village, located in Madison, TN. There will be opportunities for parishioners to volunteer in building the house and in developing a relationship with the resident.

#### **Committee Members for 2016:**

Nancy West (co-chair)  
Mary Ann Ruley  
Steve Heaston  
Brooke Schroeder (co-chair)  
Phil Shay  
Debra Whiteside  
Beth Heimburger  
Kathy Decker  
Chris Hodges  
Kristin Chapman - *vestry liaison*  
Father Travis Hines - *staff advisor*



# The Bookstore

This year was pivotal for St. Bartholomew's bookstore. With implementation of "square" for credit and debit card purchases, Allison Hardwick couldn't be more pleased with the resurgence of activity. Additionally, with the expanded offerings from the St. B's Art Collective, the bookstore has transformed into a "destination" for church members and the community.

Don't forget that the bookstore is a ministry of St. Bartholomew's. The bookstore, under Allison's guidance, strives to reflect the character of Jesus in the product selection, service, policies, physical environment, and genuine relationships with all the customers.

With the diverse inventory of different authors and artists representing different world views and theological traditions, it is important to remember that these offerings are not intended as an endorsement by the clergy or staff of St. Bartholomew's church.

If it's been a while since you have visited the bookstore, stop by and see all the good works in this place that glorify God.

## Bookstore Hours

**Monday - Friday**  
9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Sunday**  
*in harmony with  
service times*



Allison Hardwick, Bookstore Manager, holds photos from the St. B's Art Collective now housed in the bookstore.

## Contact

### Jim Russell

Vestry Representative  
[jrussell@nrtsorters.com](mailto:jrussell@nrtsorters.com)

### Allison Hardwick

Bookstore Manager  
377-4750 ext. 105  
[stbbooks@stbs.net](mailto:stbbooks@stbs.net)



Troy Villager helps give the bookstore a facelift





# Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is a primary role of the Church: living together in community and loving each other as Christ directed. Accordingly, the vision for pastoral care is that we in the Church care for one another living together, recognizing our mutual responsibility for one another under the leadership of the Holy Spirit with the guidance of the clergy, staff, and volunteers. So, first a huge THANK YOU to all those individuals who have given so generously and cheerfully of their time and talents to nurturing our own!

In 2015, we focused as community on this idea of “live together.” From the idea, St. B’s Meet Ups were born. The Meet Ups were designed to help parishioners that live in a certain area get to know each other so that ultimately we might better care for our community. The first Meet Up was held on Sunday, September 27 in various parts of the city. Approximately 200 individuals participated in 8 different Meet Ups! The Meet Ups were met with enthusiasm and future ones are being planned.

For 2016, our plans include continuing the St. B’s Meet Ups, with the first one scheduled for Sunday, February 21. Look for more details coming soon!

A special thanks to all those dedicated volunteer leaders including Robert

Smith (Prayer Chain and Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care), Mindy Mumme (Manna Ministries), Phyllis Xanthopolous (Prayer Desk), Suzie Woolwine (Bereavement), Gaylene Lantham (New Born Ministries), and Marshall Weems (Transportation).

Pastoral care as a ministry is manifested by the work of numerous dedicated volunteers, taking a variety of forms. Below is a summary of pastoral care ministries at St. B’s and the leadership teams that shepherd them.

## Lay Eucharistic Ministry and Visitation:

This ministry provides support to individuals in the hospital through personal visits, prayer, and administering communion. The team also provides emotional support to St. B’s members who are confined to their home or to a facility through periodic personal visits, phone conversations and/or written communication. Robert Smith, Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care, leads this ministry along with 9 licensed volunteers.

Additionally, this ministry provides written communication and church news for those unable to attend church services regularly.



*St. B's first Meet Up was held September 27th at 8 different neighborhood zones.*



*The Meet -Ups were attended by all ages.*



## Contact

### Molly Dillingham

Vestry Representative

[mollyd@stewart.com](mailto:mollyd@stewart.com)

### Jerry Smith

Rector

[jerrysmith@stbs.net](mailto:jerrysmith@stbs.net)

### Church Office

[churchoffice@stbs.net](mailto:churchoffice@stbs.net)

### Robert Smith

Assistant to the Rector for Pastoral Care

[pastoralcare@stbs.net](mailto:pastoralcare@stbs.net)

### Phyllis Xanthopolous

[hpxanthop@aol.com](mailto:hpxanthop@aol.com)

### Suzie Woolwine

[sbwoolwine@comcast.net](mailto:sbwoolwine@comcast.net)

### Gaylene Latham

[nursery@stbs.net](mailto:nursery@stbs.net)

### Mindy Mumme

[mindymumme@gmail.com](mailto:mindymumme@gmail.com)

### Marshall Weems

[papamarsh.weems@gmail.com](mailto:papamarsh.weems@gmail.com)

## Pastoral Care continued

**Adult Counseling Resources:** In-house or referrals to outside counseling resources are coordinated by the rector, Rev. Jerry Smith, through the church office at 377-4750 or [churchoffice@stbs.net](mailto:churchoffice@stbs.net). He serves an average of 12-15 individuals per week.

**Prayer Desk:** This ministry provides immediate prayer and support during communion at Sunday worship services. Teams of two kneel at the left and right side of the altar during communion to pray with those who have specific needs – physical, emotional or spiritual – or for those who want to give God praise or thanks. Phyllis Xanthopolous leads this ministry with 20-25 volunteers serving every Sunday, both services.

**Prayer Chain:** The prayer chain serves those in immediate need for prayer. There are many channels for submitting prayer requests: one is by telephone to the church office (377-4750) and the other is by direct e-mail to Robert Smith, Fr. Jerry Smith, Fr. Travis Hines or other lay staff.

**Bereavement:** The bereavement ministry facilitates hospitality for funerals or other bereavement related events at the church. Suzie Woolwine leads this ministry along with 10-12 volunteers, serving as needed (3-4 events per year) at levels depending on the wishes of specific families.

**Newborn Family Ministry:** This ministry provides meals for the families of newborns and adoptees for a determinate period of time. Gaylene Latham leads this ministry supported by 10-15 volunteers, serving 10-12 families per year.

**Manna Ministry:** This ministry provides food for St. B's families with an illness in the family, as well as for families with loved ones recently released from hospital care. Mindy Mumme leads this ministry with 10 active volunteers.

**Transportation:** This ministry provides transportation to and from church on Sundays and/or to and from other events at the church. Marshall Weems leads this ministry with 7 volunteers.

If you would be interested in volunteering for anything you've heard here, please reach out to me at any time.



*The components of a communion kit used by Lay Eucharistic Ministers*



# The Preschool & P.D.O.

God has surely blessed St. Bartholomew's Preschool and Parents' Day Out (PDO) this year with Kelly Hull taking over for Suzy Floyd as the new Director. Kelly, who taught at St. B's and has previous experience running early childhood education programs, has worked alongside Suzy to provide a seamless transition. We can be confident with Kelly's experience and enthusiasm that the children will experience God's love and St. B's program will continue to be one of the best Christian-based, early childhood education and development programs in the Nashville area.

In the 1960's the Preschool and PDO programs were developed along with the early formation of the church. From their inception, these programs have been a ministry of St. Bartholomew's. Just as Jesus loves the children, so does the church community strive to emulate Jesus. The mission of this ministry is to offer to church members and the community programs that provide:

- The finest early childhood development/education, immersed in a Christian environment of love and support

- An opportunity for each child to grow to their full potential in body, mind, and spirit

The boundaries of this ministry do not stop at the classroom door, but include the parents and family of the students. Fun and inclusive events are hosted each year which include a Farm Day, Barnyard Music Day, Thanksgiving Feast, a heart-warming Christmas program (with an amazing children's bell choir), a Father's/Grandfather's Day, a Mother's/Grandmother's Day, and a year-end Family Picnic. The parents maintain an active role in the programs' operation through a Parent Committee which ensures that all the parental concerns are heard and discussed.

## Preschool Program

The Preschool continues to operate 3 days per week (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) through the regular school year, from late August through May. Class hours are from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Children from 3 years old to pre-K are eligible to enroll in the school.

The curriculum encompasses learning and developmental skills in a stimulating environment. Classrooms

are center-based with math, language, science, writing, music, art, and dramatic play areas. Writing skills are facilitated using "Handwriting without Tears" so children can learn letter recognition and proper letter formation. Proper pronunciation is taught using "Zoo Phonics" which uses letter sounds and gross motor skills to help bring phonics to life for young minds. The inclusion of guest speakers, and in-house field trips further broaden the children's learning experience. And last, but not least, is a little Spanish to broaden the curriculum with another language and culture.



*Director, Kelly Hull with Preschool Chaplain, Fr. Travis Hines*

## Preschool continued

St. B's Preschool meets the highest standards (a three star rating) set by the Department of Human Services (DHS); the licensing body for preschools in Davidson County. DHS conducts several inspections that insure St. B's Preschool program meets all the appropriate requirements.

### Parent's Day Out Program

Because of the children's younger ages, the PDO program has a more limited scope. The foundation and mission of the PDO Program are the same as the Preschool: Christian-based early childhood education and development. This ministry serves children age 15 months to 2 years old. Toddlers must be 15 months old by August 31<sup>st</sup> and can attend one or two days a week during the operating hours of 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The days of attendance can be any of the three days of operation: Monday,

Wednesday or Friday. Children 2 years old by August 31<sup>st</sup> have their choice to attend any two days per week.

The 2 year old classroom is also center-based providing resources for the children to develop and experience gross and fine motor skills, dramatic play, block play, some science and math, and (of course) art and music. Through all these activities, St. B's desire is for the children to learn to express their love for God, to enjoy more about His goodness, truth, beauty and love. The children in the PDO Program, both toddlers and 2 year olds learn these concepts through Bible stories, related art and music, prayer, sharing with other children and the staff demonstrating the love of Jesus every day.

I hope you have the opportunity to come by and meet Kelly and visit the Preschool and PDO ministries so you can witness the work of God in action!



*A preschool teacher with children on the playground*



*Preschool children reading during class*



*Preschool Christmas Program*

### Contact

#### Jim Russell

Vestry Representative  
[jrussell@nrtsorters.com](mailto:jrussell@nrtsorters.com)

#### Kelly Hull

Director  
[stbspreschool@stbs.net](mailto:stbspreschool@stbs.net)  
615.377.4633





# Community Relations

*Community: A feeling of fellowship with others as a result of sharing common attributes, interests, goals.*

When I first moved to Nashville four years ago, I heard this word quite frequently. Since I began attending St. B's I've recognized that feeling of fellowship and have learned that as a parish, we are good at getting others to join in the spirit of fellowship. We are a special congregation, one that is inclusive of all people, and one that I am so grateful to be a member of. While community-relations do include facilitating community group's use of our facilities, it is also about ways that we can increase reaching out to our wider community.

During this past year, St. Bartholomew's **Soccer Academy** and **Jazzercise** added another successful year to the books.

Since 2008, St. B's Soccer Academy has been using the fields on our grounds to educate children about the fundamentals of the game. It is also a chance for the children to become part of a team and build a community. From the numbers, the program is a hit with the kids and parents alike.

Jazzercise has a whole other following. Jazzercise is an aerobics exercise and dance fitness program that brings a

diverse group of men and women from all over Nashville to the church. It is also the group that has the gym sounding like a dance party during a typical session.

While these two programs are independent from the church, they still allow people from the neighborhood and beyond to see what God is doing here. They get to see the beautiful landscaping of the grounds outside that confirms our respect for God's creation. In Wallace Hall, they are able to see how we are working in Nashville and in other parts of the world, through our mission and outreach. By using our facilities, there is an invitation to come and share in the love we experience through Christ Jesus.

One of those invitations was extended last March, on a Saturday morning. Father Jerry had a vision of inviting the people who utilize our facilities to join us during Holy Week. A postcard displaying the Holy Week services was left on cars in the parking lot during soccer games and Jazzercise class.



*St. B's Soccer Academy sent jerseys and balls with the Mbithi's for New Life Restoration*



*A Thursday morning Jazzercise class*

### Contact

#### Ty Sparks

Vestry Representative  
[tylsparks@gmail.com](mailto:tylsparks@gmail.com)

In July, we opened our doors for a local, faith-led, organization NOAH (Nashville Organizing for Action and Hope) to use Wallace Hall. This was an opportunity for our neighbors to hear from city council candidates in Districts 23, 25, and 34 (St. B's district). While we didn't endorse any candidates or the group, we provided space for the needed forum in our surrounding neighborhood.

In 2016, our goal will still be about building a relationship with the community around us. It is my prayer that St. B's continues to be a place for those who are looking to grow on their spiritual journey. I believe we do this by reaching out to others, but also by putting into practice the mandates to love God, and to love one another. Loving others means

serving and sharing our resources within our community.

SBSA will continue to use our facilities, and will also build their relationship with the church by sharing their resources to support the work of St. B's. The program has committed to sponsoring two teachers and two students in Kenya each year through one of our mission partners, New Life Restoration Ministries. It is their hope that some of the other parents would want to get involved in supporting this mission also, which further increases their connection with our community.

As a way to practice our hospitality and make our presence known in the neighborhood, we will become a part of Welcome Wagon in 2016. Welcome Wagon is a business that provides new homeowners with things like coupons and information from local businesses. Our postcard will be included in this mailing package, and will communicate that we are a welcoming and pastoral presence in their neighborhood, and our doors are always open. We see the postcards as not only a way to say "welcome, we're glad you're here," but also as a way of sharing the good news that we celebrate here at St. B's.

This year our focus is to invite others in to experience that feeling of fellowship so many of us already feel now, here at St. B's. The way we accomplish this is by living with our community, growing with our community, and serving our community.



*St. B's hosted NOAH in July in Wallace Hall*





# Creation Care

Creation Care at St. B's is a ministry whose purpose is to leave the earth in a better state than we found it.

## 2015 Highlights:

- The Vestry designated a liaison for the ministry.
- The Branch article was published outlining the importance of Creation Care, as well as St. B's efforts to rejuvenate its purpose and practice.
- The Creation Care Team facilitated the Pentecost celebration by designating bins for recycling and using silverware for utensils rather than plastic ware.
- The Creation Care Team designed and applied labels and signage for existing bins.
- The Team designed a new Creation Care center logo banner and made a station in the gym.
- A \$1000 placeholder was successfully secured in the 2016 budget.

## Looking Ahead:

- The Team will continue getting the message out to the parish through education.
  - The Team will review various parts of church operations to find opportunities to reduce waste and resource usage.
- Creation Care Team:** Bonnie Bashor, Katherine Bomboy, Sally Chambers, Justin Cole, Tim Lauer, Chris Prichard

## Contact

**Chris Prichard**  
Vestry Representative  
[creationcare@stbs.net](mailto:creationcare@stbs.net)



*Chris Prichard and Justin Cole washing spoons after the Chili Cook-Off. No plastic spoons were used thanks to the Creation Care Team.*



*The Creation Care Team helping us recycle at the Pentecost Party*



# Facilities

2015 marked the completion of a number of improvements to our buildings and grounds. While many had long been on the Facility Committee's carefully curated, Vestry-approved list of priorities, others were the result of unplanned situations that required immediate action. Some addressed functional concerns, others were more about aesthetic issues, but all improvements were intended to communicate a concern for the experience that hundreds of people who use our facilities each week have, as they meet, plan, work, study, minister, and worship.

In the spring of last year, many parishioners turned out for a Sunday open house for St. B's new Ministry House. The under-used Rectory had been renovated to provide much-needed room for meetings of small group ministries, for counseling services, and for an additional staff office and conference room. Since that time, this intimate space has been in constant use as a "retreat center" on campus.

In early summer, the Facilities Committee turned its attention to the Sanctuary. Although there was an obvious need to replace some worn

furnishings, our guiding question was, "How can we enhance a sense of the sacred in this space?" We are fortunate that the architecture of St. B's, with its soaring spaces, durable construction, and iconography in the form of beautiful stained glass windows and the massive cross over the altar, sets the stage for transcendent experiences, and we wondered, what more could be done? We consulted a designer who suggested that we eliminate any design element that distracts from worship.

As a first step, the worn orange floor coverings in the nave and chancel were replaced with a neutral-toned carpet to provide a quiet, serene foundation. Torn kneeler pads were replaced and recovered in a similar neutral tone. Even the scratched chancel floor was resurfaced in a matte finish to "tone down" the look of the altar area and to eliminate visual distraction. And in the first phase of lighting work, ceiling spots and floods were repositioned so that the cross once again casts two shadows, reminding us of the choice we have to



*Replacing the lights in the sanctuary*

## Facilities Committee

Nancy Cason

Bob Floyd

Mimi Heldman

Dick Jewell

Sibley Edwards Kelly

Heinrich Tischler

Tiffany Villager



*Capital improvements that exceed \$3000  
are paid for out of the Nehemiah Fund.*

### Contact

#### Nancy Cason

*Vestry Representative*  
[ncason@comcast.net](mailto:ncason@comcast.net)

#### Heinrich Tischler

*Vestry Representative*  
[htischler@comcast.net](mailto:htischler@comcast.net)

## Facilities continued

Staff offices in the Parish Hall also received much-needed attention in 2015. With the redesign of space off Wallace Hall, offices for Fr. Travis and two other staff members were created at the end of 2014. In August, the offices for Fr. Jerry and the administrative staff were freshened up with new paint and carpet coordinated with other Parish Hall spaces. Downstairs, a Nursing Mother's Room was created in the office previously occupied by the parish nurse, and the Youth Room next door was renovated with new carpet, lighting, and window coverings.

Our campus grounds have also been improved. The upper and lower front parking lots were sealed and re-striped, and on the opposite end of the campus, a handsome new sign on Granny White was erected to welcome passers-by to St. Bartholomew's.

Not all improvement projects have been planned, and some are ongoing. The kitchen appliances seemed to have coordinated their dates of expiration, and by late fall, the microwave, ovens and range all needed to be replaced. An emergency contingent of the Facilities Committee was called in to get the kitchen up and running for use by Room at the Inn and the many other ministries that depend on it. After consultation with several vendors, it was decided that durable commercial appliances are needed, and that some associated remodeling would be required. By the end of January we should have a fully functioning kitchen.

Also identified were structural problems in the seals around the sanctuary's exterior stained glass windows. These will be secured, caulked, and repainted as soon as the weather permits. And an upgrade to the HVAC system is also in the works, to alleviate humidity problems in the downstairs rooms of the Parish Hall, and to provide a more efficient, centrally controlled system for both the Sanctuary and the Parish Hall.

This impressive list of improvements and repairs represent many hours of planning, work, and oversight by Facilities Committee members, a team of volunteers who are as generous with their time as with their skills. Their dedication this past year brings to mind Paul's admonition to the Colossians (3:23): "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

Service on the Facilities Committee is open to team players and problem solvers with general skills in architecture and construction, space planning and organization, interior design and furnishings. Parishioners interested in being considered for a three-year term of service can contact a member of the Facilities Committee or the Vestry. *And others can participate in this important work with a gift to the Nehemiah Fund, through which these capital improvements and major projects are made possible.*



Prepared for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church  
by the Vestry, January 2015



4800 BELMONT PARK TERRACE  
NASHVILLE, TN 37215  
615.377.4750 | WWW.STBS.NET