



2018 ANNUAL REPORT  
ST. **BARTHOLOMEW'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



*we're building a*

*mission*

#WEARESTBS

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For the Church is not a human society of people united by their natural affinities, but the Body of Christ, in which all members, however different (and He rejoices in their differences and by no means wishes to iron them out) must share the common life, complementing and helping one another precisely by their differences.

- C.S. Lewis



# From the Rector

You hold in your hands the Annual Report for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church for 2018, my first full year as your rector. And, as I hope you can tell from all that's in this report, these were busy months around our parish. I'm personally grateful to all the contributors to the Report — and to Sally Chambers for its careful construction — especially because of how the metrics work to show activity that might have gone unnoticed during the foregoing year here.

For instance —

- Did you actually know your wardens and vestry gathered **14 times**, including for two retreats, to conduct the business of our parish?
- David and the choir led us in **87 different pieces of music** during our expanded commemoration of the events of Holy Week.
- Carla and her wonderful team guide an average of **155 children** every week in Children's Formation.
- **108 donors** — less than a third of the total number of our active member individuals and families — pledged 54% of our annual budget.
- And a metric of my own — faithful people quietly gathered on **185 mornings** in 2018 to say Morning Prayer and ask God's guidance and blessing for our parish family.

Now we begin yet another year, and thanks to the work of groups like the Organization Review and Administrative Foundations Teams, the challenges and opportunities before us are more clearly defined than they've been in a long time.

In Roland Joffe's 1986 film, *The Mission*, there is a scene where Fr. Gabriel (Jeremy Irons), a Jesuit missionary to South America, confronts slave trader Rodrigo Mendoza (Robert De Niro) with these words: "So you're hunting above the falls now, Captain Mendoza? We're building a mission here."

*We're building a mission here.*

Those words have been running through my mind lately as I think of all that happened in 2018. Last year we worked a lot on our foundation and infrastructure; in 2019 and beyond, I'm excited to see what projects God leads us to work on next.

Please take time to read carefully through the reports from your wardens, the treasurer, and the various ministry heads. When questions arise, I'm eager to hear them and try to give you an answer. Thank you for your participation in our Annual Meeting, for your faithfulness in worship, for all you mean to our family at St. Bartholomew's, and for the privilege of being one of your priests. As always, the staff, vestry, and clergy ask your prayers as we do our work, and I assure you of our prayers for each of you as you do the ministry of this parish in the world. May God continue to bless you and our common life together.

With deep affection,

Fr. Sammy Wood  
Rector



*Fr. Sammy signing his first Baptism certificate at St. Bartholomew's, February 4, 2018.*



# Parish Snapshot

<b>24, 421</b>	<b>Total Attendance at Principal Services</b>
<b>397</b>	<b>Average Sunday Attendance</b>
<b>230</b>	<b>Celebration of a New Ministry Attendance</b>
<b>37</b>	<b>Blessing of the Animals Attendance</b>
<b>95</b>	<b>Visitors &amp; Newcomers Cards</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Baptisms</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Confirmations</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Marriages</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Deaths</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Births</b>
<b>650</b>	<b>Adult Members &amp; Participants</b>
<b>256</b>	<b>Households</b>
<b>240</b>	<b>Children, Infants - 6th grade</b>
<b>121</b>	<b>Youth, 7th - 12th grade</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Full Time Staff</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Part Time Staff</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Volunteer Staff</b>
<b>76</b>	<b>Volunteers Serving in Leadership</b>
<b>240</b>	<b>Volunteers Serving in Worship</b>



# Wardens & the Vestry

If a vestry is doing its work right, the parish is barely aware of it. Early in 2018, Fr. Sammy and the vestry established the Organizational Review Team (ORT) in order to research and review systems and practices in place at St. Bartholomew's. The goal of this short-term committee was to be *an extra set of eyes*, using our collective faith-based nonprofit, operational, and finance experience to make observations and raise questions for the vestry.

At our vestry retreat in May, the vestry heard the findings of the ORT and set three goals for the remainder of our time together as a vestry: 1) establish an Administrative Foundations team, 2) establish a Stewardship team and 3) discern mission and vision for St. B's.

The Admin Foundations Team (AFT) focused on human resource structure, organization, and alignment in the context of the mission and vision of St. Bartholomew's Church. This team assisted the rector in assessing staff and clergy needs, wants, and desires while simultaneously identifying areas of needed capacity, administration, and organization. Amongst other things, the AFT held a staff/clergy experience day to hear from the staff and clergy about their current work style and workload, their long term goals for themselves, and how they view their place in the bigger mission of St. B's. The AFT also conducted a full salary and benefits analysis to aid St. B's in decisions regarding personnel costs. The Stewardship team focused on ways to assist Fr. Sammy in the rollout of pledge cards and ways to facilitate a broader discussion of money, a subject that has often been taboo at St. B's and in the church at large.

In July, a Safety Committee was established. The committee looked at the current gaps in our safety procedures and made recommendations on immediate needs and long term goals in the categories of training, facilities changes, communications and access control. As a result of these findings, steps have already been taken to make St. B's a safer place for all who worship here and share our facilities. A Safety Implementation

team is still working to complete items identified as areas of need.

The vestry, staff, and some representative parishioners met in October for a mission and vision retreat facilitated by Stephen James. That time was focused on determining the core values of St. B's. Once these values are finalized, another retreat will be held to see what mission and vision flow out of these values.

2018 was a year with lots of behind the scenes work by your vestry to make things at St. B's run smoothly, both short and long term. A big thanks to everyone who lent their expertise on committees, teams, and the vestry itself. May 2019 bring to fruition the groundwork laid in 2018.

## Vestry Members

Shannon Truss, Sr. Warden\*  
Andy Michel, Jr. Warden  
Gretchen Abernathy  
Pat Bowlby  
Jim Chaffee\*  
Molly Cole  
Steve Heaston  
Heather James  
Eddie Latimer\*  
Yvonne Poindexter  
Brian Roark\*  
Phyllis Xanthopoulos  
Beth Ramsay, Clerk  
David West, Jr., Treasurer

\*term finishes January 2019

2018 Notes: Molly Cole took newly elected Vernon Alexander's position in March. Brian Roark completed Earl Ruler's position in August. Both Earl and Vernon moved out of state. Molly and Brian were 5th and 6th at the 2018 Annual Meeting elections.

**Shanon Truss**  
Senior Warden  
[swarden@stbs.net](mailto:swarden@stbs.net)

**Andy Michel,**  
Junior Warden  
[jwarden@stbs.net](mailto:jwarden@stbs.net)

12  
members plus a  
clerk & treasurer

14  
meetings, including  
2 retreats

40+  
hours

4  
subcommittees

Subcommittee Members

*ORT (Organizational Review Team)*

- Morgan Wills, Chair
- Alfred Dowell
- David West, Jr.
- Renee Wood

*AFT (Administrative Foundations Team)*

- Andy Michel, Chair
- John Allen
- Tom Mahan
- Nancy West

*STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE*

- Rodger Dinwiddie, Chair
- Gretchen Abernathy
- Anna Fields
- Bob Garth
- Zach Settle
- Phil Shay
- David West, Jr.

*SAFETY COMMITTEE*

- Rick Lundgren, Chair
- Sally Chambers
- Gaylene Latham
- Tom Mahan
- Chris Prichard
- Tom Hutchinson



*Vestry and staff meet with Stephen James in October to begin the work of crafting a new mission and vision for St. B's.*

**St. B's Staff**

- Fr. Sammy Wood, *Rector*
- Fr. Travis Hines, *Assoc. Rector*
- Fr. Dave Wilson, *Pastoral Asst.\**
- Fr. Stu Phillips, *Priest Assoc.\*\**
- Sally Chambers, *Communications*
- Hughes McGlone, *Youth Formation*
- David Madeira, *Music Ministry*
- Teresa Robinson, *Admin for Finance & Music*

- Carla Schober, *Children's Formation*
- Leslie Tomlinson, *Exec. Asst. to the Rector*
- Allison Hardwick, *Bookstore Manager \**
- Julia McGirt, *Organist\**
- Beverly Mahan, *Asst. to the Rector for Liturgy\*\**
- Meg Settle, *Sound Engineer\**
- Robert Smith, *Asst. for Pastoral Care\*\**

*\* denotes part time \*\*denotes volunteer*



# Financial

In late 2018, St. B's staff and vestry worked diligently to craft a budget for 2019 that called for no change in overall spending despite increased staff expenses and costs related to physical-plant needs.

At that time, giving and expenses for the year were on par with both the 2018 budget and 2017 actual numbers. Unfortunately, giving for December was far less than both projections and previous years. As a result, total parish expenses for 2018 exceeded parish giving by \$81,000. Actual giving for the year fell \$120,000 below projections, which was mitigated by expenses that were \$40,000 less than expected.

As a result, we start 2019 with limited cash reserves, little flexibility in the short-term with regards to the expenditures we are committed to, and a long-term trend of flat giving at a level below expected costs. This is not sustainable.

Last fall, Fr. Sammy led us through a "Season of Gratitude" culminating in an invitation to consider our response in terms of stewardship, specifically through an annual pledge. Early indications are that this has prompted many in our community to commit a larger portion of their financial resources to support St. B's. The vestry and I will be watching this closely in the coming months to see if this increase in giving is enough to support our current budget, and if not, to begin the process of determining how to modify our budget to align to the reality of our fiscal situation.

## *2018 Pledge Report:*

We received pledges from **108** donors which included **29%** of the **341** donors that made contributions to St. B's in 2018. The amount pledged equals **54%** of our needed giving for 2019. On average, those that did make a pledge, committed to an increase of **10%-15%** over their 2018 giving level.

In recent years, our parish has navigated the vicissitudes of our financial position by God's grace, and we trust that in 2019 He will continue to provide both the financial resources we need and the wisdom to steward those resources well. It is my sense, however, that we are also being invited to reframe our conversations about how we support and sustain our parish family and home. Absent meaningful changes in giving, we are going to have to move beyond month-in-month-out discussions on incremental issues to a serious and intentional discussion of a long-term financial strategy for our parish.

While our year-over-year giving has not increased, St. B's is blessed in that giving to our parish has been flat for several years compared to the nationwide trend of declining church giving. The question this poses for us as a parish is how do we best respond to this blessing in the context of significant, deferred physical plant issues and inevitable increase in personnel costs?

I would like to express my appreciation to the many people who engaged actively and gave generously of their time this past year to review, assess, inquire, and guide our policies and decisions specifically as they relate to financial matters. This includes the Organizational Review Team, the Administrative Foundations Team, the Finance Committee, and the Stewardship Committee.

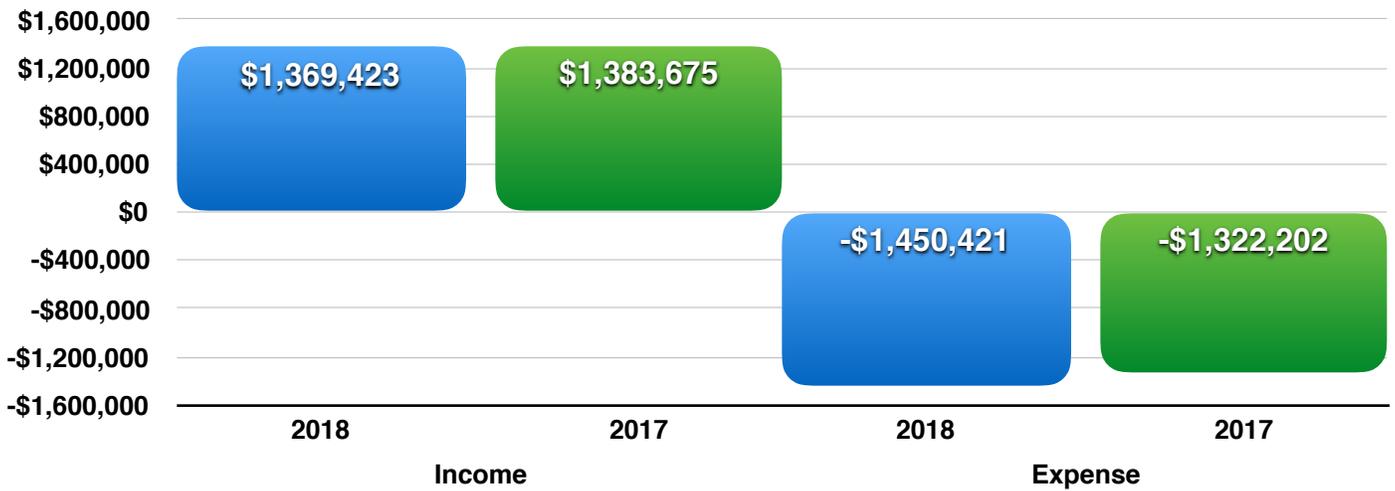
In the coming month, we will be hosting Treasurer's Forums which will take place between services and will include more in-depth analysis of giving and expenses as well as the opportunity for questions and discussion.

**David West, Jr.**  
Treasurer  
[treasurer@stbs.net](mailto:treasurer@stbs.net)

## **Finance Committee**

Bob Garth  
Whitney Stone  
Brian Roark

### 2018 vs. 2017



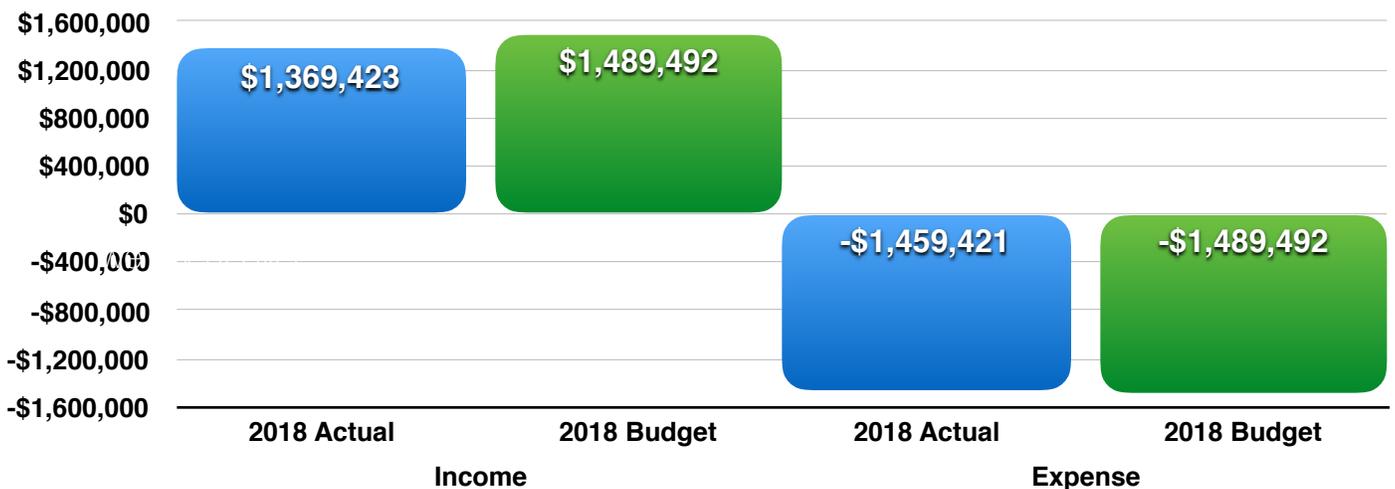
we ordered  
**216**  
jumbo rolls of  
toilet paper

we ordered  
**8000**  
styrofoam cups for  
hot drinks

**\$6000**  
on coffee supplies

2019 Budget Expenses	
Personnel	889,595
Parish Operations	220,971
Office	48,539
Communications	4,766
Special Events and Clergy	17,765
Worship	15,785
Adult Formation	3,000
Youth Formation	7,516
Children's Formation	8,050
Ministries	147,877
Mission and Outreach	125,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,488,864</b>

### 2018 Actual vs. Budget





# Liturgy

In 2018, Fr. Sammy completed the first year of his ministry among us. He brought with him small changes to the way we practice the liturgy. Most of these tweaks probably go unnoticed by the congregation, but the vergers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, thurifers, banner bearers, acolytes and crucifers worked diligently to incorporate these new ways of doing things in the hope of enhancing our worship together. These fellow volunteers covered every service on every Sunday, plus all special services during Christmas and Easter seasons, and the Celebration of a New Ministry.

Fr. Sammy and the Head Verger conducted a thurifer training (or retraining) for six people, and a retraining for all LEMs and acolytes. The Head Verger continued in her role as a diocesan verger, serving in Diocesan Convention Eucharists, and the Ordination to the Diaconate. At the Bishop's recommendation, she mentored the new verger at Advent Church, Brentwood, including inviting her to co-verge a service at St. Bartholomew's Church. In the summer, our Head Verger began attending weekly senior staff meetings, and participated in staff training sessions and mission statement workshops.

Also in 2018, three long serving LEMs stepped down to pursue other ministries at St. B's: Carla Schober, Ladonna Mullins, and Marshall Weems. One wonders how Carla ever managed to be an LEM, given her dedication to the children and families among us. Ladonna has been serving for ten years. Her favorite service is the children's pageant on Christmas Eve because of the joy and wonder so evident in the families. Marshall Weems leaves a tremendous void. He has been devoted to the family of St. B's faithfully for so many years, in so many ways. He is a tremendous teacher and mentor to those he serves alongside. He has been a vestryman, a Sunday school teacher, a chef, a pig roaster, a diocesan representative, a bible study and

prayer group leader, and an active participant in the men's ministry. We are still struggling to find someone to take his place on the third Sundays.

But God is faithful. In 2018, three adults were recruited and trained to be LEMs. The acolyte ministry added five new members who were trained and joined the rotation. Eight veteran acolytes were given a silver cross in recognition of their five-plus years of service: Simeon Michelson, Joel Michelson, Emmaline Weedman, Ava Buxton, Polly Edwards, Lily Lewis, Conner Pritchard, and Jamieson Simpson. What a remarkable testament of dedication by these young members of our congregation and their parents!



*Clergy and the altar team pray together in the sacristy before the service begins.*

**Bev Mahan, Head Verger**  
[verger@stbs.net](mailto:verger@stbs.net)

**Beth Ramsay, Readers**  
[beth.ramsay1@gmail.com](mailto:beth.ramsay1@gmail.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 Guild**  
[tmccoy@email.usn.org](mailto:tmccoy@email.usn.org)

**Mavis Harrop, Flower Guild**  
[mavise@me.com](mailto:mavise@me.com)

**Jim Chaffee, Vestry Liaison**  
[jchaffee@chaffeemanagement.com](mailto:jchaffee@chaffeemanagement.com)

90+

children & adults participated in the Celebration of New Ministry for Fr. Sammy in May

20,000

communion wafers consumed

## LITURGY SNAPSHOT

35	<b>Lay Eucharistic Ministers</b>
24	<b>Acolytes</b>
11	<b>Crucifers</b>
7	<b>Thurifers</b>
5	<b>Banner Bearers</b>
18	<b>Altar Guild Members</b>
9	<b>Flower Guild Members</b>
50	<b>Readers</b>
33	<b>Ushers</b>
32	<b>Greeters</b>
5	<b>Linens embroidered by Kathy Leo</b>
17	<b>Day of Reconciliation Attendance</b>
808	<b>Easter Sunday Attendance</b>
562	<b>Christmas Attendance</b>
145	<b>Morning &amp; Evening Prayer Attendance</b>

47

flower & greenery arrangements on the altar



Left: Marshall Weems carrying the Lay Eucharistic Visitor communion kit. Above: Ladonna Mullins serving the chalice as a Lay Eucharistic Minister.



# Music

2018 was a busy and full year for the Music Ministry!

**The St. B's organ** was completed after many years of waiting. Thank you to all of our donors who have enabled our organ to produce more rich and beautiful sounds than ever before!

**The adult choral program continues to grow**, with some of the largest rosters even in both the Chamber Singers and Parish Choir. The Chamber Singers gave a **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert**, in which many former members came to participate as alumni singers.

We continue to experience **increased attendance at All Saints evensong service** since it was first held in 2013. Our annual **Lessons & Carols** service was moved from its previous place within a morning Eucharist to a stand-alone service in the evening, and drew a larger crowd than expected, including many from outside our community.

Participation in **children's choir** programs waxes and wanes. This year we adjust the season to 4 "quarters" with breaks between sessions in order to reduce the commitment for families.

We established a **Youth Music** program on Wednesday nights, 30 minutes in advance of normal Youth activities. This is a very casual gathering in which we explore the basics of music making together, oriented around the musical interests of the participants.

**Twelve-Point chant**, developed by Director of Music David Madeira for St. B's was a topic of presentation at the Getty Music Conference, which drew 7500 participants from around the world.

We mourned the death of sound engineer **David Schober**. While we continue to miss our friend, we are grateful for the provision of **Meg Settle** who stepped into the role seamlessly, and for **Matthew Shepherd** who continues to serve as an assistant and who filled in for Meg while on maternity leave.

Challenges facing the music ministry in 2019 are:

**-Loft Space** – with the increased size of the organ, a growing choir, and the regular inclusion of additional instruments, restricted space in the loft has become a major challenge. Plans to increase the floor space is under consideration by the vestry.

**-House speaker system** – ours is increasingly outdated, and has several problems. Proposals will be examined in 2019 to determine the cost to either repair or overhaul our system.

**-Instrumentalists needed** – there is an ongoing need for additional Sunday instrumentalists. Drummers, guitarists, and bassists are especially needed.



*Liturgical dancers in the sacristy.*

**David Madeira**, Director of Music  
[dmadeira@stbs.net](mailto:dmadeira@stbs.net)

**Teresa Robinson**, Administrator Assistant  
[stbsmusicadmin@stbs.net](mailto:stbsmusicadmin@stbs.net)

**Jim Chaffee**, Vestry Liaison  
[jchaffee@chaffeemanagement.com](mailto:jchaffee@chaffeemanagement.com)



Top Left: Organist Julia McGirt and the refurbished organ.  
 Top Right: Musicians in the loft on a Sunday morning.  
 Above: The Chamber Singers perform at their Anniversary concert.

10  
 years since the  
 Chamber Singers  
 were formed

158  
 pipes added to  
 the organ

87  
 different pieces of  
 music performed  
 during Holy Week

## MUSIC SNAPSHOT

- 34 Musicians on the Sunday morning rotation
- 2 High Schoolers are part of the above
- 27 Chamber Singers Members
- 38 Parish Choir Participants
- 3 Children's Choir & Youth Music Directors
- 20 Children's Choirs Participants
- 20 Meals served on Wednesday evenings
- 3 Youth Music Participants
- 97 All Saints Evensong Attendance
- 156 Advent Lessons & Carols Attendance



# Children Formation

The beginning of 2018 brought major changes to St. B's Children's Formation when Director, Carla Schober worked remotely from Texas for personal reasons. Gaylene Latham, nursery director, stepped into the role of interim on-site director, representing the CF staff to the parish.

## Highlights from 2018

Michelle Andrade stepped down as assistant to the director and monthly e-newsletter facilitator. Ty Sparks picked up where Michelle left off in September.

Deborah Whiteside and Alicia Lewis completed Level 3 training for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, currently offered during the 8:30 service, while Jessica Smith and Renee Wood began Level 1 training.

For the first half of 2018 curriculum for classes during the 10:30 service was written by director, Carla Schober. In September, the children's ministry began using Deep Blu by Cokesbury.

As families continued to expand, the nursery was as busy as ever in 2018. That being said, the struggle to have adequate volunteers also continued.

Our Club56 (5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Graders) continued under the leadership of Adam Nunley and Amy Nelson. Focus changed to more family-friendly activities.

On the first Sunday of Lent, the children "buried the Alleluias" with Fr. Sammy's help. The Alleluia posters they had colored were placed in a "coffin" for the duration of Lent. The parish hall lobby was decorated with them for Easter.

Rain didn't dampen the Annual Easter Egg Hunts. Due to weather they were creatively held in the gym and Wallace Hall.

Our 19<sup>th</sup> annual Volunteer Fiesta, held at Mazatlán in 2018, celebrated all of the volunteers that share their faith and time with our children.

We rounded the year out with the Children's Pageant on Christmas Eve that included guests and visitors.

## 2019

In October of 2018, Fr. Sammy offered a vision and theology for children 6 years and older to worship with their families in the sanctuary. This began a new conversation that includes the entire St. B's family and will continue into 2019. We look forward to Robbie Castleman's workshop, "Parenting in the Pew," on April 6.

As 2019 continues, we will continue to create space for the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of our children downstairs in the Parish Hall, at home with their families, and in the sanctuary with the congregation.



*Child with school pack on St. B's Day for the back to school blessing.*

### **Carla Schober**

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

### **Heather James**

*Vestry Liaison*  
[heatherjames@me.com](mailto:heatherjames@me.com)

## Children's Formation Team

Director of Children & Family Formation:

Carla Schober

Assistant: Ty Sparks

Nursery Director: Gaylene Latham

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Director:

Deborah Whiteside

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Asst. Director:

Meredith Flynn

10:30 Classes Director: Elizabeth Madeira

Club 56 Director: Adam Nunley

Sunday Morning Assistant: Rachel Dyer

72

meals delivered to families with a newborn

89

volunteers per month spend time with our children in some capacity



Left: Magi, camels, and the Star of Wonder ready for the Christmas pageant to start.

Right: The 5th & 6th grade formation class.

## CHILDREN FORMATION SNAPSHOT

30

Average Attendance during the 8:30

60

Average Attendance during the 10:30

155

Total Number of Children Participating

12

Average Club 56 Attendance

7

Births to St. B's families

41

Christmas Pageant Participant

18

Christmas Pageant Volunteers

12

Number of Angels in the Pageant

9

Number of Magi

11

Number of Shepherds

135

red balloons inflated for the children and the Pentecost Celebration



# Youth Formation

In the first half of 2018, our youth in 7th - 12th grade were led by Father Travis, assisted by part time Youth Coordinator, Lindsay Lee. Beginning in March, a number of volunteers stepped up to teach the youth and coordinate events, including Ginger Gross, Novella Dean, Randy McClellan, Sally Chambers, and Matt Rhea. We are grateful to Lindsay and these volunteers who kept youth formation happening as we searched for a full time director.

In January, the Woods hosted "Wednesday at the Woods" for our teens to gather and get to know our new rector and his family. Sunday mornings through March Fr. Travis guided the youth through a curriculum exploring Scripture and worldview, then Novella and Ginger facilitated conversations with members of our community to learn their walk with Jesus. Matt Rhea and Sally Chambers continued the monthly SGCN gatherings of fun and formation. Renee Wood led the way through a number of summer activities, which culminated in a rafting retreat coordinated by Novella Dean and Matthew Sullivan.

Search for the director of youth formation position started with a position description in March and the formation of a Search Committee to give input to Fr. Sammy. The Committee comprised parents, youth, and other members of the congregation. Resumes were received, and a number of candidates interviewed by Fr. Sammy.

Hughes McGlone was hired in June, and began work in August. Since then Hughes has been busy trying to acclimate to life at St. B's. August began with a rafting retreat on the Ocoee river with 36 youth and 5 adults and was quickly followed by a fundraiser on St. B's Day.

Regularly scheduled gatherings on Sunday mornings, Messages on Wednesday evenings, and MidWeek, began in September

Our community has gone for out for ice cream, packed care bags for the homeless, learned about prayer and its many different forms and practices.

They have also carved some pumpkins and sent them out in the world to *be* the light, and finally we joined our other Episcopal brothers and sisters for a diocese wide evening of mission, dinner and compline.

In 2019, one of Hughes's main priorities is to build a team of adults who desire to hangout with our teens, build community, and follow Jesus together. So if you like community, like teenagers, and like Jesus, please contact Hughes for more information.



*Washing dogs before the Animal Blessing on October 7.*

**Hughes McGlone**  
Director of Youth Formation  
[hmcglone@stbs.net](mailto:hmcglone@stbs.net)

**Molly Cole**  
Vestry Liaison  
[mollylouisecole@gmail.com](mailto:mollylouisecole@gmail.com)



217  
grilled hot dogs on  
St. B's Day

Above: Middle School game night in May.  
Right: Back to School Rafting Retreat in August.



22  
dogs washed at the  
Animal Blessing

88  
star cookies made  
for the annual Epiphany  
Celebration

## YOUTH FORMATION SNAPSHOT

17  
pumpkins blessed at  
the Service of Light

- 42** Active Participants
- 8** Seniors Graduated
- 12** Adult Volunteers
- 30** Average Attendance on Sunday Mornings
- 12** Average Attendance at MidWeek
- 27** Survived the Harpeth by Canoe
- 14** Offered compline as a community
- 6** Rafts paddled down the Ocoee River
- 9** Ways to Pray learned at Midweek



# Adult Formation

In the winter and spring of 2018, St. B's offered several opportunities for adult formation. On Sunday mornings, Contemplative Prayer (led by Rick Wood) provided space for centering in Christ, and Life Builders (coordinated by David West and Don Paul Gross) studied the book of Hebrews, with members of the class taking turns leading. David Thornton led Lectio Divina on Wednesday evenings, a contemplative practice of reflecting on Scripture. Also on Wednesday evenings, Fr. Sammy taught his first round of Anglicanism 101, and Fr. Travis led a small group through Lenten Scripture readings and prayer. Early Thursday mornings found Tim Villager and Marshall Weems continuing the Men's Bible Study, and later those same mornings the Women's Bible Study (coordinated by Gretchen Abernathy and Abby Tylor) completed their study of Ezekiel, all the women sharing in guiding discussion and bringing food. The women give ongoing kudos to Teresa Robinson for coordinating excellent childcare.

Both the women and the men had retreats in the early part of 2018. The team of Brea Cox, Novella Dean, Anna Fields, Judy Freeman, Pamela McLellan, and Ruth Wassinger led the women, inviting Dr. Erika Moore to deepen their understanding of Ezekiel, with the topic of Encountering God in Unexpected Places. Andrew Beard, Brent Ferrel, Randy McLellan and Jim Russell called on our own Jeramy Williams to guide the men into listening to God's voice.

On Sundays in the fall, Life Builders returned with a study of Ephesians, Contemplative Prayer resumed, and Margy Roark facilitated Poetry and Pilgrims, engaging participants with a range of poems inviting conversations. On Wednesday mornings and evenings, Fr. Sammy and Fr. Travis co-taught *TELOS*, a series of conversations on Ephesians and the architecture of St. B's that explored becoming God's church in Nashville. Mark Lickey continued Lectio Divina on Wednesday evenings, and the Men's Bible Study continued meeting on Thursday mornings. The Women's Bible Study began a creative integration of Jen Hatmaker's book "7" with some of the shorter

Epistles. The Saturday before Advent began, Fr. Sammy guided participants through a Quiet Day in preparation for the season of expectation.

One further development is that Fr. Travis has been asked to oversee adult formation, working with Fr. Sammy to envision and develop a framework for this important part of our life together. The re-introduction of small groups through the upcoming Life Groups is the first outgrowth of this emerging vision.



*2018's confirmands with the Bishop.*

**Fr. Travis Hines**  
Associate Rector  
[thines@stbs.net](mailto:thines@stbs.net)

**Gretchen Abernathy**  
Vestry Liaison  
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Above: Poets & Pilgrims class.  
 Left: The Thursday morning women's Bible study.

12  
 poems studied by  
 Poets & Pilgrims  
 class

## ADULT FORMATION SNAPSHOT

9  
 confirmed after  
 taking Anglicanism  
 101

18+  
 years that Life Builders  
 has been meeting  
 on a Sunday  
 morning

- 20\* Anglicanism 101 Participants
- 25\* Women's Thursday Bible Study Participants
- 3\* Men's Thursday Bible Study Participants
- 6\* Lenten Study Participants
- 51 Men's Retreat Participants
- 47 Women's Retreat Participants
- 23\* LifeBuilders Regular Participants
- 4\* Centering Prayer Regular Participants
- 8\* Telos Class Participants
- 4\* Lectio Divina Participants
- 15\* Poets and Pilgrims Participants
- 45 Advent Quiet Day Participants

*\*average attendance*



# Parish Life

“It’s good that you are here.”

One of St. B’s former rectors would sometimes channel his inner Mr. Rogers and remind us all that we were loved, not just divinely, but by our brothers and sisters in the pews: Our presence on Sundays (and other days) mattered, and occasionally he’d call on us to remind each other, to look our neighbors in the eye and say it out loud, “It’s good that you are here.”

A review of community life at St. B’s in 2018 makes it clear that that same spirit, the Christ-centered embrace, is still alive. Maybe you accepted “the call” to bring “more chili” to the annual Epiphany Celebration in January or you brought your dog to be bathed by our teens in celebration of the Feast of St. Francis on October 7. Maybe you participated in one of 2018’s Facebook Live Compline services during Advent or you inflated red balloons and helped set up games for Pentecost on May 20. Or maybe you simply stopped by the St. B’s bookstore or attended your first St. B’s Family event. Regardless of your role in St. B’s community life in 2018, be assured, it is good that you were there.

A few highlights:

*The Epiphany Celebration,  
Sunday, January 7.*

The church again celebrated the end of the Christmas season and the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ with our annual Epiphany chili cook-off celebration and bonfire.

*Pentecost Party, Sunday, May 20.*

The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. Many wore red to our single service at 9:30 a.m. As always, when the children returned to the service after Sunday school, the sanctuary brightened with red balloons. A celebration on the lawn featured red velvet cupcakes and strawberries, music, and garden games.

*St. B’s Day, Sunday, August 26.*

This year, St. B’s added a Backpack Blessing to the annual celebration of the Feast of St. Bartholomew. Children and young adults were encouraged to

“bring your back pack, pencil case, tote bag, or anything else that represents school” to receive a blessing for the new school year. This celebration also featured games, music, face painting, and a youth ministry fundraiser.

2018 was a rich year for the St. B’s family, with Newcomer Lunches in May and November; ten Listening Parties hosted by Fr. Sammy and Renee around town during January – March, to get to know us, men’s and women’s retreats in the spring, the arts and craft fair, and Advent wreath making.



*A St. B’s family gathers around their newly created Advent Wreath.*

**Fr. Sammy Wood**

Rector

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**Sally Chambers**

Dir. of Communications

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**Gretchen Abernathy**

Vestry Liaison

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## PARISH LIFE SNAPSHOT

- 4** Feast Day Celebrations
- 4** Receptions
- 2** Newcomer Lunches
- 75** Newcomer Bags Made by Allison Hardwick
- 18** Artists had work on for Sale at the Art & Craft Fair
- 40** Special Orders Through the Bookstore
- 50** Photos Taken in Front of the Green Screen on Pentecost
- 300** Tootsie Rolls distributed during the School Year from the Bookstore
- 150** Tootsie Rolls distributed during the Summer from the Bookstore
- 359** Cloth Triangles Cut and Sewn for Decorations

100+

Christmas trees  
burned in the bonfire  
on Epiphany

540+

strawberries  
served at the  
Pentecost Party

11

St. B's artists work  
in stock in  
the bookstore



*Top Left: A participant in the Art Fair in November.  
Above: The Pentecost Party in May.  
Left: Face painting on St. B's Day.*



# Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care casts a wide net at St. B's from providing meals to the sick, visiting the hospital or home bound, intercessory prayer, and bereavement support, involving both laity and clergy. Although not always visible and up front, caring for our own in these ways is integral to being the church.

The prayer desk spent most of 2018 in need of more volunteers who are willing to pray with others once a month on a Sunday morning during communion. The same is true of our Manna Ministry. We have a faithful group of volunteers who prepare a meal, as needed and as able, for those in the St. B's family who are sick or in other need.

The Bereavement Ministry ministers to the families of those who have recently died by helping with visitations and receptions. In particular, these volunteers prepare refreshments so it is one less thing the bereaved family has to worry about.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV) are commissioned after communion on the fourth Sunday of each month. LEVs take communion to those who for one reason or another, cannot gather with rest of the church family. Our hope is that LEVs will develop a meaningful relationship with those they visit.

Caring for our own through prayer, food, and visits is the ministry of all of us. We hope that more people will hear the call to care in these ways in 2019.

## PASTORAL CARE SNAPSHOT

- 27** Sunday Prayer Desk Intercessors
- 12** Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- 25** Volunteers who Prepare Meals
- 86** Praying People Participants

109

prayer requests  
submitted to the  
prayer chain

115

Eucharistic visits  
with those unable  
to attend on Sunday

125

meals delivered to those  
who are sick or in  
need

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**Robert Smith**  
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**Mindy Mumme**  
Manna Ministry  
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**Phyllis Xanthopoulos**  
Prayer Desk & Vestry Liaison  
[hpxanthop@aol.com](mailto:hpxanthop@aol.com)



# The South Sudanese

The South Sudanese congregation has been a part of the St. B's community for over 20 years. The Archbishop of Sudan, the Most Rev. Justin Baid Arama, delegates oversight of expatriate congregations to the TEC diocesan bishop. In Tennessee, Bishop Bauerschmidt in turn delegates that oversight to the rector of St. Bartholomew's.

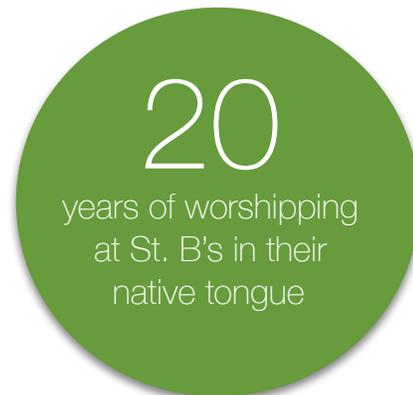
Our South Sudanese congregation is guided by a Church Council (similar to our Vestry) elected by their members once every two years, plus two administrative pastors put forward by their congregation. Twice a month one of the St. B's clergy preaches and celebrates Eucharist with the South Sudanese congregation at their 12:30pm Sunday service; the other Sundays members of their congregation take turns preaching and leading the people through Morning Prayer in Dinka, their native tongue.

Since January 2018, at the request of the Church Council (David Char, Chair and Deng Achol Abui, Deputy Chair) and with the blessing of Bishop Bauerschmidt and Fr. Sammy, Fr. Travis has met weekly with Peter Mangok and John Achol, the pastors, to prepare them for ordination and to discuss how best to care for the South Sudanese congregation. In addition to the ordination of these men, the community has as their highest priority formation for their children and youth--scriptural and Anglican catechesis, as well as preservation of their culture and language.

The South Sudanese have also expressed the desire to become more connected with the greater St. B's community, and to explore what would be needed to develop that connection. They consistently express gratitude for the years of support and relationship with St. Bartholomew's.

## SOUTH SUDANESE SNAPSHOT

<b>34</b>	<b>Average Sunday Attendance</b>
<b>150</b>	<b>Christmas Attendance</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Priests in training</b>



**Fr. Travis Hines**  
Associate Rector  
[thines@stbs.net](mailto:thines@stbs.net)



# Facilities

2018 saw several changes with the makeup of the Facilities Committee. Three new members joined at the beginning of the year: Rick Wood, Jim Russell, and Bill Bowlby. In the Spring, longtime member Nancy Cason resigned after faithfully serving for ten years. During her tenure, she worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the campus facilities a welcoming and useful place for Parishioners to worship and gather. We are very grateful for her work. By the end of the year, Hunter Verner became the newest member, and we are excited to have him be a part of this important team. The remaining members are: Mimi Heldman, Tim Villager, and Chris Prichard. Steve Heaston is the Facilities Vestry Liaison, and also works behind the scenes maintaining and repairing various items that need attention around the campus.

Many improvement activities overseen by the Facilities Committee occurred throughout the year. Some of which included:

- Sacristy - installation of an awning for the exterior door as well as replacement of the flooring.
- Sanctuary lighting upgrades and pew repair.
- Waterproofing outside of Room 104. This room is partially below grade and was susceptible to flooding during heavy rainfalls. The ground had to be excavated in order to reach the foundation which was then waterproofed. It should be noted that two parishioners used a mini-excavator and performed the labor themselves. Since a contractor was not hired to do the work, the Church saved ~\$4000!
- Fellowship Hall roof and gutters – Numerous leaks affecting the gym and offices were repaired.
- Parking lot bulb and ballast replacement.
- Bride & Icon Rooms – new paint, outlet repair as well as installation of new, window seal replacements.

Other accomplishments and activities that happened in 2018 include:

- Participating in a Facilities Summit to discuss current campus needs as well as future planning. It was led by Fr. Sammy, and the Vestry, Staff, and pre-school leadership also participated.
- Revised the Nehemiah Fund policy at the direction of the Vestry.
- Orchestrated a Community Work Day where the volunteers worked alongside members of the Facilities Committee to perform pew and kneeler repairs.

There is still much more to be done in 2019, and the Facilities Committee looks forward to addressing issues when feasible. The current needs and future projects lists have estimated costs exceeding \$250,000. Some of the items that will continue to be evaluated in hope for implementation are: an LED light conversion for the parking lot fixtures, Ministry House repairs, campus landscape lighting upgrades, and Fellowship Hall electrical upgrades.

## **Facility Committee:**

*Chair, Chris Prichard*

Mimi Heldman

Tim Villager

Hunter Verner

Rick Wood

Jim Russell

Bill Bowlby

## **Chris Prichard**

*Facilities Chair*

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

## **Steve Heaston**

*Vestry Liaison*

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

## FACILITIES SNAPSHOT

- 20** Facility Projects
- 12** Volunteers on the Work Day
- 234** Jazzercise participants
- 435** Soccer Academy participants

360,000 kWh  
of electricity used. The average TN household uses 1485 kWh



Left: Soccer Academy directors with Pastor Paul of New Life Restoration Ministries on one of his visits.  
Above: A Saturday morning Jazzercise class.

Jazzercise has been led by Mary Helen Yarborough for over 11 years in the gym. Jazzercise provides a variety of aerobics and dance fitness routines and brings a intergenerational group of men and women from all over Nashville to the church, six days a week, all year long. Mary Helen, who has been teaching Jazzercise for 38 years, tithes monthly to St. B's, offers free membership to staff, and has a handful of parishioners in her classes. Interestingly, class members not from St. B's have participated with Room in the Inn and other M&O donation drives. They also frequent our bookstore.

412

Jazzercise classes offered at St. B's

25

soccer balls, 30 uniforms, 4 pop goals and more donated to our mission partner NLRM in Kenya by the Soccer Academy

Since 2008, St. Bartholomew's Soccer Academy, led by Charles Morrow, men's soccer coach for Lipscomb University, and his former assistant, Kevin Burk, have used the fields on our grounds to help children develop personal, teamwork, and problem-solving skills and to instill a love of the game of soccer. The academy supports St. B's mission partner, New Life Restoration Ministry in Kenya by donating soccer equipment and financially supporting four teachers and four students. St. B's families can pre-register for sessions prior the week prior to the public.



# Mission & Outreach

The church is called to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world by giving time, money, and talents. At St. B's, we move into this calling through the work of M&O. The committee acts on behalf of St. B's congregants to cultivate relationships with our mission partners and then educate about needs and opportunities.. The kingdom of God comes nearer as we, the church, serve and learn from those with whom we are called to labor. Committee members communicate regularly with ministry contacts, conduct site visits where possible, and bring prayer requests, urgent concerns and needs to the committee. Our hope is to provide ongoing emotional support as well as financial support to those who are serving.

We want to thank those who have finished their term on the committee: David West, Jr., Phil Shay, Deborah Whiteside, and Beth Heimbarger. We will start off the year with a ½ day retreat, and are thankful to welcome new members Ruth Wassinger and Sam Vo.

St. B's has been the SENDING CHURCH since 2008 for **Susan and Mark Powell**, working with Barnabas International, and they have started a transition from Germany to Spain. St. B's was grateful to have Mark and Susan home in Nashville this past summer.

#### **Congregation Participation:**

Donation drives gave the congregation opportunities to enthusiastically support our partners: a food drive for **Charis** collecting over 1000 pounds of food; a refugee kit drive for **Siloam**, and a cleaning supplies drive for **St. Luke's**. St. B's also hosted the **Magdalene graduation** at the end of May. Through donations of time, money, and requested items by the St. B's family, the graduates were showered with love and praise.

**Nashville Neighbors** is an innovative outreach program to newly arrived refugee families,

orchestrated by **Siloam**. Matthew Sullivan will be the point person for this.

St. B's Preschool also collects offerings for the children ministered to by **New Life Restoration Ministries** in Kenya. Paul and Grace Mbithi, founders of NLRM, were able to meet with people from St. B's and speak to the children at chapel while they were in the US.

We look forward to more opportunities to connect with, serve and support our partners in the year going forward. Please keep an eye on the M&O update in the St. B's weekly!

#### **2018 Committee Members:**

Beth Heimbarger (Chair)\*  
Michele Becker (Co-Chair)  
Phil Shay (Finances)\*  
Terry Blankenship  
Aaron Kipp  
Robert Pullen  
Jay Siegrist  
David West, Jr.\*  
Debra Whiteside\*  
John Allen  
Amy Nelson  
Matthew Sullivan

*\*rotating off*

#### **Joining in 2019**

Ruth Wassinger  
Sam Vo

#### **Michelle Becker**

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

#### **Eddie Lattimer**

*Vestry Liaison*  
[elatimer@AHRHOUSING.ORG](mailto:elatimer@AHRHOUSING.ORG)

## St. B's Mission Partners in 2018

Dana and Dave Mennen with Cru/Bridges International  
Don Paul Gross with Intersivity Christian Fellowship  
Bishop Grant and Wendy LeMarquand with SAMS in Ethiopia  
Susan and Mark Powell with Barnabas International  
Young Life Urban Ministry of Nashville  
New Life Restoration Ministries (Kenya)  
St. Luke's Community Center  
Siloam Family Health Center  
Trinity School for Ministry  
Send Musicians to Prison  
Open Table of Nashville  
Rooftop Foundation  
Charis Ministries  
Room in the Inn  
Thistle Farms  
STARS

3500

dinners provided to  
overnight guests through  
RITI's 2017-2018  
season

25

items in each gift  
hamper for  
Magdalene  
Graduates

25

refugee welcome kits  
collected for Siloam  
Health

## MISSION & OUTREACH SNAPSHOT

- 63** Volunteers with Room in the Inn (2017-2018)
- 291** Overnight guests with Room in the Inn (2017-2018)
- 75** Showers by Overnight Guests
- 300** New Pairs of Socks donated for RITI guests
- 67** Books collected for RITI guests
- 2** Congolese Families "adopted" through Nashville Neighbors
- 1028** Pounds of Food donated in March to Charis Ministries
- 30** Volunteers helped with the Magdalene Graduation



Donations for the Charis STOP hunger food drive.



Volunteers at the Magdalene Graduation.



# The Preschool and P.D.O.

The 2018-2019 Preschool and PDO school year is off to a great start! Our first semester was full of learning, community building, and fun! At the start of August, the full staff gathered for our annual Fall retreat. This is a time of coming back together, studying scripture, asking God what He wants from our school year, and praying for each child by name. Following the retreat, teachers reported to school early to begin preparing for their new class. They worked tirelessly, making sure their classrooms were ready.

Throughout the semester we work hard, helping each student (from the youngest to the oldest) feel safe, loved, and excited about being at school. Students and teachers learn about one another, learn classroom routines and experience a wide variety of learning experiences. In the fall we host some of our most fun events. We kick things off with our annual Mulch Day. Each year the faithful dads in our program cover our playground with mulch, making it safe for all the kids. Our very favorite event is Farm Day for our preschoolers in October. The hayride, petting zoo, and pony rides were all back and as popular as ever! We celebrated community among our families at our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Fall Ball event for the whole family. Due to bad weather we had to move this event inside.

Turns out all-parents and staff alike-enjoyed it more this way! In addition to all of our fun activities, we also added a fundraising element. We had 5 vendors with items available for sale, and we also had an auction! Each classroom created art for parents to bid on. Teachers also got in on the fun and auctioned off special time with them.

This year we made a change to our special area classes. Instead of offering Spanish once a week, we are offering a STEAM lab once a week. For the first four STEAM classes we had exploratory stations that included ramp building, magnets, building, and creating. Laura Verner joined us in December for a special sewing lab where kids were able to design their own ornament and help with the sewing and stuffing process. We have been so excited to watch as the kids take the concepts from lab and incorporate them into their classroom play!

We continue to have a sweet time of singing and Bible learning in chapel each month with Father Travis. The children are learning practical truths for their lives. We hear reports all the time of children teaching their parents all they learned in chapel!

## Preschool & PDO Staff

Meredith Cade	Sydney Burris
Ashley Wheatley	Callie Farro
Kathy Colvard	Jeanette Leggett
Sarah Schulz	Ruth Carleton
Emily Seibert	Jill Alexander
Himmie Gustafson	Paige Hughes
Gretchen McLallen	Birdie Powers
Rebekah Wright	Tracey Jarrard
	Jennifer Duffey

## Preschool & PDO Board of Directors

Bob Garth, Chair  
Andrea Sullivan, Treasurer  
Deen Logan  
Anna Hayden

## Kelly Hull

Director

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## Yvonne Poindexter

Vestry Liaison

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# PRESCHOOL SNAPSHOT

- 99** Students
- 18** Staff
- 8** Chapels with Fr. Travis
- 12** Animals on Barn Day
- 4** Outdoor Classroom Days
- 4000** Naps in PDO

56  
bells rung during the  
Christmas Concert

28  
teddy bears  
participated  
downstairs in the  
annual parade



Top Left: Children waiting in the sanctuary for Chapel to begin.  
Above: Teachers dressed for Dr. Seuss Day.  
Left: Children at the Preschool Easter program.



# The Homeschool Tutorial

In 2014, the St. Bartholomew's Homeschool Tutorial began as a ministry to St. B's families who homeschooled their elementary-aged children. The children studied physical and cultural geography, art, and science through Montessori methods and materials, and Scripture using the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. As those first 12 children gathered each Tuesday and Thursday, they demonstrated such joy in learning, a true appreciation for one another, and a love for St. B's, their home away from home. We were welcomed to participate in established St. B's ministries as a part of our learning- the altar guild allowed us to polish the offering plates and clean the pews, the pastoral care team encouraged us to write letters to shut-ins and make blankets for newborn babies. We learned where the brooms were kept and how to "leave things beautiful" for the next people who would be using the shared spaces in our church. We also were blessed to have experts in our church family share their knowledge with us- a botanist walked us around Radnor Lake, missionaries taught us about the customs in Uganda, and Ms. Allison even taught us about her father's role in building Mt. Rushmore! We discovered that St. B's people not only liked to worship together, we liked learning together, too. This first year was a special one and allowed us to build a strong foundation.

Five years later, we have continued in our mission to create an environment in which children can fall more deeply in love with God as they learn about his creation and his people, including one another. The children are eager to see the hand of God throughout history as they study world cultures. They take great joy in creating beautiful works of art. They look forward to time set aside to be with God in the atrium. We are a more diverse group than we were five years ago- last year was our first year to welcome children who attend other churches. We created an admissions procedure, including an application process with tours and shadow days for prospective children.

We are grateful for the love of the St. B's community and opportunity to grow and learn together and we hope you'll join us in May for our World Day Celebration on May 10!



*Children gather to experience Montessori's First Great Lesson, "The Universe."*

## **Tutorial Teachers**

Meredith Flynn  
*Lead Teacher & Director*

Deborah Whiteside  
*Lead Catechist*

Corinne Michel  
*Art Teacher*

Natalie Rapp  
*Assistant Teacher*

**Meredith Flynn**  
*Homeschool Tutorial Director*  
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**Yvonne Poindexter**  
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[yvonne.poindexter@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne.poindexter@gmail.com)

# TUTORIAL SNAPSHOT

- 17** Children
- 4** Teachers
- 65** Days in Session
- 325** Hours Together
- 17** Total Graduates
- 8** Continued onto Middle School Tutorials
- 5** Entered public schools
- 3** Entered private, Christian schools
- 1** Entered private Montessori school

**90**  
meals prepared by children for seniors, staff, and loved ones

**80**  
pieces of art created by the children

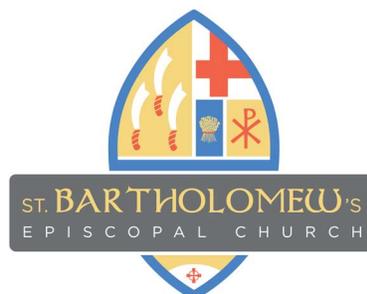
**44**  
continent maps made by the children



Top: A child's artistic reflection on the creation of life on earth and the gift of humanity.  
 Above: A child studying the constellations using a pin map  
 Right: Teacher, Deb Whiteside, sharing part of a plant cell with children.

Prepared for St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church  
January 2019

*cover photo taken at Morning Prayer by Robert Smith*



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