

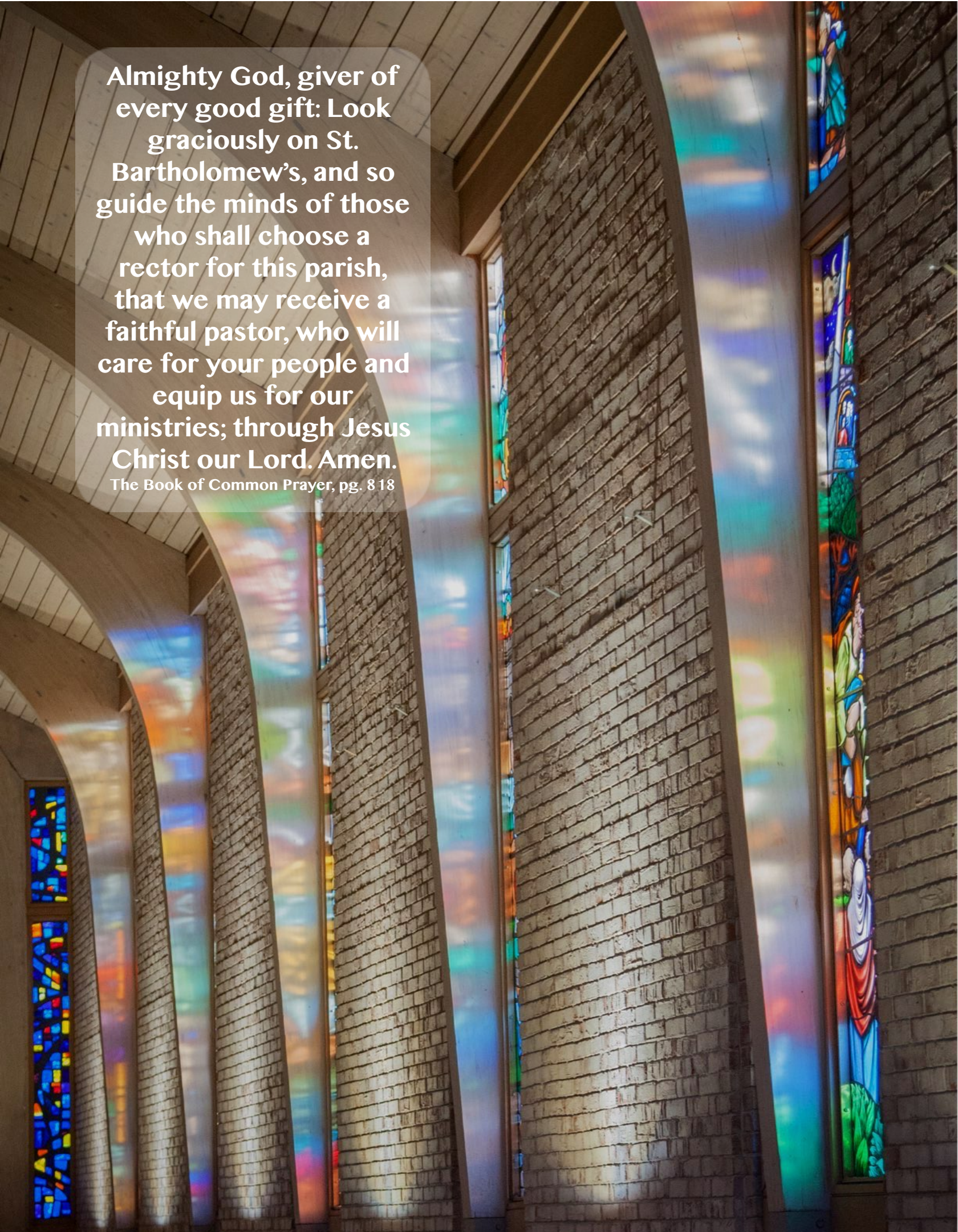


St. B's

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



PARISH PROFILE 2017

The background of the image shows the interior of a church. It features tall, cylindrical brick columns that support a vaulted ceiling. Between the columns are narrow, vertical stained glass windows. Some of these windows depict religious scenes, such as a figure in a red robe, while others show abstract, colorful patterns. The lighting is soft and even, highlighting the texture of the brick and the vibrant colors of the glass.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on St. Bartholomew's, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Book of Common Prayer, pg. 818

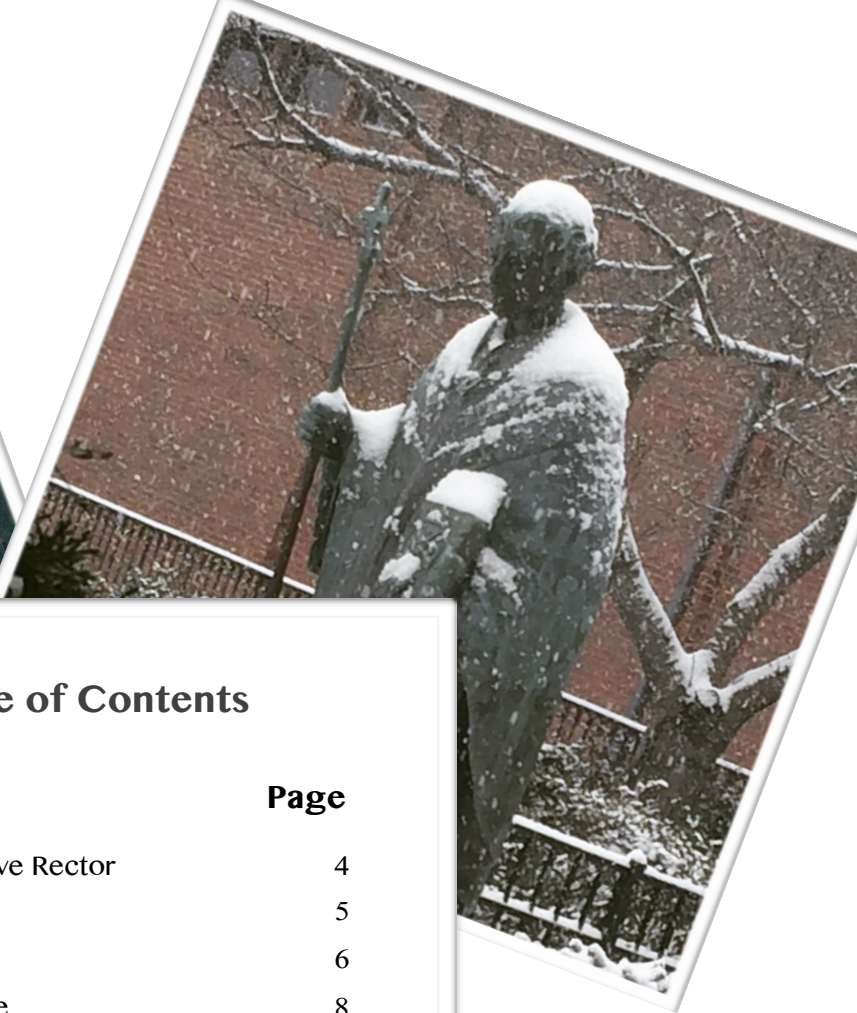


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Prospective Rector

Grace and Peace to You through our Lord Jesus Christ



It is our intention to share with you an accurate and comprehensive picture of who we are and what we are doing to further the Kingdom of God. To that end, we identified core values, strengths, and challenges through a number of focused efforts, including a facilitated parish meeting, interviews with staff members and lay leaders, and an extensive parish survey to which 90% of our eligible average Sunday attendance population (16 years and over) responded. We hope this description of our people, our parish life, and our community will encourage you to prayerfully consider whether God is leading you here. We are excited about our future under the leadership of a new rector and committed to being open to the person God has for us.

The Vestry and Search Committee of St. B's



Mission

We, a people affectionately known as St. B's, are a family on a journey to grow more in love with God and one another, and to grow in our willingness to serve one another. Compelled by the love of Jesus, we long to see our alienated world reconciled to God in Christ.

We open ourselves to this growth through The Way of St. B's – a rule of life that shapes us through worship, internal formation, external formation, action, evangelism and stewardship.



A Note Regarding our Mission:

As we started the process of the Parish Profile, we felt compelled to craft a mission statement that leads us forward into a new season. As an integral part of our transition, St. B's is in the process of rediscovering our identity and creating a new and vibrant mission statement which reflects the results of this exploration. This new mission statement will be crafted with meaningful input from the congregation and will also develop out of a teaching series led by our Interim and Associate Rectors. We hope to complete this process by mid-Spring 2017.



Who We Are

Our church is a welcoming, “come as you are” community of faith for any and all seeking to know the love and grace of God in Christ. Despite our location in a residential area in south central Nashville, many parishioners drive significant distances from their homes in other areas of the city and surrounding counties to attend church.

This level of commitment stems from what parishioners find life giving about St. B’s. For many, it’s our beautiful, consistent liturgy, celebrated with musical excellence and intention. Others are drawn to the care we show to those in need of solace. As Associate Rector Travis Hines observed, “People come and find a place of healing and restoration and rest, and then stay because they find community.”

We are a large, vibrant, intergenerational church with challenges, certainly, but with much to celebrate. Parishioners have expressed a high degree of satisfaction with life at St. B’s. There is a strong sense of connectedness in our interactions and desire to be transformed by the Trinity in relationship with one another. And yet, the spiritual journeys that have brought us together are vastly different. We come from over forty denominational backgrounds and faith traditions, and hold theologically diverse views. While acknowledging the natural tension inherent in this fact,

our community is held together through our faith in Jesus. We are humbled by the spirit of unity and respect through which our range of perspectives are accommodated, and we maintain a commitment to those perspectives formed by Scripture.

We are an active, engaged community. Half of our members attend worship services all but four Sundays a year, and a significant majority are participants in one of St. B’s many parish and local outreach ministries. Most members are involved in a discipline of daily devotion, and acknowledge the centrality of their faith to all other aspects of their lives.

And we are a committed, resilient community. In April 2004, almost half of our congregation, divided over national church issues, left The Episcopal Church. While we mourned this break in our fellowship, we weathered this storm together, and within a year had regained both our membership and our momentum. The past eleven years under one rector has been both stabilizing and energizing, with the influx of many young families and singles. Seventy percent of our members have now been at St. B’s five years or more. We remain committed to The Episcopal Church, yet determined to keep our focus on God’s work in and through St. B’s—“to see our alienated world reconciled to God in Christ.”



Parish Demographics

Age of Adults

16- 24	1%
25-34	12%
35-44	30%
45-54	14%
55-64	22%
65+	20%

Household Size

1	18%
2	38%
3	13%
4	14%
5	8%
6	8%

Education Level

High School	3%
Some College	6%
College Graduate	33%
Some Post Graduate	7%

Attendance Frequency

1 - 4 Times	2%
Once/Month	4%
Twice/Month	11%
Three Times/Month	34%
All But 4 Weeks	25%
Every Week	25%

Distance from St. B's

Under 4 Blocks	2%
5 - 8 Blocks	1%
1 - 2 miles	5%
3 - 4 miles	17%
5 - 9 miles	38%
10-15 miles	24%
Over 15 miles	13%

Tenure at St. B's

Under 1 year	7%
1 - 2 years	9%
3 - 4 years	15%
5 -10 years	29%
11 - 15 years	16%
16 - 20 years	5%
Over 20 years	20%



INITIAL ATTRACTION TO ST. B'S (in rank order)

Liturgy
Music
Friends
Rector



Priorities for the Future

In anticipation of welcoming a new rector, we have been diligent in “taking our own pulse.” Through our parish survey, we identified four priorities that stood out from a possible seventeen, and noted interesting similarities and differences in rankings across three age groups: under 35; 35-64; and 65 and over.



Stewardship

Clearly, the need to develop the financial generosity of our people to support the church is a top priority, particularly for parishioners 35 and older. We recognize that the practice of financial giving as an enriching spiritual discipline hasn't been clearly taught or shaped within us. To ensure that we deepen and expand our resources to care for one another, we must increase the participation of parishioners in faithful, consistent giving.



Pastoral Care & Outreach Ministries

Expanding pastoral care to better serve those experiencing brokenness from life circumstances, such as divorce, substance abuse, and unemployment is our second priority. It is a concern shared by all age groups, but parishioners under 35 are particularly passionate about social concerns, and assigned high priorities to the expansion of outreach ministries that care for those living on the margins of society, and the expansion of the role of the church in advocating for social and institutional reform.



Growth

A third priority was to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church. This is commonly a high priority for all churches, but merits special attention at St. B's. Our desire to expand our community must be carefully considered in light of the fact that church facilities are now close to maximum capacity.



Meaningful Connections

Parishioners across all age groups indicated a need to create more opportunities for people to form meaningful relationships. This fourth priority warrants further discussion, but may correspond to the need expressed by parishioners aged 35-64 for additional adult formation opportunities where such community is built.



Abilities We Seek in a Rector

PREACHING AND TEACHING

We seek a gifted and knowledgeable teacher who can connect us to God's word, deepen our understanding of His love and grace, and equip us to participate in His redeeming work in the world. We are looking for a rector who will share his or her own personal spiritual journey and lead us into spiritual maturity, not only through challenging and insightful sermons, but also by teaching adult formation classes.

Our next rector will need skills to help us discern a more clearly defined spiritual path for the future. Because we are a community that holds diverse ideological views, we require a rector who will encourage open and respectful dialogue around those different perspectives. And we seek a rector who will not only provide direction for a large staff, but also take advantage of our lay resources and strengths, and help strengthen the process by which parishioners are called and equipped for ministry.

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

We need a strong spiritual and strategic leader who can help us explore options for growth and change in the next season at St. B's. We are blessed with a congregation that engages with the church at a high level of energy, and has indicated a high regard for the way things are going in the church.

PASTORAL CARE

We want a rector who is compassionate, empathetic, and responsive to parishioners in need, and who will warmly welcome everyone to St. B's. Our rector must also have administrative skills to effectively coordinate pastoral responsibilities with our clergy and laity.





Worship, Music, and Liturgical Ministries

As it became familiar, I began to love the consistency of the liturgy and the theology and priorities it reflected. As I got to know people, I found that these outward signs of welcome and grace and peace sprang from an authentic pursuit by members to be more like Jesus.

A ST. B'S NEWCOMER

Worship of our Triune God is at the heart of all we do at St. B's. Our weekly gatherings are intentional times of reorienting ourselves to who God is, to his ongoing action in creation and covenant, and to how we are to receive and respond as his people. Each service begins with the invitation to experience God's presence in our community through liturgy, music, preaching, and sacrament.

On Sundays we gather for two morning services to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. In keeping with our vision of being *one* family in Christ, both services provide the same offerings in liturgy (Rite II), music and preaching. We strengthen our unity by gathering for one combined service three times a year – for our Annual Meeting in January, and at Pentecost and the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, when we also throw parties to enjoy being together. We are joined in these celebrations by a community of Anglican Sudanese immigrants, who, under the oversight of our rector, meet in Wallace Hall on Sunday afternoons to worship in their own Dinka language.

All Saints' Day may find us gathered together in contemplative silence for Choral Evensong with candles and incense, while on a summer Sunday morning we may raise hands and join together loudly singing contemporary music. Regardless of the liturgical season or the musical style, each service is relaxed, intentional, and participatory. Each is faithful to the Book of Common Prayer, yet can have a range of expression depending on the feast day, liturgical season, and current life of the community. Weekday services of both the Holy Eucharist and Morning Prayer are also offered.

Liturgy as *the work of the people* finds full expression on Sunday mornings. In addition to the community's participation in worship, dozens of lay ministers of all ages prepare for worship and assist the clergy as vergers, chalice bearers, acolytes, lectors, altar and flower guild members, ushers and greeters, musicians and audio engineers. A unique aspect of our Sunday worship service is that intercessors at two prayer desks provide immediate prayer and support for parishioners during the Eucharist.





Music

Music serves the liturgy in leading us, together, into an encounter with God. Scripture readings and liturgical season themes are the primary factors guiding the choice of music selections. Not committed to any one particular musical style, we draw from the vast legacy of music we have inherited throughout the history of the church, as well as that which is being written today, including many compositions by St. B's members. The primary function of music at St. B's is to invite participation—heart, soul, mind, and body—in the liturgy, and unity with each other, as we respond to God through song.

We are blessed with a paid professional staff that includes a Director of Music, Organist, Music Administrator, and Sound Engineer, as well as over one hundred talented volunteers. Because of the wide range of musical styles utilized at St. B's, there are a number of areas in which interested participants can serve. Our Worship Musicians are teams of vocalists and instrumentalists who assist in leading Sunday morning worship. The Chamber Singers, a choir that offers classical and modern choral selections throughout the year, is joined by the full Parish Choir during Advent, Lent and Holy Week. The Cherub, Chorister, and CantiAmo choirs provide children and teens opportunities to foster a love of music while contributing in meaningful ways to Sunday worship.

Music is a vital part of special services during the year that include Lessons and Carols, Taize prayer services, and Evensong on All Saints and Pentecost. St. B's Family Christmas, the annual celebration of musical gifts in our parish, is a highlight of the year. Adults and children, friends and families, music amateurs and studio professionals join together to present an evening extravaganza designed to bring us into a joyful celebration of the season.





Services

Sunday, 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with nursery and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd for children through 3rd grade at 8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with nursery and classes for children, teens, and adults at 10:30 a.m. Classes at both services conclude in time for Communion.

Sunday, 12:00 p.m.

The Sudanese community gathers in Wallace Hall weekly for worship in their native language.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 7:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer

Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m. & 12:15 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

St. B's by the NUMBERS

Average Sunday Attendance
Baptisms
Confirmations
Weddings
Funerals

2011	2016
480	501
20	33
25	22
6	3
3	3







Formation Ministries

A strongly shared value at St. B's is our understanding that we have a spiritual responsibility for lifelong learning and formation. This understanding is put into action through extensive discipleship programs for children, youth and adults.

Children's Formation

Children's Formation at St. B's is grounded in the belief that the Holy Spirit can and does work in and through our kids. On Sunday mornings, about 110 children, ages 2 yrs. -6th grade, participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at 8:30, or a Pre-School or Elementary Formation class at 10:30. In both Catechesis and Children's Formation classes, the focus is on scripture, and children have the opportunity to hear and respond to the Liturgy of the Word before joining their families in the sanctuary for Communion. During these services, our young ones under two are lovingly attended to in our Nursery.

Other formation opportunities include a monthly meeting of the 5th and 6th Grade Club, where pre-adolescents strengthen friendships as they participate in activities and service projects. In Sacred Communion, parents and their 3rd-6th graders explore the meaning of Holy Communion in a five-week

session. Many of our children grow in their knowledge of Christ's love by singing in one of three children's choirs, participating in our annual Children's Christmas Pageant, and attending Kaleidoscope, a fun-filled four-day faith experience in June for K-6th graders.

A full-time Director of Family and Children's Formation writes the formation curriculum and oversees the children's program, supported by five part-time assistants and on any Sunday, 70 plus volunteers.

Youth Formation

Youth Formation at St. B's has had a long history of full-time leadership and support. The Director of Youth Formation oversees programming and builds relationships with about forty actively involved middle and high school students. On Sunday mornings, teens in grades 7-12 gather in the Youth Room for LOGOS, a class using the lectionary to build community, drive conversation and direct prayers. On Sunday evenings, teens gather for Film School to explore the intersections of stories in film with their personal narratives and the story of God. Also offered on Sunday nights is the Catechumen class for those young people preparing to take the vows of confirmation.





On Wednesday nights, high school and middle school students have dinner together before meeting for group discussions.

In Journey Groups, 9 - 12th graders explore topics related to the discovery of God's calling on their lives, while 7 - 8th graders engage in Bible Study and Compline. Each second Friday, 6 - 8th graders meet for a creative and imaginative game night.

St. B's teens also participate in two weekend retreats, a weeklong summer pilgrimage, several diocesan youth events, and a monastic service week, during which teens pray the hours and serve the community.

Adult Formation

Adult Formation at St. B's provides occasions for learning, growing and building community. Gifted Bible teachers in our parish facilitate Sunday classes, while clergy-led studies are offered on Wednesday mornings and evenings. Two long-running Sunday classes include Centering Prayer, in which parishioners practice the ancient discipline of contemplative prayer, and LifeBuilders, a large multi-generational Bible Study which explores what God's word means to us in our daily lives.

Short term offerings are also available; a sampling of recent topics includes "Jesus, Social Justice & the Episcopal Church", which addressed issues of

social justice, racism and racial reconciliation; "Understanding Islam"; an N. T. Wright study of Galatians; "The Incarnational Art of Poetry;" an interactive exploration of Psalms, led by our Director of Music; and two clergy-led book studies: With by Skye Jethani and The Good and Beautiful God by James Bryan Smith.

Men's and women's Bible studies, held at the church on Thursday mornings, have been staples of our adult formation offerings for many years, as has the annual Women's Retreat at St. Mary's, Sewanee, attended by about 65 women each spring. Twice a year newcomers and cradle Episcopalians alike flock to the popular Anglicanism 101 taught by our clergy.





Preschool and P.D.O.

St. Bartholomew's Preschool and Parent's Day Out, operating continuously since 1978, offers church members and the community an exceptional early childhood education program in a Christian environment of love and support. Many of the current participants represent the second generation to attend St. B's Preschool/PDO.

The Preschool, for children 3 years old through Pre-K, runs from 9:30 - 2:30 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from late August to May. Licensed by the Department of Human Services, it consistently receives the highest rating as a 3-star program.

Classrooms are center-based so children have opportunities to participate in math, language, science, writing, music, art, and dramatic play. The

"Handwriting Without Tears" program helps children learn letter recognition and formation. "Zoo-Phonics" uses letter sounds and gross motor skills to bring phonics to life. Spanish lessons, in-house field trips, and guest speakers enhance the children's learning experience.

Parent's Day Out, for children 15 months to 2 years old, operates two days a week, from 9:30 - 2:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays, from late August to May. Concepts are taught through Bible stories, related art and music activities, prayer, and sharing among children.

Bible study is introduced in all classes at age-appropriate levels and reinforced at the monthly chapel service led jointly by the music teacher and St. B's associate rector who serves as Preschool chaplain.





Homeschool Tutorial

In the spring of 2014, the Vestry approved a Montessori-inspired, two-day a week homeschool tutorial to be held at St. B's. The purpose of the tutorial was to increase a sense of community among St. B's families who homeschool their elementary-aged children, and to seek out members of the St. B's community to share their knowledge and expertise in specific subject areas. Additional goals were to foster a love for learning and increase an understanding of art, geography, science, writing and Scripture, and to participate in some of the ministries of St. B's, including Room in the Inn, Altar Guild, retiree luncheons, and senior pen pals.

In its inaugural year, twelve children participated in the tutorial. For the 2015-2016 school year, the Vestry approved the program as an official, though self-sustaining St. B's ministry. It grew to 15 students between the ages of 5 and 10. Now in its third year, the vision of the tutorial has grown 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.



The Bookstore

St. B's Bookstore is one of our beloved institutions. It was started in 1961 by a parishioner as an outlet for religious cards and jewelry, and was located at one end of the Parish Hall. Over the years, it expanded into the current Administrative Offices, then downsized into our Copy Room before settling into its present space in the early 1990s when Allison Hardwick became Bookstore Manager.

Allison continues to sell cards and books for all ages, as well as seasonal gifts, such as wooden Christmas nativities and ornaments produced by the Olive Wood Project in Bethlehem. Recently the Bookstore began serving as a market for parishioners' artistic creations, including paintings, jewelry, pottery, and illustrated Advent calendars. The bookstore is an important outreach for the community, drawing customers from outside St. B's.

But perhaps its most important function is as a gathering place between services and on weekdays. Children pop in to ask "Miss Allison" for a Tootsie Roll, a request always granted when they use their best manners. Adults come in to shop, chat, or for a moment of prayer. Allison says, "God sends them in. People come because they feel the presence of the Lord here."







Outreach Ministries

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it.

—1 CORINTHIANS 1:27

At St. B's, we share a deep commitment to embody Christ's love by reaching out to those with physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Guided by a dedicated Mission and Outreach Committee, we seek to cultivate partnerships with individuals and organizations – local, national and global – that demonstrate commitment to transformative change through the Gospel, by extending hope, healing, love, and provision in the name of Jesus. Mission and Outreach further educated the St. B's community about needs and opportunities to engage their gifts in service through a Missions Fair.

Our commitment is evident in the number of St. B's parishioners who work full time or volunteer in outreach ministries, and in our financial support of outreach through diligent stewardship. In addition to individuals' designated contributions in excess of \$149,000 in 2016 approximately 9% of the church's total operations budget supports Mission and Outreach, allocated to three areas: Local & Diocesan Outreach; Anglican & Global Outreach; and Long Term Missions.

Local and Diocesan Ministries

Rooftop partners with churches to provide emergency rental assistance to residents of Davidson County to prevent homelessness and provide hope.

Open Table Nashville disrupts cycles of poverty, journeys with the marginalized, and provides education about issues of homelessness.

Charis delivers food and a Bible to families unexpectedly in need who cannot provide their own transportation to a food bank.

St. Luke's Community House provides services and programs in West Nashville including early child development, adult education, senior assistance, crisis support and financial literacy instruction. This Episcopal program serves low-income, working families, seniors, and individuals.

Siloam Health provides affordable, high-quality health care to the uninsured through their faith-based, volunteer-supported primary and specialty care clinic. Parishioner Dr. Morgan Wills serves as CEO.





STARS serves schools and communities by providing prevention, intervention and treatment services, addressing bullying, substance abuse, violence, and social and emotional barriers to success. Parishioner Rodger Dinwiddie serves as CEO.

Young Life introduces adolescents to Jesus Christ and helps them grow in their faith.

Magdalene House is a residential program for women who have survived lives of prostitution, trafficking, addiction and life on the streets.

Send Musicians to Prison with Nathan Lee, a St. B's parishioner, shares the musical language of hope, healing, and restoration with the imprisoned.

Anglican and Global Missions

Parishioner Don Paul Gross with InterVarsity Campus Ministry develops witnessing communities of students and faculty that have a redemptive influence on the university's people, ideas, and structures.

Parishioner Dave Mennen with Bridges International with Cru helps international students through services, activities, social networking and spiritual resources.

SAMS Missionaries, Bishop Grant and Dr. Wendy LeMarquand, spread the gospel in Ethiopia by planting churches, developing leaders, serving refugees, and offering community-based health initiatives and other programs.

Rev. Paul and Grace Mbithi with New Life Restoration Ministries meet the physical and spiritual needs of the poor in the Kibera Slums of Kenya, operating an orphanage and school, and overseeing 60 church branches.

Trinity School for Ministry is an evangelical seminary in the Anglican tradition, located in Ambridge, PA

Parishioner family preparing to serve as missionaries through the agency Frontiers, with a vision to share Jesus with Muslims living in Asia by planting churches and establishing a training program.

The Allen Family with International Justice Mission serve in Gulu, Uganda. John is a Professional Development Fellow supporting those working directly with widows and their families. The Allens are supported 100% by designated giving rather than through St. B's Operations Budget.





Long Term Missions

Parishioners Mark and Susan Powell with SAMS and Teach Beyond provide Member Care (missionary care) for over 170 TeachBeyond missionaries in Germany and the surrounding region (Europe, N. Africa, Central Asia). Their pastoral care ministry is a natural extension of what has become part of the ethos of restoration and healing that characterizes St B's.



Room in the Inn

Room in the Inn (RITI) was founded in Nashville in 1986 to provide emergency shelter during the winter months for people experiencing homelessness. St. B's was one of the first partner churches to sign on when the ministry started, and continues to welcome both men and women guests to our church for food, fellowship, and a warm place to sleep every Saturday night.

This ministry has been overseen at St. B's for years by a few diligent parishioners, but is warmly embraced by many groups—St B's Tutorial families, Preschool teachers, Supper Clubs, Adult Formation classes, and teens—who sign up as hosts at least once during the season. Hosts have the opportunity to extend hospitality to homeless guests as they transport them to the church and sit down together for a home-cooked meal. Two parishioners stay overnight with guests in Celebration Hall, and serve them breakfast in the morning.



#stbsisfamily

"St. B's is Family" is more than our church motto. It reflects a transformation experienced at St. B's in the last decade in our understanding of what it means to love, care for, and accept one another—warts and all. We strive to own what N. T. Wright calls "the new family," a healthy fellowship that is deeper than the friendships that draw us together, and forged not through our own efforts, but because of what God has done in Christ, and continues doing among us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Our care for one another finds many expressions, through pastoral care ministries, fellowship and hospitality events, and a communications network that keeps us connected.



Parish Ministries

Pastoral Care

St. B's clergy and laity share in the responsibility and honor of providing physical, emotional and spiritual support for parishioners. Our Associate Rector provides pastoral counseling and spiritual direction and is consistently present for parishioners in need. Our part-time priest/Pastoral Assistant celebrates the birth of babies in the parish with a hospital visit and "newborn blessing," and provides meaningful interaction with members in assisted living. Our volunteer Associate to the Rector for Pastoral Care coordinates the Pastoral Care Team, a group of people who bring the presence of Christ to those in our community who are hurting, sick, homebound, or in crisis.

Newcomers Ministry provides a warm welcome to visitors. Greeters in the narthex distribute welcome bags on Sunday mornings. Visitors are given worship bulletins with full music and Prayer Book texts, and are directed to cards in the pews that further help them find their way through the liturgy. Staff and clergy follow up with a letter or email, thanking people for visiting St. B's and providing information

on ways to get involved in the life of our parish. Each visitor receives a special invitation for the Newcomers Luncheon held twice a year.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors visit and administer communion to the sick and homebound.

Manna Food Ministry prepares and delivers meals to sick and those in need.

Newborn Families Ministry prepares and delivers meals to families with newborns.

Finishing Well provides assistance in putting final affairs in order.

Bereavement Ministry facilitates hospitality for funerals held at the church, meeting with families to discuss plans and coordinating light refreshments if desired.

St. B's Columbarium offers parishioners a less expensive alternative to burial and is located in the Family Garden.





Fellowship and Hospitality

Ours is a church that loves to socialize in small and large groups, and especially over food!

Supper Clubs are groups of about twelve (couples and singles) that meet once a month for a year, developing community around the table. Each year there is at least one family Supper Club that includes children.

Neighborhood Meet-Ups bring together parishioners who live in the same geographical area for fun, food, and fellowship.

Women's Book Club meets monthly for animated discussion of a broad range of books selected by the group.

Women's and Men's Groups

Our women's ministry, The Women of St. B's (formerly Episcopal Church Women), has been an integral part of the spiritual formation, outreach, and relationships of our community. Through its leadership, The Women of St. B's has supported a weekly Bible study, hosted an annual graduation for a local ministry to

women survivors of addiction, trafficking, and prostitution, coordinated small group gatherings of women with shared interests, and held fundraisers for various ministries. In our current transition, the ministry is lying fallow to give space for new vision and leadership to emerge. Even so, many women continue to gather together both for study and for togetherness. Additionally, the annual spring Women's Retreat remains an important time of connection and formation, and will be held again in 2017. We are anticipating a new season of engagement and growth among our women.

Our men's ministry has also been in an extended fallow season. Until the winter of 2016, there had been an annual retreat for the men providing a deeply appreciated time of connection and formation. In the past year, interest in renewing both the retreat and a new expression of men's ministry has been growing, and informal, regular gatherings have begun to occur at the initiation of the men in the community. Moreover, St. B's has many men in various stages of life with clear leadership gifts and men who are expressing readiness for relationships and guidance. We therefore see exciting potential for development in this part of our community life.





Parish-Wide festivities include full-blown celebrations on the feast days of St. Bartholomew's, Pentecost and Epiphany. We may serve a picnic lunch in the Family Garden, or host a chili cook-off in Celebration Hall, and there's always musical entertainment and games for the kids. Our Annual Meeting is another well-attended parish gathering, that has featured a slide show of the year's activities, reports and Vestry elections.

Parish Communications are critical in connecting who we are with what we do.

- **St B's Weekly** is our Sunday bulletin insert that includes a description and calendar of upcoming events. It is supplemented by a weekly digital version, **The St. B's E-News**.
- **The Branch** is our magazine that tells stories of the St. B's family, published four times a year.
- **The St. B's Daily**, in digital form, provides scripture readings from the Daily Office, and short reflections written by St. B's clergy, staff, and parishioners.
- **Our website** provides a multitude of resources for newcomers and members, including audios of weekly sermons.
- **St. B's has a social media** presence on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube, and we have started to venture into the world of live streaming.





Financials

Contributions & Attendance

Giving of our time and talents has long been ingrained in the character of the St. B's family. Financial giving patterns, however, indicate that the time is ripe for more vigorous church-wide teaching on stewardship as a spiritual discipline.

Our annual budget is developed largely around the need to fund our operations, internal programs, and mission and outreach ministries. We have not used pledge cards since the 1980s, therefore, we do not use "total amounts pledged" as part of the budget process. Comparing the funding needed to an estimate of the year's giving—based largely on previous years' contributions—is an exercise in faith. Historically, monthly contributions have lagged behind year-to-date expenditures, threatening our ability to continue the support of ministries to our own and those outside the parish. It is often only the contributions in November and December that bring our finances into balance.

We understand that stewardship is an issue for many churches, and at St. B's we have taken some steps to make parishioners aware of the impact that giving has on our ministries. We are encouraged that St. B's parishioners in each age group identified the need "to develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church" as the top priority in our recent survey.

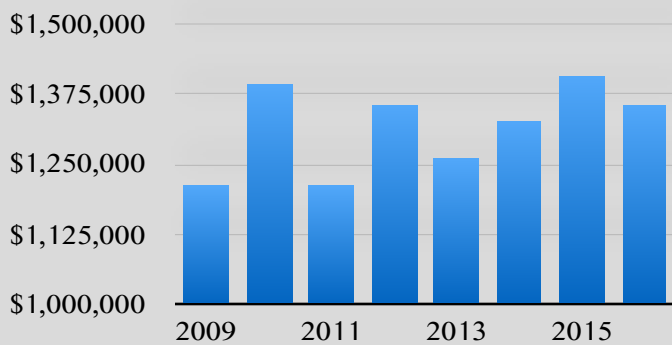
St. B's overall giving has increased steadily for the last three years. However, exceptional contributions in 2010 and 2012 obscure the fact that contributions grew from \$1,212,816 in 2009 to \$1,356,659 in 2016—an average annual growth rate of only 1.6%.

With the exception of 2012, average Sunday attendance has remained constant at just above 480 for each of the last eight years. Possibly the size of our facilities tends to limit attendance to the 500 range.

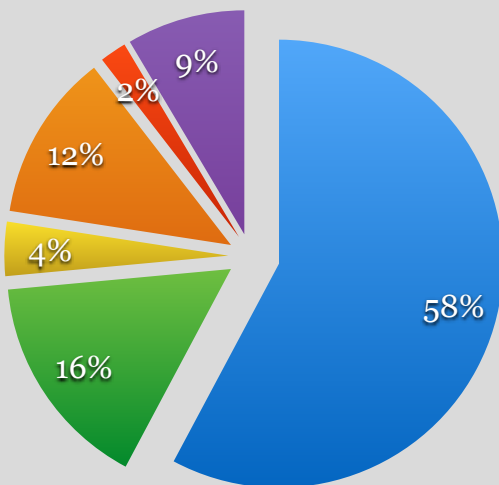
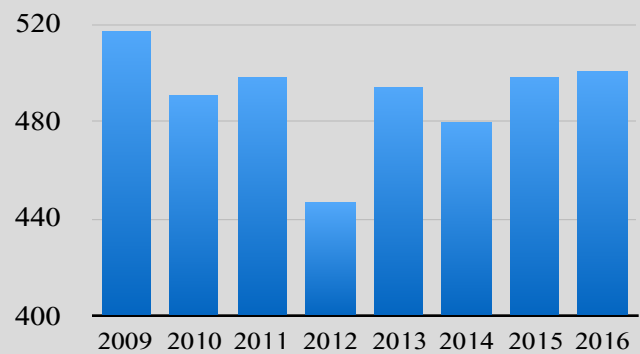


Financial Graphs

Contributions



Average Sunday Attendance



- Personnel
- Parish Operations
- Office
- Worship & Ministries
- Formation
- Outreach

2017 Budget

1	Personnel	\$836,271
2	Parish Operations	\$227,768
3	Office	\$56,474
4	Worship, Events & Ministries	\$174,996*
5	Formation/Education	\$27,870
6	Mission & Outreach	\$123,600

Total: \$1,446,979

**includes \$136,524 Diocesan pledge*





Governance & Leadership

Clergy

During this time of transition, St. B's is in very capable hands with two full-time, one part-time, and one volunteer clergy. Seeing to our spiritual needs are the Rev. Dr. Christian Brady, Interim Rector; the Rev. Travis Hines, Associate Rector; the Rev. David Wilson, Pastoral Assistant; and the Rev. Dr. Stu Phillips, Priest Associate.

Staff

Our talented staff ensures the smooth running of church operations. We have five directors who oversee Music, Family and Children's Formation, Youth Formation, Communications, and St. B's Preschool/Parents' Day Out program. Administrative positions include an Executive Assistant to the Rector, Administrator for Finance and Music, and Bookstore Manager.

Our Music staff is supported by five part-time positions: an Organist, Audio Engineering Manager, and three Choral Assistants. Children's Formation also employs five part-time assistants who coordinate specific areas of the program. We count among our staff two dedicated volunteers who serve as Associates to the Rector in the areas of liturgy and pastoral care. A full staff listing is available on our website, www.stbs.net.

Lay Leadership

Clergy and staff work closely with our Vestry, composed of a clerk, treasurer, and twelve men and women who serve three-year terms. Each year, four new vestry members are selected by the drawing of lots, a process we feel allows for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In addition to meeting monthly to address governance issues, each Vestry member serves as liaison to and advocate for one of St. B's lay committees, boards, or parish ministries.

St. B's has a legacy of enthusiastic and committed lay leaders who serve on both the diocesan and parish levels. 66% of survey respondents have served some area of St. B's community in the past year, matching their considerable abilities with our needs. Many participate in music and liturgical ministries, teach formation classes or assist in the Bookstore. Others provide hands-on pastoral care, coordinate fellowship and hospitality events, or implement ways to ensure that the church is following sound environmental guidelines. Still others work on committees that oversee finance, coordinate mission and outreach efforts, and maintain our facilities. About half of our parishioners devote some time each month to local outreach efforts that are sponsored either by our church or by community service organizations.



Church History & Facilities

St. Bartholomew's Church was the dream of Bishop E. P. Dandridge who wanted to see the Episcopal Church expand into the rapidly growing Leland neighborhood near Green Hills. Calling upon members of St. George's parish in Belle Meade, he acquired both the land for the parish and some of her first families. With the authorization of Bishop Theodore Barth, St. Bartholomew's Church was founded as a mission, and in November 1954 about sixty families living in the area gathered for their first service in the neighborhood Glendale School. Seminary students from University of the South in Sewanee conducted most Sunday services; a monthly Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley. St. B's pioneering communicants operated the church out of cardboard boxes, taught Sunday School classes in the school hallways, and made their own communion wine.

Despite these humble beginnings, the church quickly outgrew its mission status. At the January 1955 diocesan convention, St. B's was admitted as a parish, and in September of that year welcomed its first rector, the Rev. Bayard Clark. With \$36,000 from a discretionary fund for the expansion of Episcopal churches in Nashville, communicants purchased 12.5 acres between Granny White Pike and Belmont Park Terrace on which to establish a permanent church home. Approximately half of the east property is in Oak Hill and the western part, including all of the buildings, is in Metropolitan Nashville.

The first ten years of St. Bartholomew's parish life were busy ones, with the building of both facilities and the church body. By April 1956, the Parish Hall was completed and became the locus for Sunday services.

Four years later an additional acre was purchased and the Rectory was built, and in another four years, work on the 450-seat sanctuary began. At the March 1965 dedication service, the St. B's community placed a cross, daily newspaper, Bible, and Prayer Book in the cornerstone of the nave, symbolically expressing its communal identity as followers of Jesus and bearers of the Good News in the world, intent upon upholding Biblical orthodoxy and its connection to Anglican roots.

Throughout St. B's history, these principles of faith have been supported through the dedication of eight rectors, each using his unique gifts to lead the church toward spiritual maturity. Notably, from 1972-1982, under the Rev. Chuck Murphy, St. B's experienced a time of spiritual renewal and rapid growth. The church sponsored conferences and workshops with nationally known priests, speakers and authors, held weekly prayer and praise meetings, and initiated "house churches" that facilitated Bible studies and teachings on the primacy of prayer and intimacy with the Holy Spirit. During that time, St. B's was regarded as a leader in the Episcopal charismatic movement.





In that fertile soil, St. B's Mother's Day Out program began in 1978 so that young mothers could attend a church Bible study. In 1983, it was expanded to include a preschool, and continues to provide an excellent Christian education program for young children from St. B's and the community.

Under subsequent rectors, St. B's saw the development of a vibrant music ministry, and robust programs in missions, outreach, and discipleship training. Over the years it established a tradition of sending significant numbers of parishioners to seminary; almost two dozen are now serving churches throughout the country.

One former parishioner, the Rev. Jill Zook Jones, returned as interim rector during a critical period in the spring of 2004 when almost half the congregation left St. B's to start an Anglican church. The following January, the Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith became St. B's eighth rector, and during his eleven year tenure the church not only healed from the division but flourished, attracting many young families and people from outside the Episcopal tradition.

As growth has occurred, St. B's has repurposed some of its facilities rather than expand. Wallace Hall is still used for parish events, but now provides some staff offices and doubles as the chapel for the St. B's Sudanese community. The Rectory, once home to rectors and associates, has been converted to The Ministry House for counseling services and small group meetings. The gym, added to the Parish Hall in 1977, is now the refurbished multi-use Celebration Hall. The lawn between the sanctuary and Parish Hall has been converted to the Family Garden, site of weddings, funerals, feast day celebrations, and the St. B's Columbarium. And a circular walking path with Stations of the Cross positioned throughout was built on the property in 2006 as a gift to the Belmont Park neighborhood. Church facilities, too, are used by a variety of community groups and organizations, including Jazzercise, Soccer Academy, and Twelve Step groups.

St. B's is the third largest church in the Diocese of Tennessee, which is presided over by Bishop John Bauerschmidt. Headquartered in Nashville, the diocese covers middle Tennessee counties, and includes 44 parishes and missions, one university chapel, and two mission stations.

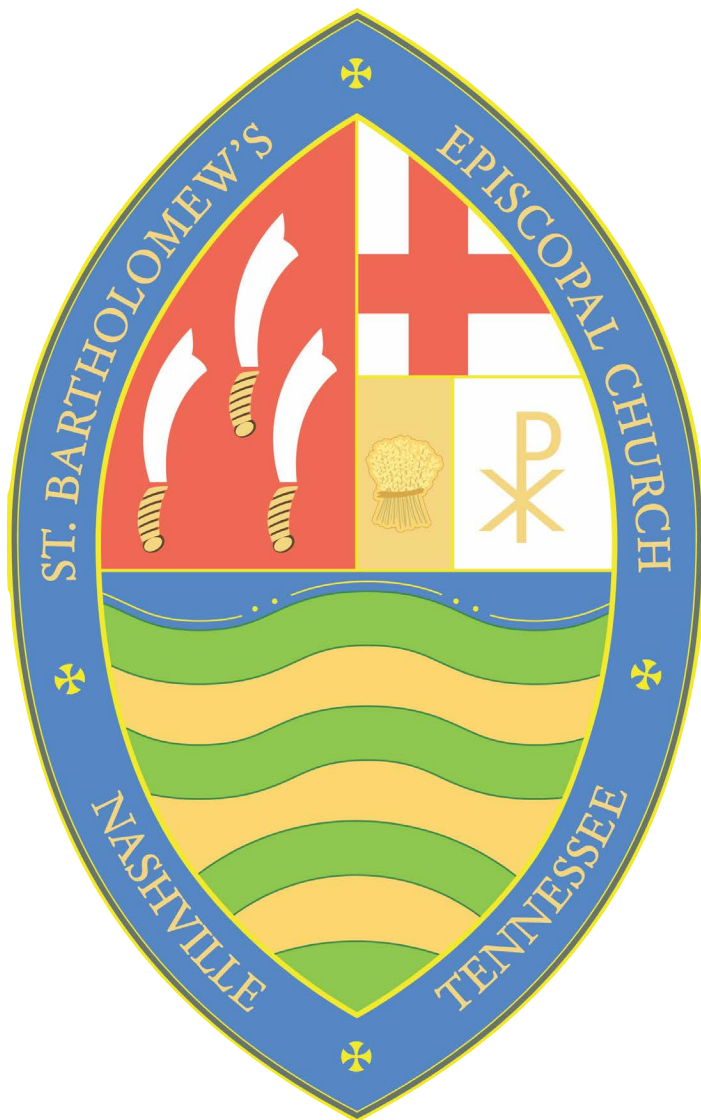


Surrounded by Saints

Artwork has long been used to beautify churches and enlighten worshippers. At St. B's, a comprehensive program of brilliantly colored stained glass windows, created by the Willet Stained Glass Company of Philadelphia, embellishes its simple interior. Encircling the nave in chronological sequence, Old Testament stories on the upper levels are paired with New Testament stories, connecting prophecies fulfilled in Jesus. On the lower level, twelve windows on the Gospel side are devoted to depictions of the Apostles, each with a symbolic attribute above and below his image. On the Epistle side, another dozen windows portray individuals who advanced the cause of Christianity, from Jesus' earliest followers to 20th century leaders in the Episcopal Church.

Outside the church in the front garden stands a life-sized bronze statue of St. Bartholomew, created by New York sculptor Eleanor Mary Mellon (1894-1979) and cast at the Roman Bronze Works in Corona, NY. It was donated to the church through the artist's friendship with St. B's second rector, the Rev. Robert S. Hayden, and dedicated on Trinity Sunday, June 9, 1968. From that time it has been beloved by all, but especially the generations of children who have played under the watchful eye of our patron saint.

The Seal of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church



The Three Knives: Knives are the historic symbol of the apostle Bartholomew for whom we are named.

St. George's Cross: The red cross on white is known as St. George's Cross. The cross points both to our Anglican communion membership and the role of St. George's Episcopal Church in our beginnings.

Chi Rho: Underneath the cross to the right is the Chi Rho. This represents our allegiance to Jesus above all else 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. As a historic symbol for the feast of Pentecost it provides a nod to our charismatic heritage and the former crest of the Diocese of TN.

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 and hints at the bow shaped roof so prominent in our nave.





Living in Nashville

Nashville was recently ranked fifth most popular city in the nation by Travel and Leisure; fourth biggest city for jobs by Forbes; the nation's strongest housing market; one of America's hottest cities by Business Insider; and "Best Places to Live" by U.S. News and World Report.

- 2016 Downtown Nashville Residential Report

It's true. Nashville—Tennessee's vibrant capital city located on the Cumberland River—is a great place to live. Our revitalized downtown, providing options for urban living and unlimited entertainment, is just minutes away from quiet residential neighborhoods. Within an easy commute of the city are unique communities for suburban living. Despite its recent growth, Nashville has managed to retain the relaxed feel of a friendly Southern city.

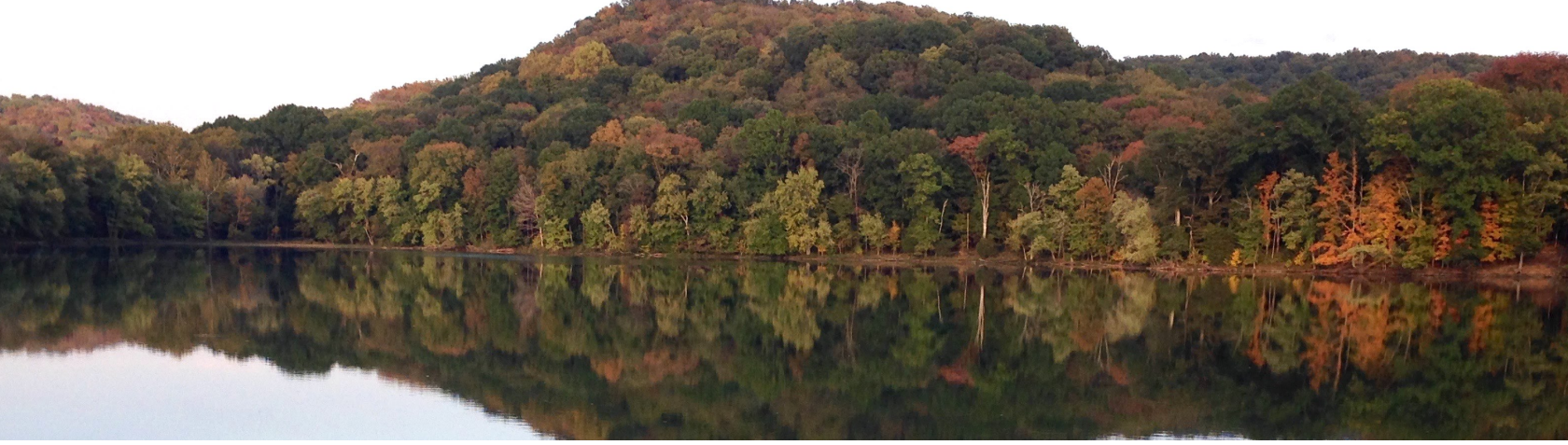
Ours is a city with many nicknames. Nashville has been called "The Buckle of the Bible Belt" because it hosts over 700 churches, and religious publishing houses, and the headquarters for several Protestant denominations. But it's probably best known as "Music City" because of its position as a major recording and production center, and home to over 120 venues for live music. On any given night, one can enjoy an amazing range of music at landmarks such as the Bluebird Café, Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Ryman Auditorium, Grand Ole Opry, Schermerhorn Symphony Center, Bridgestone Arena and the Ascend Amphitheatre.

Nashville's cultural charms are not limited to music. Other popular attractions include The Frist Center for the Visual Arts, The Nashville Ballet, The Nashville Opera, Tennessee Performing Arts Center, The Tennessee State Museum, Cheekwood Arts and Botanical Gardens, and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Nashville offers year-round spectator sports, with either college teams or the Tennessee Titans, the Nashville Predators, or the Nashville Sounds playing most weekends. There are numerous golf courses, and over 10,000 acres of greenways and parks, many with scenic hiking and bike trails. The city hosts a variety of charity marathons and shorter fun runs throughout the year.

The famous Parthenon in Centennial Park links Nashville to yet another nickname, "Athens of the South," and indeed, Nashville boasts many institutions of higher learning. In addition to two medical schools and three law schools, there are sixteen colleges and universities here, including Vanderbilt University, Belmont University, David Lipscomb University, Tennessee State University, Trevecca Nazarene University, and Fisk University.





Nashville is home to more than 300 health care companies, including Hospital Corporation of America, the world's largest private operator of hospitals. We are a hub for major hospitals, notably Vanderbilt Medical Center, the Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Centennial Medical Center, and St. Thomas Health Care system.

And there is an ever-growing dining scene, with an abundance of new restaurants in downtown, mid-town,

and surrounding areas. Nashville's reputation for great cuisine is due to local favorites such as barbecue and hot chicken, as well as creative, even exotic dishes prepared by the growing number of Nashville celebrity chefs.

Nashville's mild climate, four distinct seasons a year, strong economy, abundant recreational and cultural opportunities, and family-friendly vibe make it a great place to live and work.





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ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

