



St. Bartholomew's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

21611 Laytonsville Road
Laytonsville, Maryland 20882

Annual Meeting, June 6, 2021

Annual
Report

2020

Our Mission: To Proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through
the power of the Holy Spirit to a diverse community gathering in
Laytonsville.

The Episcopal
Diocese of
Washington D.C.

2021 Annual Meeting

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I. Opening Prayer/Call to Order

II. Approval of 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
February 2, 2020**

A quorum being present, Rev. Linda Calkins called the meeting to order at 12:00 and said a prayer. Attendees (35) received handouts of the meeting agenda and reports.

Jeff Bergsten submitted the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting. *A motion to accept the minutes as presented was approved.*

Nominating Committee: Betsy Taylor Calender presented the committee's report. The vestry nominees are Betsy Taylor Calender, Sharon Henderson, Charley Hendricks, and Richard Rutherford. No additional nominees were received. The annual report contained brief biographies of the nominees.

Rev. Linda thanked the nominees for standing for election. *The congregation elected the slate of nominees by acclamation* with Betsy, Sharon, and Richard each elected to serve a three-year term, and Charley elected to serve the remaining year of Melissa Dalton's term.

Music Report: Lauren Fisher submitted the Music report and did not have additional comments.

Worship Assistants: Rev. Linda acknowledged and thanked each of the chalice beaters, acolytes, and Lectors from both services. She also welcomed new reader Alison Andrews.

Altar Guild Report: Stevie Grimes submitted her report and noted that Lauren Bray and family donated altar linens, and Deborah Howard contributed a collection of heirloom linens from her mother Maxine. Stevie also mentioned that Susan Estes donated an antique Chancel Light. In closing, Stevie thanked each Altar Guild member.

Rector's Report: Rev. Linda presented the Attendance Report for 2019 and the Rector's Report. She acknowledged various activities that were spearheaded by the following faithful parishioners:

Betsy Taylor Calender/Bill Fitts	New Copier
Donna Starkweather	AED
Krista Hutzell	Security Assessment
Ann Fitts	\$3000 Diocesan Grant for Prayer Bead Ministry
Stevie Grimes & Committee	Administrative Assistant Search and Eventual Hire

Rev. Linda highlighted Bishop Chilton Knudson's visit and remembered Mary Williams (Parish Administrator) and Maxine Howard. Her written report details the worship offerings for the year.

Senior Warden's Report: Nancy Row submitted her report for 2019. She highlighted two successful community activities: the Town Picnic and the Town Christmas Tree Lighting. The Church also donated gift cards and food to Manna Food Center. St. Bartholomew's has strengthened its ties with the community through these activities and plans to continue these and other activities in 2020. By way of example, the Church is planning a program for seniors. It also hopes to host, at Ann and Bill's home, an information session on stewardship and planned giving. According to Nancy, "St. Bartholomew's Church has spirit!"

Junior Warden's Report: Ann Fitts explained that the Church has been able to share its grounds and facilities through community outreach activities. These included the Town Picnic and the Town Christmas Tree Lighting. Ann noted various improvements to the property, including landscaping around the Griffiths House; the AED; brass handles by the church sanctuary; new lighting fixtures in front of the Church; and lights on the side of the Church. Ann also thanked June Thomas for donating new pew cushions, which will be delivered shortly. In addition, the Vestry has authorized the purchase of a new dishwasher, which will be paid through the Riggs Fund.

Memorial Garden Report: Ann Fitts submitted the Memorial Garden report. She thanked Bill for maintaining the grounds around the Garden and the Ladies Guild for donating the azaleas at the Memorial Tree of Life wall. The Church held two dedication ceremonies, one in May and the other in October, for new memorials. Ann's report details the leaves and plants donated for the Garden. A total of \$92,628.31 was donated from inception through 2019. She and others are continuing to brainstorm ways in which to integrate the Memorial Garden with community activities.

Christian Education Report: The Annual Report included Mayuri (Maya) Cherian Fitts's report. Because Maya was teaching lessons to the children during the annual meeting, Ann Fitts supplemented the report. Ann noted that 25 were registered with the Sunday School, which is following the "Faith in Our World" curriculum. Lauren Fisher has organized a children's choir that will perform periodically.

Growth and Outreach Report: Betsy Taylor Calender prepared a detailed report on the many activities spearheaded by the Growth and Outreach Committee. The Committee consists of 7 members who are dedicated to planning activities for the Church to open its doors to the community. In addition to the activities listed in Betsy's report, the Committee is considering ways in which the Church may offer the undercroft and other properties to the community. For example, an education program called "Music with Miri" will be offered in the undercroft to young children (under age 6) at 10:00am on Tuesdays from April 14 through June 2. Rolling Ridge Floral Designs also may use the undercroft for a floral design class. Current Committee activities include updating the Church brochure, using social media to announce activities, and developing an Elder Program.

Prayer Bead Ministry Report: Ann Fitts reported that St. Bartholomew's Church received \$3,000 grant from the Diocese of Washington to support the Prayer Bead Ministry. In the grant application, the Ministry estimated that 1,000 prayer beads would be distributed in the grant year, which runs from April

2019 through March 2020. The Ministry presented 965 prayer beads by year end 2019. At the 2020 Diocesan Convention, Ann sold 33 sets of prayer beads for \$940 and distributed 88 sets of prayer beads to priests and chaplains. Through this event, the Ministry met its goal of distributing 1,000 prayer beads during the grant year. The Ministry plans to establish a website so that the community can purchase prayer beads.

Ladies Guild Report: Sonja Elgin reported that the Ladies Guild will no longer host bingo. The Guild's fundraiser for 2020 is likely to be the azalea sale.

Blessings Ministry: Nancy Row reported that the Blessings Ministry delivered 7 meals to 2 parishioners and assisted one parishioner with transportation to medical appointments.

Financial Report and Budget: Bill Fitts presented the Treasurer's Report for the year ending December 31, 2019 and noted that the Vestry received a monthly report. The first page of the Report summarized the Church accounts and the approved budget. The complete report included (a) the Balance Sheet, (b) the Statement of Receipts and Expenditures, and (c) the Riggs Fund summary. The General Fund balance, as of December 31, 2019, was \$38,707.67. The balance in the Riggs Fund was \$316,984.08. The total church assets from all accounts (including the Riggs Fund), by year end, was \$386,164.10. Bill noted that the Church received a \$16,000 donation at the end of the year, resulting in a net income of \$10,883.34 for the year. He cautioned that the Church cannot rely upon large donations for 2020.

The Treasurer's Statement of Receipts and Expenditures included the Vestry-approved budget for 2020. The budget for 2020 increased by \$11,202.35 over last year. Budgeted expenditures increased, in part, due to an increase in administrative expenses. The new Parish Administrator will work more hours each week than Mary Williams. *A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and Budget, as presented, was approved.*

Diocesan Convention: Donna Starkweather (delegate) reported on the January 25, 2020 Convention. Bishop Mariann Budde emphasized a 2020 goal of revitalizing diocesan churches to inspire faith. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was the preacher during the Convention worship. His theme of "More Jesus, More Love" was, according to Donna, truly inspiring. Donna congratulated Rev. Linda on her election as a Clerical Alternate to the General Convention, which will take place in June 2021 in Baltimore. Ann Fitts (alternate delegate) found the Convention spiritually uplifting.

Youth Ministry: Chris Dennison reported that St. John's and St. Bart's offered a joint ministry for the youth, under the guidance of Mother Shivaun Wilkinson. The youth met the second Sunday of each month. Aurora Dennison, Nathan Hale, and Mark Pera attended on behalf of St. Bartholomew's.

* * * *

Rev. Linda thanked the outgoing Vestry members and gave them certificates of appreciation. Rev. Linda said a prayer, then closed the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

Post Annual Meeting Decisions of the Vestry: Lonnie Pera agreed to continue as Secretary, and Bill Fitts agreed to continue serving as Treasurer. Richard Rutherford offered to help Bill, to the extent possible. In addition, Donna Starkweather was nominated for delegate, and Ann Fitts was nominated for alternate, at the 2021 Convention. Both accepted and were elected.

The Vestry retreat was scheduled for March 7, 2020 at Richard's home.

Prepared by Lonnie A. Pera

III. ELECTIONS OF PARISH OFFICERS- 2020

Report of the Nominating Committee

The parish's Nominating Committee is composed of the following members:

Donna Starkweather, Morna Golletz, Stevie Grimes, Jeff Bergsten. This committee nominated the following candidates for the positions indicated and obtained the consent of each:

Vestry Members (three-year terms)

Charley Hendricks

Deborah Howard

Tippy Irwin

Robert Palmer

The committee informed parishioners of their nominations and offered them an opportunity to make additional nominations or declarations of candidacy, but none were received during the period specified by the bylaws.

The committee asked each of its nominees to prepare a brief biography and those that have been received are printed below.

Candidates for VESTRY

Below are the names of the parishioners whose were approved at the Vestry meeting on May 3, 2021.

The names will be for nomination at the Annual Meeting of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Laytonsville, Maryland on June 6, 2021.

Charley Hendricks

Deborah Howard

Tippy Irwin

Robert Palmer

Sr. Warden: Nancy Row
Jr. Warden: Ann Fitts

Bios for Vestry Nominees 2021

Charley Hendricks

Charley is a native of New York who has lived in Washington, D.C., and its suburbs since 1977. He has been a member of St. Bartholomew's Church since 2005, when he moved to Laytonsville. He worked as a historian for the U.S Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Army Center of Military History, before retiring in 2011. He chaired the committee that organized the parish's bicentennial commemoration in 2012-13. He has served as junior warden and as delegate to the diocesan convention. He is currently completing the term of a vestry member who resigned, and he recently assumed the position of secretary of the vestry. He also chairs the Bylaws Committee of the parish and the Historic District Commission of the Town of Laytonsville. Charley has three children and six grandchildren; they live in Howard County, Maryland; Pennsylvania; and Massachusetts. His wife Ann worked as a librarian for two federal agencies, and she now attends Oakdale Church in Olney.

Deborah Howard

I have been an Episcopalian since childhood and a member of St. Bartholomew's since the early 1980's. I was drawn to St. B's by the traditional liturgy and worship. Over time I have come to appreciate different forms of Anglican worship and hope our parish will continue to learn and grow while maintaining a grounding in the Book of Common Prayer.

I have served on the Vestry twice before and feel the most important quality for Vestry members is an ability to listen and reflect. I have also been on the Worship Committee and the Labyrinth and Memorial Garden Planning Committee. I am a Reader and Chalice Bearer and a participant in the Prayer Bead Ministry.

I love our outdoor services on the Labyrinth but can't wait to return to the sanctuary for congregational worship. What a joy that will be!

In my personal life I am a retired clinical social work supervisor and trauma therapist. I love spending time with my friends and family especially my grandkids and godkids. And of course doting on my very spoiled elderly cats!

Tippy Irwin

Tippy Irwin Brief resume

My life has been one of constantly moving. In the first seventeen years after I was married I moved 15 times, three of those cross continental. (I lost count after that!) It didn't get any easier, each of them equally difficult. But the one constant in all of that was the church. Through the church, I found an anchor, a community and a sense of belonging and purpose. I have always been an active member of the many congregations where I worshipped, usually choosing to become involved in those committees engaged in community outreach. Most recently I served on the vestry of St. Ambrose Episcopal Church in Foster City, California, but was also actively involved in their lively community outreach program.

I considered my career as the Executive Director of the long-term care ombudsman Program of San Mateo County, CA to be a calling, an expression of my faith, particularly my commitment to social justice. Advocating for those who are amongst the most vulnerable in our society strengthened my sense of purpose. At the end of my 16 year tenure in that position I truly felt that I had left a legacy and certainly had a great sense of accomplishment.

My reason for joining the St. Bartholomew's community is that I see a small congregation of dedicated and committed people. As I am so new to the community and have been constrained by the COVID restrictions, I still feel I am sitting on the sidelines, but am keen to get involved, getting to know the members of the congregation and explore how they are involved in our local community, how we connect with the greater Episcopal community in the area and where I might fit in. It is a particularly exciting time as we embark upon the search for a new rector.

Robert Palmer

My wife Kasia and I have lived in Montgomery Village for 21 years. We have been fairly mobile since we married in 1989. We have lived in Kiel, Germany; Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; and most recently (if you count 20 years ago as recent) in Knoxville, Tennessee. Our daughter Susanna (born in Germany) works locally as a teaching partner for autistic children. Kasia and I have attended services at St. Bart's, on and off, for about three years while we were members of a local Lutheran church. Kasia joined St. Bart's in Dec 2019 and I joined in Dec 2020. I suspect this might make me St. Bart's newest member! I work at the National Institutes of Health in the National Institute of Dental Research, where I study the bacteria that live in your mouth. I enjoy growing (trying to grow....) orchids, playing video games (!), following the stock market, and (of late) staring through a telescope.

What drew me to tiny St. Bart's? Well, it was the triple crown of traditional liturgy, amazing music, and a progressive message from the pulpit. I was astounded when asked if I would consider running for a Vestry position, but it took me only a second or two to say "yes." I know how difficult it can be to find people willing to take on these responsibilities because I have served on church councils myself. I have a philosophy about small churches, namely that they are like the food cooperatives of the 60's: members should contribute with sweat equity, and council service can entail a lot of sweating. I hope my status as a St. Bart's neophyte will provide a perspective that can be valuable to the Vestry, especially during this time of transition. That neophyte status also means I need to do a lot of listening and, if blessed with the opportunity to serve, I will do my best to represent every member's perspective in Vestry discussions.

Sr. Warden, Nancy Row

Nancy Row retired from IBM after 36 years in October 2005. She started in IBM in Administration in NYC. From there she became a Systems Engineer (SE) in a NJ Branch Office and was promoted to Regional Staff in Philadelphia and Washington DC responsible for Product Technical Support, Help Desk, developed and implemented the Regional Critical Situation Desk, Problem Escalation and Customer Product Demonstrations and Seminars. In Nancy's career at IBM she managed technical

teams for many large accounts and was the National Operations and Installation Project Manager to USPS POS (Point of Sale) One contract and to Postal Stores. There were over 4,000 sites installed and supported. She became a Senior Certified IBM and Project Management Institute (PMI) Project Manager.

In 2006 Nancy came out of retirement to become the Finance Manager, where she reinvented herself learning the finance side of business along with accounting software for her husband's company. In February of 2010 her husband passed away leaving her as the President. The business was closed formally in 2012. After joining St Bartholomew in October 2013 Nancy became a member of several Ministries and is presently a member of the Growth/Outreach Committee and Blessings Committee. After 2 years on the Vestry Nancy became Senior Warden in 2017.

Nancy Moved from Gaithersburg, MD in 2020 to Annapolis (Eastport) MD.

Junior Warden, Ann Fitts

Ann Fitts

I have been a member of St. Bartholomew's Church since 1984 (over 37 years). Myself, my husband Bill, and my son Graham began attending church here after moving to the town of Laytonsville. Although raised as a Methodist, I was confirmed as an Episcopalian by our Rev. Claude Bonbrest in 1986. Over these last 37 years, I have been a member of various ministries and activities including Sunday School, Prayer Beads, Altar Guild, Thrift Shop, and others. Since my retirement as Business Development Director from Lockheed Martin in 2011, I participated on the Bicentennial Celebration Committee where I gained a strong appreciation for the wonderful legacy of our church. I also was the coordinator for the Memorial Labyrinth Garden Committee with a focus on honoring our past while positioning to expand our community offerings for the future. Our church is important to our family as we now enjoy our grandchildren (Wyatt and Gracie) attending services. During my first term as Jr. Warden we have worked hard to keep our church services available to all during the pandemic with outdoor and on-line services. As Junior Warden going forward, I pledge to continue to work hard to sustain and enhance the health of our church as a place of fellowship and worship that is welcoming to everyone.

IV. Worship Reports

Music Report: Lauren Fisher

This report may look a little different from those I have written in past years, which included descriptions of special services, new choral anthems, and professional development opportunities. This year, I just want to say

thank you. I have talked to so many fellow musicians who were not able to play for anyone during the pandemic. I feel so blessed to have been able to play for you every single Sunday, whether it was on Zoom, Facebook live, or outdoors in our beautiful memorial garden. During the uncertainty of the pandemic, I could always count on support from my church family. Every phone call, facebook comment, text message, email, and socially distanced conversation across the parking lot inspired me and kept me focused and motivated. Thank you!

I would like to extend a special thank you to Ann and Bill Fitts for their leadership in securing our keyboard and sound system, which make the music at our outdoor services possible. We are now able to sing without masks at our outdoor services. It has been wonderful to hear congregational singing once again. As of this writing, guidelines issued by the diocese still recommend masks for indoor singing, even by those who have been fully vaccinated. I will continue to update you as new information becomes available.

We have been able to continue our tradition of offering a Tenebrae service on Good Friday throughout the pandemic. Thank you to Maggie Ramey and Judith Schneider for quickly changing plans for our 2020 service, which allowed me to complete my final project for my graduate certificate in church music. Thank you to Maggie Ramey and Bill Fitts for providing music for our 2021 Tenebrae service. I would also like to thank Ann Fitts for organizing the service and everyone who participated as lectors on Zoom.

I would like to thank our organ technician Ken Brown. We had an adventure with our organ during the summer of 2020. I began to notice sticky keys and scheduled an inspection. Ken diagnosed the problem as resulting from separation of the glue that anchors the key weights. The organ was sent back to the factory for several weeks. Both keyboards were able to be fixed, a much more cost effective solution than replacing the keyboards entirely. I am happy that our instrument is back in good working order!

I know that many of you have greatly missed the choir during the pandemic. It may seem like a long time since our last service together on March 8th, 2020, but I want to thank our choir members for their dedication for all these years. Jeff Bergsten, Bill Fitts, Charley Hendricks, Ethel Olivierre, Judy O'Neil, Maggie Ramey, and Judith Schneider are the best! We were able to perform a sung Morning Prayer service on February 16th, 2020, which also included a beautiful Venite sung by our Sunday school children. I am looking forward to making music with both our children's choir and adult choir as soon as safety restrictions are lifted. In the meantime, please know that your beautiful singing has been missed and many are eagerly awaiting your return to the choir loft.

Worship Assistants 2020

No report this year

Altar Guild 2020- Stephanie Scott Grimes

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT - 2020

The year 2020 was a year like no other for St. Bartholomew's Altar Guild. Just like the rest of the world, we had to adjust to the radical changes brought about by the global pandemic. Church services were initially delayed and then greatly simplified to accommodate social distancing and quarantining as we tried to adapt to the new reality of Covid 19. Gradually, new ways of worshiping were established by streaming the Sunday services on Facebook and YouTube. The Altar Guild provided the necessary elements for

these services while working within the pandemic guidelines. As weather permitted, services were celebrated on the Labyrinth and the Altar Guild provided support for these services as well. As I write this report, midway through 2021, the special provisions required by the pandemic continue, but hopefully, the 2021 Altar Guild report will reflect the return to normalcy for which we have all been praying.

During this time, altar preparation was minimal with only an occasional Eucharist being celebrated by the Rector, alone. When services were possible outdoors, arrangements were made for the congregation to take part in the Eucharist by providing consecrated wafers in individual plastic bags to each parishioner. This effort was greatly appreciated by the congregation and was solely facilitated by Lois Leigh, a member of the Vestry and the Altar Guild.

A lovely donation of altar linens was made in honor of a dear, departed Altar Guild member by fellow member, Jamie Kaufmann. Jamie provided the following dedication:

“I have chosen the way of faithfulness.” Psalm 116:30.

In loving memory of longtime Altar Guild partner, Ann Wasson, from Jamie Kaufmann.

Despite the extraordinary circumstances brought about by the Covid 19 pandemic, our membership has remained strong. Lauren Bray, Vickie Fisher, Janet Shea, Jamie Kauffman, Judith Schneider, Judy O’Neil, Lonnie Pera, Mark Pera, June Thomas, and Brent Grimes have continued to serve faithfully to support the worship of our Lord.

We welcomed a new member, Lois Leigh, who replaced Nancy Row, and bid farewell to Susan Schreiner, as her wife, Linda Calkins, our Rector, retired and left St. Bartholomew’s.

The Altar Guild is always ready to welcome new members to this rewarding work. All are encouraged to consider volunteering.

Stephanie Scott Grimes, Director
June 6, 2021

St. Bartholomew's Laytonsville, MD
Congregation

ATTENDANCE FIGURES
FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2020

Although the Parochial Report no longer asks for the attendance for the four key Sundays, our canons require that we use those figures in the computation of delegate apportionment to the annual Convention. We must have the information listed below:

Attendance in- person services	<u>23</u>
Attendance on-line services	<u>28</u>
Average Sunday Attendance	<u>56</u>

**V. Financial Reports
2019 Budget**

This report will be provided as a separate handout by the treasurer.

VI. Committee / Ministry Reports

An Introduction to the Reverend Jo-Ann R. Murphy, D.Min.



We live our lives forward, but we understand them backward.

As long as I can remember I have *loved* being in church. I still have my infant cradle roll certificate from the First Baptist Church in Queens, New York, along with many happy memories of my childhood there.

When I was in high school my family joined the Presbyterian Church. I was active in the Westminster Youth Fellowship then and throughout college. After graduation I fell in love with Russell Francis Michael Murphy who was Roman Catholic. To meet in the middle, we became Episcopalians and were married in 1965.

It wasn't long after that when I acknowledged that God had a full-time claim on my life that I could not continue to ignore. Though I did not know where my journey would lead, I offered myself for ordination to the priesthood. I graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary and was ordained deacon in 1987 and priest in 1988.

My resume contains the details about all the churches I have served since then. I have learned and grown with each diocese and congregation. Along the way I realized that my truest love was CYF (Children, Youth, and Family) ministry and I earned a D.Min. (Doctor of Ministry) degree in Christian Formation at Drew Theological School in Madison, New Jersey in 1988. In addition to CYF ministry I have a special calling for stewardship, contemplative prayer and meditation, ministry with persons at the end of life, and justice.

My husband, Russ, died in 2012. We have two children. Our son Christopher has been married to his wife Cate for 22 years. Chris is a special education science teacher in the Prince William County School District. Together, they are the parents of three, Natalie Grace, Georgia Faith, and Charlotte Elinor and the grandparents of my 3-month-old great-granddaughter, Evelyn Carina Bearington. Chris, Cate, and their family live in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Our daughter, Jennifer, has been married to Jon for 21 years. She develops and produces museum exhibitions. She and Jon are the parents of twin teenage daughters and live in Laguna Beach, California.

Chris and Cate and their family are United Methodists. Jennifer and her family are Jewish and Quaker. My patchwork quilt of family religious traditions is both diverse and beautiful.

When I retired from full-time service in September of last year, I knew that I wanted to continue to offer my gifts somewhere and I prayed for God to show me how and where. Your call to serve St. Bartholomew's as interim priest is truly a blessing and a call from God.

I look forward to being with you during this time of transition, as together we seek God's will for St. Bartholomew's future.

In closing, please remember that my door is always open, and I trust you will contact me with any concerns or pastoral needs. I promise you my prayers, and I ask you to hold me in yours.

Senior Warden Report 2020: Nancy Row

2020 was like no other year! January and February were normal and then approximately 2 weeks later we were in a pandemic with little understanding as to what it meant and how it would affect us.

Without any interruptions, St Bart's rose to the occasion implementing the use of Facebook live for inside services. In August, after receiving approval from EDOW, outside services were held and social distancing and masks requirements were adhered to. Outside services were held from August 1st to the end of November.

The vestry did not miss a beat. All vestry meetings were held using zoom and vestry members periodically connected with members of the parish to check in and offer assistance with groceries and rides to appointments Thanks to our Jr Warden , Ann Fitts, we applied and received a loan for \$19 500 under the PPP (Payroll Protection Program) which was converted to a grant.

Because the Growth & Outreach committee remained active in 2020, several events were held in 2021, in lieu of the traditional events normally held. There was a Donut Drive-In for Shrove Tuesday and pickup Children's Easter Activity open to the community. We had very positive participation from the local community and many of those families attended a children's rock painting event. Thanks to Maya Fitts' willingness to take over our Facebook account, we are able to better use the features of Facebook to our advantage and become known to the surrounding communities.

In addition to adapting to living in a pandemic world, Rev Linda announced her retirement December 2020 effective February 2021. We have completed the step of hiring an Interim Priest, Rev Jo-Ann Murphy, The next step, which is the formation of a search committee, is in process. I look forward to working with Rev Jo-Ann during this time of transition, to the opportunities that will be presented to grow our church, and to taking advantage of Rev Jo-Ann's experience with Stewardship.

The vestry is constantly assessing strategies and ideas to improve communications within the church, to increase church growth and exposure to the surrounding communities and to maintain and enhance the church property. The Vestry cannot do this alone. We are thankful for all of you who provide ideas, donate your time and money, support outreach programs and invite guests to our church. Everyone is invited to attend the vestry meetings whether it is to observe or bring forth an idea. Remember no idea is a bad idea.

Please accept my appreciation to each of you who generously support St Bart's with your time and talent to making our parish a special place for our families and children to worship.

I look forward to another year as Senior Warden

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I look forward to another year as Senior Warden.

New Member involvement

Increase the number of pledges to membership ratio

Stewardship year round

Continued Support of Youth Ministries

Continue outreach to the less fortunate

Growth of Congregation

Junior Warden's Report 2020 – Ann Fitts

Junior Warden Report

I offer my appreciation to all our parishioners who have helped in so many ways to make the past fifteen months a success for our parish. The following are property highlights of a year never to be forgotten:

COVID 19 Activities

- We developed a COVID safe regathering plan that allowed us to be one of the few churches within the Diocese to continue to have services in our outdoor garden space. Our plan was posted on the EDOW website as a reference for other churches. Our services included both a visit from the Bishop and a celebration of life service for our beloved Anne Wasson.
- Purchase and installation of a speaker system for online service broadcasts.

- We applied and received approval for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPE) loan for \$19,500 enabling us to continue paying church employees. We have recently received government approval making this loan a grant.
- Maya Fitts helped our parishioners get early online vaccine appointments.

Church Property

- We installed a brand-new dishwasher just before COVID (yet to be used).
- We conducted needed repairs on Temperance Hall (old boutique building) which included roof repairs & painting, fascia board repairs and new guttering, exterior window painting and porch railing repair, and stone foundation repair and repointing.
- Rectory apartment created within church office building for new Interim Priest, Rev. Jo-Ann Murphy.
- Office phone system upgraded from analog to digital with more capability at reduced cost. Church and Temperance Hall Wi-fi installed for on-line services.
- The organ keyboard was removed, repaired offsite and replaced.
- Continued maintenance of church property, including elevator inspections, lawn mowing, memorial garden landscaping, by Bill Fitts to reduce expenses.

A special heartfelt thank you to my husband Bill who has worked tirelessly over the past months in support of my role as Jr. Warden.

Ann Fitts

Christian Education 2020 -Maya Fitts, Ann Fitts, and Lauren Bray

Sunday School Report

At the beginning of 2020 we continued our Faith in our World curriculum. We combined STEM (science, technology, engineering, math), cooking, and media, with Bible lessons of faith. We were doing more project based lessons (rather than typical crafts) and all of us (including the adults) were learning, retaining, and having more fun!

In March, Sunday School switched to a online format with video lessons and crafts. Craft/ Lesson Bags were placed on the back porch of the office for families to pick up at their convenience during the week. In addition to sending to our current members, we also posted these videos in Local Parent Facebook groups and Christian Parenting Facebook groups. In November, we were able to host a safe, outdoor event for our Sunday school members- where they all used hammers/ nails/ wood glue to build bird houses! In December each family received and Advent Gift/ Book/ Calendar to help celebrate the season and connect to God.

In 2021, we continued to have a Facebook/ online presence. In March, we hosted a Sunday Easter Egg

Basket Event with 68 local kids participating. In April, we invited those families back to participate in a rock painting event with help from Eric Hale (thank you so much). We had 8 families participate- 3 families who are current members of our church and 5 new families.

We are looking forward to the remainder of the year for Sunday School! In conjunction with Reverend Jo-Ann Murphy we have some new exciting things planned!

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, and friends for bringing your children, tuning in online, picking up lessons, and coming to events! And thank you to everyone who has invited their families and friends to attend, we are always so happy to have visitors join in the fun!

A very special thanks congregation for all your support in making St. Bartholomew's church a very friendly and loving place for all of the children.

Maya Fitts, Ann Fitts, and Lauren Bray

Youth Ministry Report 2020: Lonnie Pera

Youth Ministry Report for the June 6, 2021 Annual Meeting

St. John's Episcopal Church and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church are continuing to offer a joint ministry for the youth, under the guidance of Mother Shivaun Wilkinson. During the pandemic, Mother Shivaun held periodic Zoom sessions with the youth. Aurora Dennison and Nathan Hale participated in various virtual youth sessions over the last 18 months.

Prepared by Lonnie A. Pera

Growth and Outreach Committee's 2020 Betsy Taylor

GROWTH/OUTREACH COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT-June 2021 for Year 2020 (Due To Covid-19, Annual meeting moved From February 2021 to June 2021)

In a future time capsule, people will read the 2020 phrases "due to Covid-19" and "you are on mute" as those reflecting our daily lives in the year 2020. I know everyone is tired of hearing those phrases, so here I go:

The Committee met in January and February of 2020. However, in March, due to Covid-19, all in-person gatherings, including committee meetings, were halted. Instead, we found a new way of communicating – through zoom meetings, an on-line video conferencing platform. Zoom became the social platform for all walks of life, our church committee meetings included. Hence, the place where most of us were guilty of forgetting to “unmute” ourselves before talking.

Over the past year, the Committee continued to bring forward our goals of prior years – i.e., “to make our church more welcoming and to grow the number of our parishioners.” Quite a challenge for 2020 considering the previous two paragraphs.

The committee met via zoom meetings a total of 9 out of the 12 months with the committee members being Betsy Taylor Calender, Chair; Nancy Row, Lois Leigh, Eric Hale, Ann Fitts, Randy Beans, Charley Hendricks (who joined us in May) and Melissa Dalton.

Items we accomplished during 2020:

- The revamping of our church brochure. New pictures were inserted; new paragraphs were added, and an up-to-date welcoming paragraph was added by Rev Linda. With Rev Linda's departure in March, the brochure will be revised again.
- In late 2020, Randy became aware of an organization in Lake Charles, LA who was in need of the backpacks for a school. They were successfully sent to 40 children in Louisiana.
- From our church fund, we donated \$500 each (vestry approved giving us \$1,000 from a parishioner donation) to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center in Rockville AND the Dorothy Day Place, a transitional housing program in Rockville for homeless men & women.
- Made a \$400 donation to Manna Food Bank in anticipation of an increased number of unemployed people needing food assistance due to Covid-19.
- Collaborating with Tina Burke from St Paul's Methodist church in Laytonsville to donate local home-grown produce to Manna Foods each week.
- Numerous discussions during each meeting as to the future events we will hold once we are able to re-gather at the property.

And, more importantly, the committee believes that there were several lessons to be learned from this Covid-19, self-quarantining period. We reached out to the Episcopal diocese for help with different items during this time. Not the least of which was learning how to stay in touch with our current parishioners, while still planning to recruit new ones once we could “re-open” our church doors. It was at that time we realized how important the social media aspect of the Growth/Outreach function really is. With our friends, family and prospective members of the church living anywhere in the world, we realized that social media was quite important. As we improved the live streaming of our weekly services, we found more and more people were signing on to watch. Some were family/relatives of current parishioners, and others were friends. Our thinking had to change and move forward with the ever-changing times – our front door is no longer just a physical front door to the church; it is now a digital front door.

At the beginning of the year, we discussed the following events which we were going to hold/be a part of, or continue to discuss, during 2020.

- Music with Miri – as an on-going outreach, we were proposing to allow the program to use our facilities so that they could hold their music classes in our community (at no charge to the music program). Participants to pay fees directly to the program.
- Rolling Ridge Floral Design – another outreach to the community where we would allow the owner to hold floral arrangement classes on our property at no cost to her. Participants would pay her directly to attend the classes.
- Drive-In Movie Night – we were proposing to have an outdoor drive-in movie on our property for the local community.
- Elderly Program – we continue to keep this on our agenda for future. Our hope is that we can incorporate assistance/care on some level to elderly people in local facilities (or their own homes).
- AED/CPR Class – Sponsoring another class for parishioners as well as local community members.
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Always a fun activity for both parishioners as well as local community members.
- Annual Laytonsville Town Parade – Usually held the 3rd weekend in May.
- Annual Laytonsville Town Picnic - As we have been doing for several years, we continued discussions and ways of improving our contributions and partnership with this Picnic event, usually held in September.
- Celebration History day at local Tusculum Farms
- Social Media visibility - Working on getting more visibility from our social media outlets – i.e., FaceBook page, YouTube, etc.
- Holding an Art Show outside on the Labyrinth in order to showcase parishioners' wares, and also local community artists. We would also invite school student artists to participate.
- Yoga/Exercise Classes on Labyrinth – We would like to again offer our facilities for free to an organization or an individual who would hold yoga or exercise classes on our Labyrinth or Memorial Garden area once or twice a week during appropriate weather. Participants would pay the organizer and the church would not profit from it in any way.

As we approached April and had all been quarantined since mid- March to our homes, we now had a better idea as to what we would and would not be able to do for the remainder of 2020. By this time the vestry was also dealing with how to conduct weekly services with live streaming either from inside the church, or from the outside Memorial Garden/Labyrinth.

Let me also make a point here concerning the Growth/Outreach cross-over with other facets of the church. Specifically, Ann Fitts, as Jr. Warden and Nancy Row as Sr. Warden, worked constantly during 2020 to keep up with the county, state and federal guidelines concerning our Covid-19 gatherings and, when appropriate, the re-gathering guidelines. I mention this only because “growth”, of course, is part of our re-gathering plan for when it is safe to go back inside the church and/or gather outside safely. Those guidelines also dictate our invitations to new events when we want to host community events.

I am extremely proud of the Committee's 2020 accomplishments and I look forward to an even more successful 2021.

Prayer Beads Ministry 2020: Ann Fitts

Prayer Beads Ministry

Over the past year we have donated over 800 sets of our prayer beads, through a network of priest, chaplains, and lay leaders, to facilitate prayer in our community.

The following are ministries and others who have received our prayer beads.

- Washington Hospital Center Women's Services and NICU families
- Prison Ministries through three chaplains
- Hospice care through four chaplains
- Pastoral care for several churches
- Community walkers along Rock Creek Park (basket offering near my home)
- UPS delivery people
- Grocery Store delivery people
- Anne Wasson Celebration of Life Service
- Victoria Cross Celebration of Life Service for her mother
- New families in our community
- Prayer List People
- Memorial Garden Dedications

We had over 25 people make prayer beads from kits that were left on the back porch of the church. We had depleted our inventory and had a special request for prayer beads. In less than a month, we made over 400 sets of prayer beads!

Thanks to everyone who gave of their time, talent, and treasure in making this ministry possible.

Ann Fitts

Memorial Garden: 2020 Ann Fitts

Memorial Labyrinth Garden

We were extremely fortunate to have our lovely memorial garden for outdoor services during the pandemic. We were one of the first churches within the Diocese to do so. We also had five additional trees dedicated during 2020 and 15 additional memorial leaves. We are now up to 116 leaves out of the 200 leaves that are available for dedication on the tree-of-life memorial wall. There continues to be adequate funds from donations to cover the maintenance expenses of the memorial garden that includes mulching and floral plantings. The benches are refinished each year in June. Thanks to all who have supported our garden services and dedications.

Ann Fitts

Ladies Guild 2020 - Sonja Elgin

Due to the Covid Pandemic, no meetings were conducted in 2020. This year we did the Spring clean up of the grounds and we donated 2 leaves in memory of Barbara White and Mary Smith.

Blessings Committee 2020 Nancy Row

The Blessings Committee did not deliver any meals in 2020 due to Covid 19 restrictions. Cards were sent to those who were ill or experienced a death of a family member or a friend.

Bylaws Committee 2020

Bylaws Committee, Charley Hendricks

The Vestry reactivated the Bylaws Committee at its September 2020 meeting. Charley Hendricks, who had chaired the committee when it was last active in 2018–19, was again appointed chair, and he was joined on the committee by Bill Fitts, Stevie Grimes, Lonnie Pera, and Richard Rutherford.

The committee first addressed the question of whether Nancy Row was eligible to be reelected as senior warden in 2021 under the term-limit provisions of the parish's bylaws. Nancy had first been elected senior warden by the Vestry in September 2017 after Janice Peterson had resigned. After the completion of the remainder of Janice's term, Nancy was elected to a full two-year term as senior warden at the annual parish meeting held in February 2019. The committee concluded that Nancy was eligible to serve one more consecutive term as senior warden, and the Vestry approved that decision.

After the Vestry determined in late October 2020 that the parish's 2021 annual meeting needed to be postponed from its normal February timeframe due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Bylaws Committee addressed the scheduling of that meeting and of the work of the Nominating Committee in preparation for it. The Bylaws Committee recommended that the Vestry set a target date of June 6 for the 2021 annual meeting, with a rain date of June 13. The committee also recommended that a Nominating Committee be constituted by February 22, 2021, so that it could in a timely fashion present nominees to parishioners in advance of the rescheduled meeting. The Vestry approved these committee recommendations.

The committee turned its attention toward the end of 2020 to conducting a detailed review of the entire parish bylaws. The committee has thus far held four meetings focused on the first three articles of the bylaws and has tentatively approved substantive and stylistic changes to various provisions, some of which are needed to bring our bylaws into conformity with the canons of the Diocese of Washington.

The committee hopes that it will be able to complete its review of the bylaws in time to present its recommendations first to the Vestry and then to the congregation at the 2022 annual parish meeting.

- VII. Verbal report of the Convention Delegate 2021: Donna Starkweather**
- VIII. Recognition of Out-Going Vestry**
- IX. Closing Prayer/Adjournment**
- X. Brief meeting of newly formed 2020 Vestry to elect the Treasurer and Registrar.**

Notes

