

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting 2021
"Vision of Hope"
Via Zoom Videoconference

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

1. Welcome/Call to Order

Father Mark McKone-Sweet, Rector, welcomed the congregation and called the meeting to order. Akiko Tamano, vestry clerk, established a quorum.

2. Worship

The congregation worshiped and partook of the Eucharist. Father Mark preached on how all Christians are equipped by their baptism to reach out to God and help others. He invited the congregation to follow him in experiencing the power of God to bring healing, reconciliation, and hope to the world.

3. Moments of Gratitude Video

Jim Macemon

Jim Macemon welcomed the congregation, and a short video showing highlights of 2020 was played.

**4. Honoring Our Faith, Building Our Future:
Campaign Update**

Judy Macemon

Judy Macemon provided an update on the capital campaign. The following milestones have been reached:

- Over \$6.56 million in pledges and donations received
- Additional \$1.2 million in planned estate gifts
- Nearly \$7.8 million raised in total

This phase of the campaign is ending, and the funds raised will be used in the planned campus redevelopment construction.

Judy thanked the campaign committee, Demetreus Gregg, and Father Mark for their prayers, leadership, and faith in working toward the goal of making the love of Jesus real and tangible. She also announced that in a few weeks, Mark Davis will present an update of the redevelopment work completed in 2020 and offer a preview of the work to be done in 2021.

Father Mark presented a Rector Award to Judy Macemon for her work on the campaign (see section 11).

5. Year in Review 2020

Summaries of 2020's major achievements at St. Bartholomew's were presented by ministry leaders.

5.1 Preschool

Sheila Martin

Sheila Martin, Interim Director of St. Bartholomew's Preschool, provided an update on the preschool. The school was forced to shut down during the pandemic but overcame obstacles to successfully reopen in the fall, with 50 students enrolled in the 2020–21 school year. Both students and staff are loving the educational experience.

The preschool has been in existence for 21 years and hopes to continue on for many decades to come. Enrollment has already started for the 2021–22 school year, with the goal to increase the number of students from this year. Sheila asked that parishioners spread the word about the preschool to neighbors and friends, as it is a wonderful outreach to the community.

5.2 Children's Ministry

Maureen Hovannesian

Maureen Hovannesian reported that she and Karen Matsumoto, Children's Ministry Co-Directors, had just begun a Lenten University program when the pandemic started. They quickly pivoted to at-home learning and offered the following virtual opportunities:

- **Holy Week Learning Activity Kits (spring 2020):** Delivered to families to keep students connected during the first phase of the pandemic shutdown
- **Emoji Prayers (spring 2020):** A six-week session to explore how and why we pray)
- **Compassion Camp (summer 2020):** A five-week session to learn compassion for self, others, and the world
- **Boo Bags (Halloween 2020)**
- **Virtual Vacation Bible School (fall 2020):** A five-week session virtually touring the Rocky Mountains by railway to learn that trusting Jesus pulls us through life's ups and downs
- **Christmas Pageant (winter 2020):** A unique virtual pageant created by the children with John-Luke Addison's help

In the current session, **Sensational Saints**, students are learning about a new saint each week.

The following upcoming events are also planned:

- **Lenten University:** Begins on February 14; registration is open now on the St. Bart's website
- **Virtual Vacation Bible School:** Scheduled for June

Father Mark presented a Rector Award to Maureen Hovannesian (see section 11).

5.3 Youth Ministry

Courtney McWilliams

Courtney McWilliams, Youth Director, shared the following 2020 highlights from the youth group:

- **30-Hour Famine:** This event took place before the pandemic; students participated in activities to help them learn what it is like to go without food and shelter. They also assembled 100 bags of food for Care House (for children who are food insecure and rely on school lunches). These were originally intended for spring break, but the bags were providentially able to be delivered just before schools switched to virtual learning.
- **Team-Building Exercises:** This also took place just before the pandemic.
- **Online and In-Person Opportunities:** After the pandemic started, both online and in-person events were offered.
- **Youth-Led Black Lives Matter Protest:** Using their voices to stand up for what they believe in was a life-changing experience for youth group members. Many of the youth participated, along with clergy and several parents.
- **Cross and Columbarium Cleanup:** This service project offered an opportunity to give back during the pandemic.
- **Summer Beach Retreats:** Youth remained masked and physically distanced during these events.
- **Suicide Prevention Education:** Two professionals spoke to both youths and parents about suicide prevention.

Plans for 2021 include the following:

- More service projects in and around San Diego
- Invitations to youth group peers when in-person events resume in February
- Continued online and in-person options

5.4 Pastoral Care

Cathie Roy/Cindy Campos

Cathie Roy, Pastoral Care Coordinator, shared that pastoral care during the pandemic was challenging and necessitated reaching out in creative new ways. Pastoral care was offered via the following:

- Pandemic-modified visits
- Greeting cards from pastoral care, preschool, and Sunday school
- Flowers
- Phone calls
- Home communion bags
- Prayers & Squares quilt ministry
- Order of St. Luke
- Daughters of the King

Deacon Cindy Campos also reported on the following pastoral care efforts:

- **Formal Phone Tree:** Developed after the pandemic started to keep parishioners connected
- **Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** For the sick, homebound, care facility residents, and those with extra special needs
- **Living and Dying Series:** First session on end-of-life issues held last February; another planned for this spring
- **Caregivers Group:** Dawn Stary, a pastoral care minister, and Cindy Campos facilitate a time of support and fellowship for caregivers; group meets via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month

- **Bereavement Ministry:** Starting February 9; for those who have lost family members and/or friends

5.5 Adult Formation

Father Mark

Father Mark recapped the adult formation opportunities offered in 2020, as follows:

- Wednesday adult formation series taught by Deacon Bill Zettinger and Bob Capettini (Who Is Jesus?, Acts, the Reformation)
- Book studies (*Holy Envy, Just Mercy, Waking Up White, Jesus and the Disinherited*)
- What Is an Episcopalian? class
- Film nights (creation care, systemic racism)
- Sacred Ground dialogue series on race (four small groups, with more groups to be launched in June 2021)

Many offerings have had participants from throughout the country and around the world.

5.6 Worship

Father Mark

Father Mark reported that during the pandemic, St. Bartholomew's was able to continue worshipping in the following ways:

- **Livestreamed Services:** Services were offered on Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom, which required an investment in technology. This investment was possible due to the generosity of the congregation and has enabled St. Bartholomew's to be seen and heard not just during the pandemic but into the long-term future. Father Mark offered special thanks to John-Luke Addison, Tim McLellan, Allen Adams, Jim Macemon, and Ian Strout for their behind-the-scenes work on musical offerings and in setting up audiovisual teams.
- **Weddings/Funerals/Baptisms:** These sacraments continued to be offered during the pandemic.
- **Special Litanies:** Several litanies were developed to address racism and political divisions.

5.7 Music Ministry

**John-Luke Addison/
Tim McLellan**

John-Luke Addison, Director of Music, gave a recap of musical offerings in 2020. Before the pandemic, the following events took place:

- January Evensong led by the string ensemble
- February Evensong led by the choristers
- Presentation of Charles Wood's *St. Mark Passion* oratorio

Once the pandemic started, it was not possible to meet in person, and the music ministry had to pivot. The following are highlights:

- Almost 20 virtual projects completed, starting with the "Hallelujah" chorus in May and culminating with several Christmas projects in December
- Weekly virtual contemporary worship service started in May

Tim McLellan, who was promoted to Associate Director of Music in 2020, provided an update on the choristers. The last in-person rehearsal was held on March 8; since

then, the choristers have been included in many virtual projects and continue to be a vital part of the music ministry.

John-Luke then concluded by stating that future plans include more diversified programming to embrace other cultures and genres. Virtual projects will continue for the short term; when it is safe to meet in person again, work will begin on rebuilding the ensembles. However, St. Bartholomew's will continue to offer online worship.

6. 2020–21 Budget Report

Terry McCune

Terry McCune reviewed 2020 financial performance and the 2021 budget. Key points are summarized below.

6.1 2020 Operating Fund Highlights

- Due to the pandemic and resulting campus closure, several income sources were reduced, including plate income, preschool contributions, and rental income.
- Generous donations from parishioners and forgiveness of a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan enabled St. Bartholomew's to continue its work. Total income was \$1,307,049.
- Expenses totaling \$1,252,956 were controlled and under budget.
- The year ended with a surplus of \$54,093, which will allow for future investment in the church's mission.

6.2 2020 Giving Highlights

Donations exceeded \$180,000 and allowed St. Bartholomew's to do the following:

- Fulfill all commitments to outreach partners, even with the closure of the thrift shop in February
- Ensure the school in Haiti continued to operate and meet children's needs
- Create an online presence for worship, community gatherings, music, and meetings
- Use pastoral funds to help people in need during the pandemic (groceries, rent, utilities, etc.), as well as Interfaith Community Services, St. Mark's, St. Luke's, and the diocese
- Enable the preschool to survive an early closure and successfully reopen in October (thanks to donations, tuition payments, grants, PPP loan)

6.3 2021 Budget

- Total operating income for 2021 is budgeted at \$1,099,482, a reduction of \$207,568.
- St. Bartholomew's is applying for another PPP loan, which may be available based on the Consolidated Appropriations Act signed into law in December 2021. Funds that may be received through this program are not reflected in this budget.
- Expenses for 2021 are budgeted at \$1,288,950, an increase of \$35,993. The increase is primarily due to technology needs that will support programs to meet the strategic plan.

- The operating fund loss is budgeted at \$189,468. Some of this deficit will likely be offset by pandemic relief programs.

6.4 **Operating Budget Breakdown**

Donations support ministry in the following ways:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| • Personnel costs
(people were the largest investment) | \$879,856 |
| • Outreach and diocese support | \$128,923 |
| • Facility and maintenance costs | \$146,739 |
| • Administration and technology costs | \$83,518 |
| • Program costs | \$49,914 |

Terry indicated that copies of the 2020 financial reports are available in the church office and asked that parishioners contact her with any questions.

7. **Presentation of 2021 Slate for Vestry** **Jim Macemon**

7.1 **Completion of Three-Year Term**

Jerry Blanton is running for a one-year term to fill a vacated vestry seat. He was elected via a Zoom poll.

7.2 **Three-Year Term**

The following candidates for election to the vestry were introduced:

- Costa Dillon
- Susan McCormick-Davis
- Marjorie Polishuk
- Lauren Sleeper

With four candidates for four seats, the slate was elected via a Zoom poll.

8. **Presentation of 2021 Slate for Diocesan Convention Delegates** **Jim Macemon**

The following candidates for delegate to the 2021 diocesan convention were introduced:

- Elaine Coke
- Dan Crane
- Polly Getz-Enos
- Holly Gray
- Maya McKone-Sweet (youth delegate)

With five candidates for five seats, the slate was elected via a Zoom poll.

9. **Thanks/Acknowledgments** **Father Mark**

Outgoing vestry members Cathie Roy, George Tynan, and Will Oakes (youth representative), as well as outgoing Senior Warden Jim Macemon and outgoing Treasurer Terry McCune, were thanked for their service.

10. Vestry Election and Rector Appointments

Father Mark

Father Mark announced the following leadership appointments for 2021:

- Amy Adome, Treasurer
- Terry McCune, Assistant Treasurer
- Bill Angus, Assistant Treasurer
- Akiko Tamano, Clerk
- Polly Getz-Enos, Chancellor
- J.D. Cowart, Vice Chancellor
- Costa Dillon, Senior Warden

11. Rector Awards

Father Mark

The Rector Awards are intended to recognize individuals who often work behind the scenes and whose contributions are not always acknowledged. Father Mark presented awards to the following four volunteers:

- **Judy Macemon:** After the initial two years of the capital campaign, Judy singlehandedly kept the campaign going. She faithfully persevered in pursuing the vision of making the St. Bartholomew's campus more accessible for the glory of God, not only for our congregation but also the community and diocese.
- **Maureen Hovannesian:** After the pandemic started, Maureen agreed to be in charge of campus safety protocols. Her medical research and protocol implementation enabled St. Bartholomew's to safely offer worship, preschool, and other activities during the pandemic. She not only helped the church with its encompassing mission but also advised others in the diocese.
- **Allen Adams:** Allen went far above and beyond in testing and advising on the audiovisual technology required for live and recorded worship services and other offerings. He also lent his technical expertise to the music ministry, as well as to the architectural committee regarding technological requirements in the sanctuary.
- **Jill Henderson:** Jill has a heart for peace and justice and is a role model for many. This year, she was instrumental in leading book studies and launching Sacred Ground, enabling the congregation to engage in meaningful, transformative study of race and racism and to discern paths to advocate for the equality and dignity of all people, across all races and ethnicities.

12. Rector's Report: Vision of Hope

Father Mark

Father Mark shared his vision for how he sees the church going forward. In 2020, St. Bartholomew's experienced an exodus from what we thought was our spiritual home. We were removed from all the things we associate with being a church, and we have had to figure out how to be together in new ways. Father Mark believes that God has been preparing the congregation, and when we come back together, we will be stronger than ever in pursuing our mission of making Jesus Christ more real and tangible.

Last year presented many temptations to give up—safety protocols, extended stay-at-home orders, death tolls, the rapid decline of elders in isolation, financial stresses, political

divisions, racism continuing to permeate the country, growing concerns about the strength of our democracy—but we did not submit to division and hopelessness. The Jesus movement is the only antidote to the challenges of past, present, and future, and gives us strength and courage to continue being strong going forward. We are following Jesus into a liberating, life-giving relationship with each other.

Father Mark proposed four themes for 2021:

- **Hope:** Hope is found in praying together; we are united despite our differences. With God's help, we will overcome any challenge before us and go wherever Jesus sends us. We will reclaim what St. Bartholomew's is known for: seven-day-a-week ministry.
- **Transformation:** We are not faithful disciples unless we accept that we will be changed. Everything we do is an opportunity to be transformed and become more like Jesus, as God created us. We will embrace new traditions going forward. We are called to this work and can do it together, one small act at a time.
- **Trust in Jesus:** When in doubt, we are invited to lean into Jesus. Doing anything else may challenge us beyond our ability to manage. When we trust Jesus, we experience rebirth.
- **Action:** Father Mark invited the congregation to use the months ahead to prepare for the church's reopening. This will take place in three stages:
 1. In the next three weeks, each parishioner will be invited to attend one small-group meeting during Lent to discuss how God has transformed their faith.
 2. During Eastertide, the same groups will be invited to meet again to delve deeper into how God is calling them individually and collectively to move forward.
 3. Over the summer, parishioners will be placed into affinity groups and commissioned again into ministry.

Father Mark concluded by affirming that St. Bartholomew's will experience Easter many times this year and by giving thanks for the hope that the congregation has given him in ministry. He also offered his gratitude for Demetreus Gregg, Congregational Development Director, who joined St. Bartholomew's during the pandemic and has ministered in many ways.

13. Closing Prayer

Father Mark closed with a prayer.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Akiko Tamano
Vestry Clerk

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