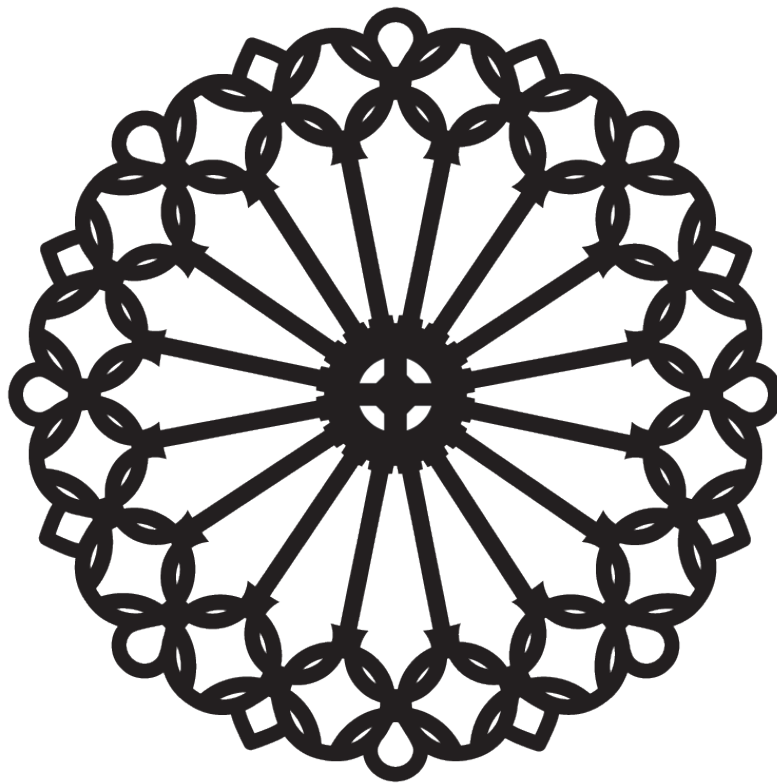


ST BART'S



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

A LETTER FROM THE WARDENS

“Steady as she goes, Part 2”

2015 was a busy, transitional year for St. Bart's. We said 'goodbye' to our beloved Rector, Buddy Stallings, and celebrated his tenure with a wonderful sendoff party in the Nave towards the end of May, substantially paid for by contributions from members of the Parish. Over the summer months, we relied principally on our Clergy team, led by Lynn Sanders, to lead the services and preach, which they did with grace and fortitude. In May we were able to announce the selection of our Interim Rector, Bob Dannals, who recently retired and was able to move up from Dallas with his wife, Valerie, to take over full time on October 1. We feel that Bob has really gotten to know us over a few short months and has been able to speedily pick up the mantle of leadership as Interim Rector.

Financially in 2015, we were not able to achieve our Stewardship goal of \$2.8 million, missing our target by around 8%. Some of the shortfall was made up from over-target performance of other revenue streams such as Inside Park, our Preschool and other rental income so that our total revenue shortfall was only 2%. Our expenses came in significantly under budget, thanks to the hard work of our staff. It is especially impressive that utilities were under-budget during an unusually cold winter, but almost every expense category was lower than budget. In summary, we remained in the black again in 2015, despite some stewardship headwinds.

This could not have been achieved without tremendous efforts from the Staff, both Lay and Clergy, for which we are very grateful. In addition, we want to thank those members of the Vestry who are stepping down this year: Zack Bacon, Dulcie Mapondera, Mildred Brinn and Bill Erhardt. Their leadership and contribution to the governance of St. Bart's will be remembered!

Part of our transition plan was the appointment of the Rector Search Committee, which is co-chaired by Mary Krueger and Tim Collins. They have already done a huge amount of work in designing the Parish Survey and synthesizing a great deal of information from the Survey and from direct interviews and meetings with parishioners at the Rector's Roundtables. The key step of making the Parish Profile available to potential candidates is just around the corner. We'll be hearing more about next steps in the process at the Annual Meeting.

At the end of last December we completed a successful \$500,000 "match" to a generous anonymous donation that was the culmination of our internal Parish Capital Campaign led by Carol and Doug Tanner. Thanks to the generosity of many people, over \$6 million has been raised for critically important refurbishment of our landmarked buildings. In addition, the St. Bart's Conservancy has raised over \$1.3 million in capital and commitments and is working hard to raise more for the Dome and other projects during 2016. Because of the success of the Capital Campaign, we were able to complete the replacement of our sidewalks in 2015, including the challenging and expensive Park Avenue side. We were also able to complete rehabilitation and replacement of several roofs that are so important to the integrity of our buildings.

As we enter another transition year in 2016, we are not only confident in handing over a successful and vibrant enterprise to a new Rector's leadership, we will be undertaking two major capital projects that will start in the spring. First is the replacement of the roofs covering the Transept and the main Nave. After that work is complete, work to restore the Dome will begin. We expect the work on the Dome, which will include replacement of the mosaic tiles in the identical design with new tiles in the original colors, to take a year or more to complete.

We are excited by what we feel we can accomplish this year under Bob's leadership and of course by the selection process managed by the Search Committee, which will culminate in the selection of a new Rector by the Vestry.

Peter M. R. Kendall

Anne Adams Rabbino



INTERIM RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT



Over the course of these several months I've been privileged to serve as your Interim Rector, people have posed the question: What is interim ministry and where is God leading St. Bartholomew's Church?

One thing I know about interim ministry is this: it involves moving from one place to another. In our case, Valerie and I, having agreed that I flunked retirement, moved from Dallas to Manhattan to be with you for a year or so, while the Search Committee and the Vestry call someone who will be very special indeed to be the next Rector of this grand parish. In the meantime, it is my joy to be among you as your friend and Rector.

So interim means for Valerie and me a literal change of location for a fairly brief time. But interim for the parish means much more. Moving from one place to another means shifting to a new chapter, looking to the future more than the past. As much as your recent rectors—Tom Bowers, Bill Tully and Buddy Stallings—gave enormous talent, vision and leadership, it's time for the parish to prayerfully anticipate exciting new ventures without them; to continue and advance your core values and mission imperatives with a new leader.

A core satisfaction in my role as Interim Rector is its vantage point. I get to see, experience and know so many moments—the astounding heritage and resources of this parish and the graceful, endlessly surprising ministries that makes for real shared life at St. Bart's. Here are a few snapshots of our life in community during the past several months, and several goals for the coming year.



Many, many people of our congregation are reaching out with uncanny commitment, humility and compassion. While the Crossroads ministries continue to be the mainstay of our on-campus work, we also support with money and volunteers an array of other endeavors, not the least of which is Episcopal Peace Fellowship, the GLBTI Fellowship and outreach, AA, Al Anon, the Diocese of New York. The Rev. Edward Sunderland gives daily vision and direction to all of the Crossroads work, assisted by a creative and hard-working board and volunteers.

Our worship, Christian formation, welcoming and new member ministries, children, youth and families ministries are guided and directed by the Rev. Lynn Sanders. We are most fortunate to have talented clergy, including the Rev. Matthew Moretz, staff and volunteers in these areas. Please see Lynn's report.



Several operations and capital initiatives have been completed during this past year. The parish successfully completed the capital building renovation campaign, including the successful match of an extraordinary anonymous challenge grant of \$500,000. The total renovation of the front sidewalk was completed in early fall. The several roofs needing renovation are nearly complete and work on the dome will begin this summer, 2016. During December we also completed a new lighting system in the church which now illuminates areas of our Landmark worship space rarely seen before. Our financial house is in good order, and the human resources, IT, and building staffs continue to do excellent work for the well-being of our resources and physical plant. In late summer, the parish said goodbye to our Director of Communications, Gillian Koenig, and at the close of 2015, we said thank you and bid farewell to Esslie Hughes our very effective Chief Administrative Officer. We continue the search for a replacement in communications, and we will likely wait until the end of the interim period to explore a replacement for Esslie.



As we plan for a new rector, the Stewardship Committee and our Director, Hadley Rolf, worked tirelessly to encourage pledging and generosity. And even following a valiant effort, in the midst of a capital effort, the Vestry, clergy and staff continue to be challenged on the income side of the budget. In short, we've learned to do more with less. As we move toward the next chapter, the parish needs a new infusion of resources, including pledging and annual giving.

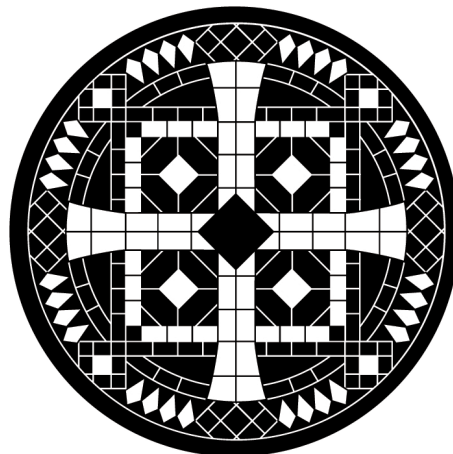
Significant and expanding work continues in the area of pastoral care. I know of no greater compassionate hearts than our clergy and pastoral and parish care teams. Hundreds of pastoral connections were made in 2015, and with the inauguration of a whole parish care system and Lay Eucharistic Visitors ministry, the numbers will climb in 2016. Again, please see Lynn Sanders report.



I extend deep gratitude to your wonderful Wardens, Anne Rabbino and Peter Kendall, for those who assisted in getting us settled in NYC, for the bright and hard-working Vestry, clergy and staff. And I extend my love and gratitude to my beloved wife, Valerie, who also loves serving at St. Bart's Church.

Beyond all the committees and structures and budgets, and quite frankly, the plain hard work, I thank God for making us a community of the Beloved and that our primary purpose comes from being centered in Christ. Thanks be to God!

The Rev. Dr. Robert S. Dannals



PARISH MINISTRIES



St. Bart's ministries of worship and music, welcome, formation, and service continued functioning at their usual high levels—and even grew—throughout the rector and staff transitions of 2015. Though heartbroken at losing our Rector Buddy Stallings, both staff and parish quickly realized St. Bart's is fortunate to have in Interim Rector Bob Dannals a warm, strong, experienced leader of large, complex parishes. Bob quickly began building on the strong foundation created by Buddy and St. Bart's Vestry to enhance staffing capacity and strengthen the budget process.

We bid a fond farewell to Wendy Barrie in early June, and welcomed Patrick Berquist as St. Bart's Interim Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries. Longtime St. Bartian John Wirenius was ordained to the Diaconate in May 2016, and, much to our joy, was assigned by Bishop Dietsche to serve at St. Bart's. Both Patrick and the Rev. John have quickly proven to be strong, capable members of our ministry team.

The Rev. Bruce Forbes embarked on his second retirement as of April 1. Bruce remains a faithful member of St. Bart's, worshipping now almost every Sunday from the tenth row of the congregation. A fine new set of Chapel worship books was donated this year in honor of Bruce's 50-plus years of faithful ministry at St. Bart's.



Worship and Music

During 2015, St. Bart's offered close to 600 powerful, welcoming worship services, thanks to the combined efforts of dedicated clergy and staff, professional musicians, and nearly 200 faithful volunteers. We held our Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving Eve instead of Thanksgiving morning, a welcome change for many, resulting in a completely full church chancel. A new Epiphany evening service (January 6, 2016) with Twelfth Night Party following in the church was attended by 110 people.

All three of St. Bart's Choirs are thriving. St. Bartholomew's Boy and Girl Choristers have experienced major growth since the institution of the Junior Choir, one year ago, which has fed many new singers into the program. In addition to their participation in the Joyous Christmas Concert, Summer Festival, and annual appearance at the Lotos Club's Twelfth Night Party, the Choristers hosted over 50 guest singers from the Tri-State area in a Spring Choral Festival conducted by Gordon Atkinson from Perth, Australia, which will be repeated in May, 2016.



St. Bart's Singers continues to grow with new faces, wonderful new singers, and many additions to their already large repertoire, participating in over 60 services a year, including the Summer Festival of Sacred Music and Spring Choral Festival.

St. Bartholomew's Choir experienced changes in personnel with exceptional singers being welcomed into the ensemble. Repertoire for the group continues to grow, especially with compelling early Baroque works by Carissimi and Cazzolani for men's and women's choir sung at the Summer Festival.

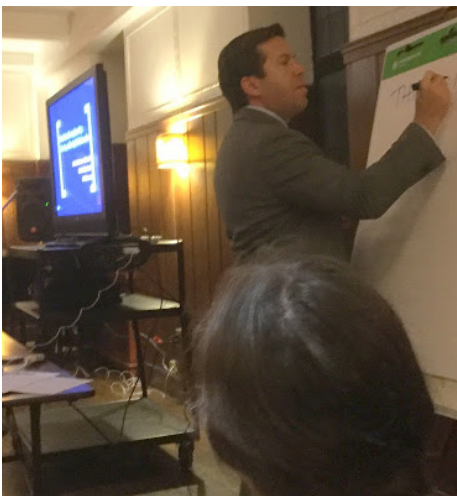
Important work was completed on St. Bartholomew's organs by the Foley~Baker Organ Co., the present Curators of the Organs. The organ blowers in the church organ, formerly housed in the basement under the narthex of the church, were moved to a beautifully designed, climate controlled room in the center of the basement, providing the cleanest and most optimum air possible to the organ. Also, the chapel organ, damaged by the 2006 fire in the chapel, was completely restored and is now fully playable.



The Mid-Manhattan Performing Art Foundation, under the leadership of Kathryn McKenzie, has had a very successful year presenting the Great Music Series of Concerts. In order to appeal to a more consistent audience, the Board of Directors has focused its programming into concerts of early music and new music with performances by cutting edge ensembles. The holiday favorites have remained a part of the mix, with December's Joyous Christmas Concert attracting a record-breaking attendance.

Welcome and Membership

St. Bart's "radical welcome" remained foundational to our parish's identity, experienced and commented on by visitors and seekers alike. During 2015 at St. Bart's, 36 people were baptized; 25 were confirmed, received, or reaffirmed; and close to 50 people were welcomed as new members of our parish community. Many of these new members have already become involved in the life of the parish. Varieties of parish receptions—ranging from the Welcome Committee's receptions for 500 following the Easter Vigil and Advent Lessons and Carols services, to intimate wine and cheese Newcomer Soirees—provided welcome, creative opportunities for fellowship and connection.



Formation

St. Bart's many programs and community groups continued steadily through 2015. Notable new efforts: Two four-week evening series (one in Spring, one in Fall) taught by Dr. Patrick Hornbeck drew record attendance. Our Winter Retreat at Holy Cross Monastery was fully subscribed, despite two feet of snow. A new meditation program, iRest, was added. We launched a new team-taught Sunday afternoon "Brunch and Bible" series on June 7; it proved surprisingly popular, with 40 people attending in its early stages. The series continued through the Fall, though with lower attendance. We have chosen to resume the Sunday afternoon EXPLORE newcomers series in 2016, while digesting our learnings—what worked well, what didn't—from Brunch and Bible.

The families of St. Bart's are a highly valued part of our church community. Through 2015 they participated in family lunches, Summer Splash (where our families took over the pool for a Sunday morning), Night Swim parties, the Christmas pageant, and our weekly Sunday School/Chapel time. Our dedicated volunteers and parents are instrumental in making St. Bart's a welcoming place for families. Our Child Care program has begun to introduce our youngest members to a brief liturgy and activity each week that are connected to the church season. Our Youth Group (grades 6-12) continues to grow both in number and in substance, with notably increased levels of engagement and fellowship. We have loved seeing growth in the number of families that are engaging with us on a weekly basis and are looking for that to continue in 2016.



The 20's 30's group met monthly for Sunday brunch, an important touchstone for their fellowship. Throughout the year, they also bonded over potluck dinners, assisting with receptions, picnic and movie outings, joining and hosting other church groups from the Diocese of New York for social events, and a weekend retreat in the Poconos. Going forward, a cap has been placed on the age of participants in this group (44).



Community Ministry/Crossroads

The Crossroads Community board and staff continued to manage the Community Ministry of St. Bartholomew's Church. Using a 2015 United Way grant for board development, and the board is making the transition from operating like a founding board to becoming a sustaining board. We are continuing our efforts to build relationships across lines which have traditionally defined efforts to end hunger homelessness.

Highlights from 2015 include:

- A \$200,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation enabled the establishment of a cash reserve.
- The Community Ministry rooms were completely remodeled.
- The second annual Fare Share Friday was held, with The Four Seasons joining the Waldorf and Palace Hotels to provide the elegant feast.
- The soup kitchen provided 74,262 prepared meals.
- The shelter was open 365 nights, and 17 of the women from the shelter moved into permanent housing.
- The pantry provided groceries to replace 111,321 meals.



With Vestry, Search Committee, clergy, staff and parishioners continuing to work together and offer our best during 2016, St. Bart's will go "from strength to strength," moving with joy and confidence into her next chapter.

The Rev. Lynn C. Sanders
Chief of Parish Ministries





ST BART'S

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