



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## News from the Hill

July 2018

Poway, CA

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### Shall We Dance?

The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet, Rector

*Dance, dance, wherever you may be I am the lord of the dance, said he And I lead you all, wherever you may be And I lead you all in the dance, said he.*

#### Lord of the Dance

The men's group just finished reading Bill Graham's book *The Holy Spirit*. Graham notes that he never fully understood the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) over his decades as a spiritual leader. He does not dismiss the power of the Holy Spirit, rather, roots his ministry and interpretation of scripture that one must be slain (washed) in the Spirit. To be slain in the Spirit one must give oneself to Jesus. To have been successful in such, one will be given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

My faith journey and my relationship with Jesus Christ validates the power of the Holy Spirit. I differ with the Billy Graham in so much as one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit is "reason" that enables us, corporately to interpret scripture and tradition and apply it to our modern

context. Reason (by the grace of the Holy Spirit) gives us strength say no to any interpretation that dehumanizes any child of God. The same reason that informs us that the God of Jesus Christ is a God of love. No exceptions.

While serving as chaplain on the Cursillo retreat weekend we were discussing the sacraments. I asked, when are you first

touched by the Holy Spirit? One answer is at baptism. In baptism, whether we are an infant or adult, we are "marked as Christ's own for every, and seal by the Holy Spirit." There is it, sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Images of the Spirit descending upon Jesus as John the Baptist pulled

him out of the river Jordan are imbedded in many of our minds. After I offer my answer, a member of the Cursillo band shouted out, "but when do we receive the gift of the Spirit – we are Washed in it – when do we get washed (slain) in the spirit"? I offered a short response yes, being washed in the spirit is another part



continued on page 2

# Shall We Dance?

continued from page 1

The Rev. Mark McKone-Sweet, Rector

of our journey – but the Holy Spirit has and will continue to be active in our relationship with Jesus Christ with or without being slain or washed.

I didn't like my answer.

It's too easy to assume that once one is baptized, a life of faith follows. History is full of Christians who sin. Might I offer, we all sin without exception. The last two thousand years of such history has overwhelming data to prove such. Another response might be "to be baptized is not enough." Baptism is merely affirmation of what is already true "an outward sign of an inner truth." You are child of God. We are all children of God. Through the life of Jesus Christ, we are taught over and over to love God in all people, especially children.

Come to me ... follow me ...  
I hear Jesus inviting us to enter the dance hall after

our baptism ... yearning for a deeper relationship with you. And so, your journey continues daily. I don't know about you, but I always wonder if I would be asked to dance. I would stand on the edge of the floor – my toes tapping. I am not a good dancer, but my heart sings. Alas, I was scared of what people would think of me.

After three years of attending dances in middle school, at the final song of the final

dance of 8th grade, I asked Tyra Briggs to dance. She smiled and said, "What took you so long?" Jesus' patience must be divine – "What took you so long?"

Richard Rohr, in his book *The Divine Dance: The Trinity and your Transportation* explores the "mystery" of the Trinity. He testifies that to join the dance is to penetrate the mystery. To not do so, he argues "religion always worships itself, its

formulations and never God". Ouch. Bill Graham says "we have been convicted by the spirit".

"God is not just a dancer, God is the dance itself."

I had a crazy thought years ago ... and has been rekindled, straining for light. What would it be like for St. Bart's to host a tent revival. You know, two evenings, nights of singing, testimonies, engaging, praying, healing and, of course, dancing. Later this summer, I will invite us into a conversation about that. In the meantime, let's go dancing, shall we?

I have come to believe, we are called to invite others not just to worship, not just to come to know Jesus Christ, but to dance.

Shall we dance?

See ya on the dance floor.



## Summer Pick-Up CHOIR

Meet in the choir stalls on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. to review music and practice for the 10:15 a.m. service

Singers of all ages, from those with much experience to those with none are welcome!

**Begins July 1, 10:15 a.m. service**



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



# Prayerful Pause: A Midweek Prayer Service

The Rev. Mary Lynn Coulson

*“I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.”*

Psalm 121:1-2

As Christians, we are called to be people of prayer. God calls us into dialogue, into contemplation, and into a posture of listening. Prayer is not just a Sunday morning activity – in fact, prayer can become a lens through which we experience our lives.

**On Wednesdays at 11 a.m., beginning July 11, join your St. Bart’s community in midweek prayer. Halfway through the stress and busyness of your week, come seek out a moment of peace to connect with God.**

That phrase, “living for the weekend” – sometimes it feels like our days are just barriers between us and the freedom of Saturdays or Sundays. But God’s spirit is moving in this moment, right now! As you do the dishes for what feels like the eightieth time today, or check endless emails at work, or sit in traffic on your commute – God’s spirit is present with you, desiring to connect with you. Pausing intentionally halfway through the week is one way we can reorient ourselves to the Spirit’s presence throughout our week.

At this midweek prayer service, we will gather in the sanctuary and listen for God’s spirit. We will pray over our parish prayer request list, and we will pray for each student and teacher in our preschool by name.

As we live our lives, our eyes are often cast down – focused on putting one foot in front of the other. Join others as we “lift up [our] eyes to the hills,” to the promise that God is longing to connect with us.



# Vacation Bible School Wrap-Up

Maureen Hovannesian

St. Bart's welcomed 100 kids - ages 3 through 5th grade - and even more volunteers at our Renew themed Vacation Bible School June 18-22. ReNew is an environmentally focused theme that inspires kids and adults to grow in faith, have fun, and change the world as they practice stewardship of creation. Some of the highlights for the kids included learning how to purify water, making their own compost, painting roots with roots, making instruments out of recycled materials, learning about seeds, roots, and how strong plants take time to grow - just like God's love takes time to grow in us. The kids had a special hen visit from Camp Stevens, ate over 1,000 blueberries, 2 gallons of pudding, and 700 ginger snap cookies - just to name a few of the yummy snacks. By the end of the week, you could hear the kids belting out the fun music from a mile away!



additional photos on page 12

# Is God Enough for You and Me

*The Rev. William Zettinger*

Many of you know that for the last twenty-four weeks we have been studying church history on Wednesday mornings. It has been an exceptional journey. I am constantly amazed at how much and how many of our friends and neighbors have learned.

We have had many great discussions on subjects including the Presiding Bishops recent Sermon at the Royal Wedding. It was brilliant. It was so; because the bishop summed up why Christianity is so different from other religions. Its all about love and Gods grace.

In other words, our Presiding Bishop took the world to church that morning and the world listened.

We seem fascinated by the British royals. If you do a Google search on that topic, you'll find the top articles with titles like "Why are we still so obsessed by the British royals, or do we need a Monarchy like England?"

According to these articles, our obsession with the British monarchy has its roots in our interest with celebrities and the Cinderella story that was Diana, and which continues with William, Kate and their children.

Be that as it may, our attraction to the British royals doesn't mean we actually want a monarchy. No genuflecting for us! Worldwide, 26 royal families rule in more than 40 countries, but it's fair to say that few of us could name more than two or three of these countries, much less the monarchs on the throne.

But let's get back to history for a moment. Let's look at the book of first Samuel and the story of when the Israelites were not happy with having God as their king and wanted one of their own.

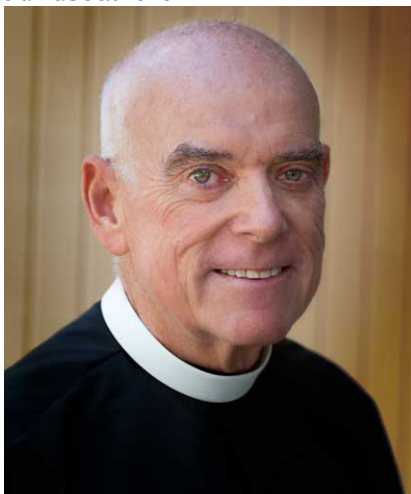
The Israelites are pressing the prophet-priest Samuel to anoint a king for them. All the nations around them have a monarchy. So, they want one, too.

From the Exodus, when Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, to the time of Samuel; about 200 years later; the Israelites had understood themselves as a loose confederacy of tribes with no king but God himself.

Throughout that time, God called human leaders to take the reins as needed, first Moses, then Joshua, then the judges, with Samuel being one of them, and as it turns out, the last.

Samuel had two sons and when he became old, he made them judges over Israel. In other words, Samuel was acting on his own and not waiting for God's direction.

In any case, the people quickly realized that this was a bad situation, for as the narrator tells us, Samuel's "sons did not follow in his ways, but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice"



So the tribal elders gathered, came up with a plan and approached Samuel, asking him to anoint a king to govern them. Samuel, in turn, sought God's advice in prayer, and God told him that while their demand was a rejection of God himself, Samuel should do as they wanted.

Samuel spelled out the downside of royal leadership that usually came when someone had absolute power. But the people were adamant, and ultimately, under God's direction, Samuel anointed Saul, the son of Kish, from the tribe of Benjamin, to be that king.

Apparently, the Israelites had come to the place where they decided that when it came to governance for their lives they needed more than God.

As Christians, we may view God as our ultimate leader and try to apply our faith in him across the board of our lives. But we may also find times when it seems that God is not enough for the pain, loss or grief in life we are always running up against.

I can't tell you how many times I have said. "I've prayed and prayed about my problems and they're still there."

Such a prayer is a way of saying that God isn't enough. We may feel uneasy saying so, but it's how we sometimes feel. How I sometimes feel.

In the aftermath of the terrible tragedy last November in Sutherland Springs, Texas, where a gunman opened fire on a worshipping congregation in a small Baptist church, killing 26 and wounding 20, Christianity Today published a research article that shows "people of faith, particularly those who receive support from their churches and religious communities, fare far better in their recovery" .

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# Why I Teach Sunday School

Alex Howard

We all know that ministry is important. It is rewarding. It is how we fulfill our baptismal covenant. It is how we build the Kingdom of God. It is how we follow Christ. Ministry also calls us to stretch ourselves. To risk being uncomfortable. It can be messy, figuratively and literally. Ministry has brought me to developing nations where I lived without hot running water, or without running water at all. It has asked me to confront my privilege and how I use that as an opportunity to serve Christ. Though uncomfortable and definitely messy, it was a much easier way to proclaim my faith and demonstrate what ministry is. People “get” that kind of work. They can imagine the discomfort I experienced and find it relatable. Then there is the ministry that many don’t see. It happens in the rooms upstairs, where only a few go. It is difficult to convey in words how transformative this work is. I can tell you that it is the closest I have come to being face to face with Jesus. It is when ministry brings me into the classroom with our children.

Children’s Ministry asks us to be vulnerable, to be nervous, to sometimes get very messy. It comes with unbridled joy and bright laughter. It asks one to prepare prayerfully and be willing to let go of our plans and expectations. It hands us the bricks to build the Kingdom of God.

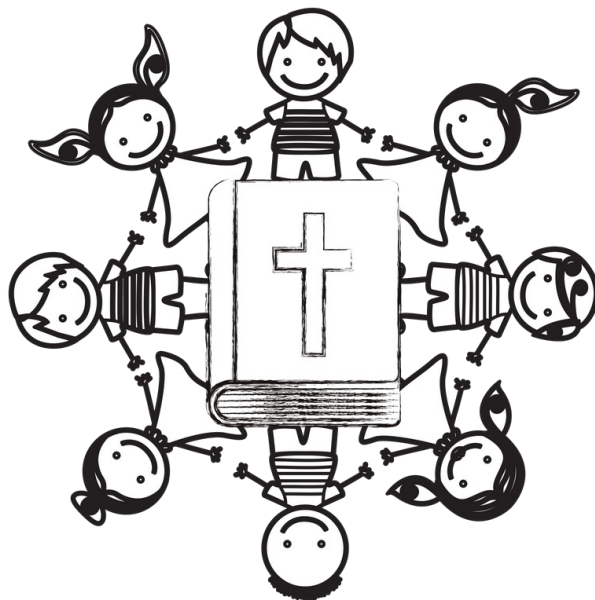
One of our dedicated volunteers shares her experience beautifully, here:

## Why I teach Sunday School, by Karen Tansey

During work time, Owen stepped behind the small wooden altar in the Godly Play classroom and began to move the chalice and patens around. After a few minutes, he stretched out his arms and announced: “all are welcome to receive today!” He personally invited me to come to the Lord’s table. I knelt down and opened my hands and he asked me if I needed a ‘gluten-free’ wafer. He then placed the pretend bread in my hands and said, “The body of Christ.”

It is moments such as these that I feel the Lord’s presence in the Sunday school room. I am reminded of the impact that our presence, words, and actions can have on even the youngest of children. “All are welcome!”

When I first started teaching Sunday school in the late 1990’s, a wise elder shared with me that faith is caught and not taught. This made sense as I reflected upon growing up at St. Bart’s, serving on the altar, and mimicking what I saw the priests and servers do. I also learned great reverence from the Altar Guild ladies in handling the implements at the Lord’s table. I learned how to pray in Sunday school.



For the past ten years, I have had the pleasure of teaching Godly Play and creating experiences for our children. Each Sunday, we welcome all who come to our door and invite them into the circle. “We are glad you are here!” We sing a song of praise and get ourselves ready to experience God. We handle the stories of the Bible with great respect, modeling how to use them. When the story is over and the wondering begins, it is the children that take over and the storyteller simply becomes a participant. And God is there! We pray together as a community and we share feast as a family. Then, we depart with a blessing.

You don’t have to be a priest to make a profound difference at church! Small God-incidences happen every Sunday all over the St. Bart’s campus. For me, I have felt the divine presence sitting on the floor in the classroom with small wooden objects or the Christ candle in front of me and small children surrounding me. I have had the pleasure of watching kids grow up and eventually go off to college. When they return home at the holidays or during the summer and give me a big hug on the patio, it gives me great pleasure to think that I might play just a small part in their faith journey. I might have modeled for them a Bible story that touched their heart or how to share the feast with others. And those children have definitely touched my heart and furthered my walk with Christ!

**Won’t you join us on this journey with Christ? August 18 is our volunteer orientation. Mark your calendar now. Want to chat about this work? Please contact me, [ahoward@stbartschurch.org](mailto:ahoward@stbartschurch.org). I have a cup of tea and time for you.**



# Practicing Our Faith

*Nathan Costa, Director of Liturgy and Music*

Thank you for the great privilege and blessing in calling me to help make music and to worship with you these last two years. Over two full liturgical years we have grown and have worshipped well together: We have expanded our liturgical ministries and have deepened our faith, experiences, and understandings of the rituals, times, and seasons of our church. We have made great music in offerings of joy,

celebration, and remembrance with music-makers young and older. We have learned that “practicing our faith” means exactly that - practice: doing the work of Christ and his Church, making our faith real to others with hands, feet, and hearts as well as with voices and instruments, and doing that again and again in the mature knowledge that each time we do it - worship, service, music, welcome - is in preparation for the next.

In so doing, we have understood that the work of Christ’s Church, of worshippers and musicians, is never done, at least in time as we know it. As Aimeclair and I take up our life together and our callings in a new place, we take with us your tremendous generosity of time and welcome, your well-wishes for us, and your example of doing the good, hard work of Christian community in worship, service, learning, and

conversation. Thank you for inviting me to be a part of your journey and community these two years, and I look forward to hearing of your continued paths and growth in the years ahead.



**Nathan receiving the St. Bartholomew icon.**



**St. Bart's choir with Nathan.**



**Photos above and on page 7 from Nathan & Aimeeclair's reception after June 3 Evensong.**

# Parishioner Reflections on Nathan's Music Ministry

*It was the quality of the music, and its close integration into the liturgy, that first drew me to St. Bart's. It has been an honor to be part of it myself, and truly Nathan has helped me to find my voice in worship.*

*~Martin W. Greenwood*



*Nathan had large shoes to fill at St. Bart's, and in my opinion, filled those shoes to overflowing. In doing so, he showed all of us a better way to worship our Lord through music, with better ways to bring out the best in us with laughter, perseverance, patience, and positive affirmation of our struggles to sing it right. Truly a gentleman, and organ maestro bar none. I will miss him, his leadership, his music, and his devotion to the music ministries at St. Bart's.*

*~Larry Salvadori*

*Latin is a so-called "dead" language, but Nathan made it come alive during weekly rehearsals for the Schola chant group. His deep knowledge of languages and liturgy helped us connect our singing to the church calendar. As part of the string ensemble, it was a blessing to play organ concertos with Nathan. On a non-musical "note", Nathan bakes a mean tea bread which he shares with the musicians.*

*~Marina Sterling*

*Schola Singer and Violinist*



*Nathan brought a liturgical renewal to our church. His peaceful, prayerful approach and well thought out music brought us all together in a more spiritual way. John and I especially benefited from the seasonal 5 p.m. services that were very communal and intimate. Our grandson Seth joined us last summer and Nathan provided private lessons to get him started. He loved it and especially how he connected with Nathan. He has not had an easy life and Seth learned so much from his first experience in a choir. It has given him confidence and music theory will stay a lifetime with him. Nathan will always be remembered by our family. We are touched by his ability to be present to others, listen and yet get things done. A wonderful Christian example of living for all of us to see. Blessings in your new life, Nathan, and in your impending marriage. Thank you so much for helping our church recover from divisions. Also, for touching the lives of so many young people, especially our grandson, Seth.*

*~Best wishes always, Sally, John and Seth Verkleeren*





# Is God Enough for You and Me

continued from page 4

*The Rev. William Zettinger*

The article continues: "After a mass shooting, people who felt supported by their religious communities ultimately experienced fewer symptoms of depression and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

That means, even when the suffering is greatest, survivors with high levels of support from their faith communities don't show the level of worsening symptoms experienced by people without such a community.

Surely, this is a way of saying that when we are in pain, letting the Christian community minister to us is where we learn from experience that God is enough.

When we're questioning whether God is enough, it may be because we're thinking of God as a total solution to our problems. But consider this:

There are many folks who have found their way to Church and to God after years of drug and alcohol abuse. A great part of what enables us to embrace the Christian way and continue to live it was the support and love those folks found from members of a church. A church just like us here at St. Bart's.

No this is not a get out of Jail Free Card. Even after coming to Christ life may not easy, but we experience the help of the Lord through the friendships and prayers of faithful people. For example, our brothers and sisters at St. Bart's.

Here's something to think about: I always imagined when I was a kid that adults had some kind of special toolbox, full of shiny tools: the saw of discernment, the hammer of wisdom, the sandpaper of patience.

But when I grew up I found that life handed you these rusty bent up old tools -- friendships, prayer, conscience, honesty love, discernment, doubt -- and God said, "Do the best you can with these, they will have to do. And mostly, against all odds, they're enough."

So Bishop Curry was right. God is enough, Love makes all the difference. We just have to practice it with those rusty tools and look after each other along the way.

And when we do, God is enough!

## Interest List Forming: Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Imagine walking around Bethlehem, sleeping in Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee, renewing wedding vows at Cana, reciting the Stations of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, praying at the Wailing Wall, reaffirming baptismal vows at the River Jordan, visiting Episcopal schools in Ramallah, the Aida Refugee Camp, and so much more. St. Bart's members are planning a trip to the Holy Land in February 2019. If you're interested in attending or would like more information, contact Jill Henderson, Trip Coordinator, 760-807-8445.



## High School Confirmation Information Session

*The Rev. Mary Lynn Coulson*

Are you entering 9th-12th grade? Are you looking for ways to learn more about God, about yourself, and about faith? Wondering what it really means to be a Christian, anyway? Bring your parents and learn more about the high school confirmation group which meets September 2018-June 2019.

**August 19, 12-1 p.m.**



# Regular Meetings

## SUNDAY

### Interfaith Community Services (ICS) - Merle's Place

1st & 3rd Sunday, 4-6 p.m.

Contact Jill Henderson at 760-807-8445.

### Daughters of the King

3rd Sunday at 9:15 a.m., Room 3E

## MONDAY

### Boy Scouts

7 p.m., Parish Hall

### Health and Wellness Ministry

1st Monday at 5:30 p.m., Education Building, Room 3AB

### Hand Bell Choir

7 p.m., Choir Room

## TUESDAY

### The Prayers and Squares Quilt Ministry

Tuesdays (except fifth Tuesday), 1 p.m., Quilt Room

### Centering Prayer

5 p.m., Education Building, Room 3AB

### Our Space

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY

### Interfaith Community Services (ICS)

Serve breakfast, fourth Wednesday at 6:00 a.m.

Contact Denny Walters at (760) 432-8518.

### Thrift Shop Work Night

Last Wednesday at 4:00 p.m., Thrift Shop

### Schola

6 p.m., Choir Room

### Youth CREW

6 p.m., Youth Room

### String Ensemble

7 p.m., Choir Room

## THURSDAY

### Grief and Loss Group

8:30-10 a.m., Education Building

### Book Guild

4th Thursday, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room

### B.P.U.S.A.- Bereaved Parents

4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m., Conference Room

### Choir

7 p.m., Music Room

## AA MEETINGS

Sundays, 6 p.m., Conference Room

Mondays, 9:30 a.m., Parish Hall (Women only)

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., South Parish Hall

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., South Parish Hall (Women only)

Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m., Parish Hall

Thursdays, 12 p.m., South Parish Hall (Beginners)

Fridays, 9:45 a.m., South Parish Hall (Women only)

Fridays, 12 p.m., South Parish Hall and 6 p.m., Room 3AB

Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m., Conference Room

## AL-ANON

Mondays, 12 p.m., South Parish Hall

Tuesdays, 12 p.m., Parish Hall

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*News from the Hill* is a monthly publication of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 16275 Pomerado Road, Poway, CA 92064.

Editor: Kristeen Evans, Communications Manager

Deadline for submission of articles and announcements is the 10th of the month for the next month's newsletter. We welcome your submissions of information for publication. Please contact [news@stbartschurch.org](mailto:news@stbartschurch.org).

## Get the St. Bart's App

Keep up with our St. Bartholomew's community through our app. There are so many ways to use this app - view service times, read St. Bart's Blog articles, listen to Sermons, pray for someone on the Prayers of the People list, get ready for Sunday with Lessons & Readings, and watch past 9am Forum discussions.



- Install Church App-Tithe.ly on your phone.
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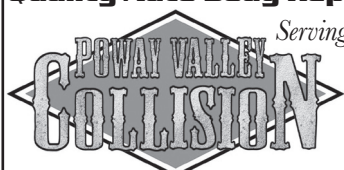
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## Worship Services

**Sundays:** 8 a.m., 10:15 a.m.

**Saturdays:** 5 p.m.

## Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Clergy and Staff

**Clergy** .....858-487-2159 (except as noted)  
The Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, Assisting Bishop .....619-481-5454  
The Rev. Mark C. McKone-Sweet, Rector .....858-432-7107 | revmark@stbartschurch.org  
The Rev. Mary Lynn Coulson, Assistant Rector. ....858-432-7106 | mlcoulson@stbartschurch.org  
The Rev. Chris Harris, Assistant Rector .....858-432-7114 | charris@stbartschurch.org

### Honorary Clergy

The Rev. Robert Crafts, Priest-in-Residence  
The Rev. Roy E. Hoffman, Priest-in-Residence  
The Rev. William Zettinger, Deacon-in-Residence

### Music Ministry

Nathan Costa, Director of Music and Liturgy .....858-432-7112 | ncosta@stbartschurch.org  
Janie Prim, Associate Organist

### Christian Formation for Children and Youth

Alexandra Howard, Children's Minister .....ahoward@stbartschurch.org  
Maureen Hovannesian, Children's Ministry Assistant .....858-432-7102 | children@stbartschurch.org

### St. Bartholomew's Preschool

Cheri Hoffman, Director .....preschool@stbartschurch.org  
Jen Shah, Administrator

### Administrative Staff

Beth Dean, Parish Administrator .....858-432-7110 | bdean@stbartschurch.org  
Lisa Saldamando, Bookkeeper .....858-432-7105 | lsaldamando@stbartschurch.org  
Kristeen Evans, Communications Manager .....858-432-7104 | news@stbartschurch.org  
Treasurer .....858-432-7119 | treasurer@stbartschurch.org  
Mike Jewett, Sexton .....858-432-7120

### Pastoral Care Coordinator

Cathie Roy .....pastoralcare@stbartschurch.org

### St. Bartholomew's Thrift Shop

Laurie Wathen, Manager .....stbarts@att.net

## Vestry and Terms

Dan Crane, Senior Warden	2020
Nancy Petersen, Junior Warden	2019
Pat Blair	2020
Helena Chan	2021
Elaine Coke	2020
Karen Crafts	2021
Mark Davis	2020
Costa Dillon	2019
Jim Grandinetti	2019
Mike Richardson	2019
Cathie Roy	2021
George Tynan	2021
Noah Domke-Rojas, Youth Rep.	2019
Terry McCune, Treasurer	
Pauline Getz-Enos, Chancellor	
Anne Snyder, Clerk	





ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S  
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## *News from the Hill*

July Issue

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church

16275 Pomerado Road

Poway, CA 92064-1826

P: 858-487-2159

F: 858-487-2324

[www.StBartsChurch.org](http://www.StBartsChurch.org)

Change Service Requested

## Vacation Bible School Wrap-Up

Maureen Hovannesian



Thank you to our volunteers who decorated for VBS, checked children in and out, and led rotations! Hope to have you back next year!

