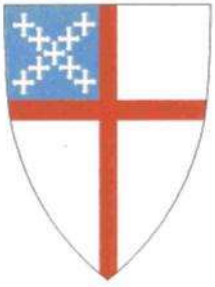


# St. Bartholomew's Church

70 Sheridan Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423



WINTER 2023-2024

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**PLEASE JOIN US  
AT CHRISTMAS!**  
See Schedule on Last Page



St. Bartholomew's Church

**B-LINE**

[www.stbartshhk.com](http://www.stbartshhk.com)



# St. Bartholomew's Church

## CALENDAR - WINTER 2023-2024

**Zoom** activities are by invitation and a link will be emailed.

**Conference calls** can be made to **339-209-6277** (**929-205-6099** for Thurs. Bible Study).

For **YouTube** services, search YouTube for "st bartholomew's episcopal church ho-ho-kus."

For **Instagram**, [www.instagram.com/stbartshhk](http://www.instagram.com/stbartshhk)

For **Facebook**, [www.facebook.com/70Sheridan](http://www.facebook.com/70Sheridan) or "St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ".

Here are our services and activities for the coming months.

**Sundays** 10:00 AM      Worship Service - in person or Live Stream via Zoom,  
Facebook and YouTube (see details above).  
Light refreshments with coffee after worship.

**3rd Sunday of each month (September through June)**

11:30 AM      Vestry Meeting

**Monday through Friday**

9:15 - 9:45 AM      Morning Prayer via conference call (see pg. 8)

**Tuesdays and Fridays**

11:00 AM - 12:00 Noon      Meditation Room open (see p. 8)

**Wednesdays**

7:00 - 8:00 PM      Bible Study via conference call (see pg. 9)

**Thursdays**

10:30 - 11:30 AM      Bible Study via conference call (see pg. 9)

**2nd Saturday of each month**

10:00 - 11:30 AM      Food Pantry open (see pg. 6)

**4th Saturday of each month (3rd Saturday in November & December)**

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM      Food Drive for Oasis Shelter for Women and Children  
in the front parking lot (see pg. 18)

**Sunday, December 10**

3:00 - 6:00 PM      Christmas Party at the Rectory (see pg. 5)

**Friday, December 15**

Deadline for submitting Flower Memorials (see p. 7)

**Sunday-Monday, Dec. 24-25**

CHRISTMAS SERVICES (see pg. 22)

**Sunday, January 28 after the 10 AM service**

Annual Parish Meeting (see pg. 4)

**Thursdays, February 1 - 22**

7:15 - 8:15 PM      Mindfulness at the Rectory (see p. 8)



### ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S B-LINE

Published four times a year by  
ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

70 Sheridan Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey 07423

201-444-5025    [stbartshhk@gmail.com](mailto:stbartshhk@gmail.com)    [www.StBartsHHK.com](http://www.StBartsHHK.com)

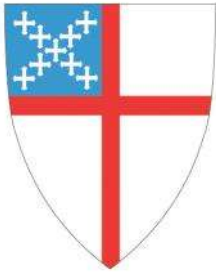
Unless otherwise credited, photos are by Dave Ackerman.

Send all material and photos for publication by email to [DaveAck1@aol.com](mailto:DaveAck1@aol.com).

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# St. Bartholomew's Church

Winter  
2023-2024

## B-LINE

Editor & Publisher  
Dave Ackerman

### *Rev. Cathie's Reflections*

As Christians, seasons of waiting are not new to us. We wait during Lent for the coming of the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Advent is also a season of waiting. In Advent we wait for the birth of Jesus, but more importantly, we wait and reach for a deeper and more intimate relationship with God. This is the time for each of us to recommit to keep the faith and to embrace the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love that we experience and celebrate in this Advent season.

Scholars believe that during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, as well as the celebration of God's incarnation seen at the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matt 2:1), and his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer,

and fasting to prepare for this celebration.

Originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas but by the sixth century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the "coming" they had in mind was not Christ's first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world.

As we approach the end of yet another tumultuous year, Christians seek to turn from the violence, oppression, greed, and hate we see day after day and enter this season focused on the meaning of the awesome gift found among the animals in a stable.

In the time of Jesus' birth, the same negative powers that we experience today filled the world. In those terrible times, Jesus' family, the Magi, and the Shepherds all took hope in God's vision that a world of joy and peace was possible. They took hope and invested in that vision, one as fragile as an infant exposed and vulnerable under the stars.

Advent is intended to be a season of fasting and prayer. Much like Lent, this time can

*(continued)*

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**Wayne Kamidoi**  
**Peggy Kievit**  
**Judy Malhotra**  
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Spring 2024  
B-LINE Articles  
Please send to  
**DaveAck1@aol.com**  
by February 20

cause us to reflect on the destruction of the many gifts that God has given to us. We think about the violence and evil in the world and it drives us to cry out to God to make things right, to cast out death's dark shadows. This exile from God's plan for humanity makes us look forward to the future and the grace we need as we pray for the Holy Spirit to renew the work of conforming us into the image of Christ.

When chaos descends upon us, our instinct is to hide within ourselves. We want to escape it, and we want to lean back into what is familiar. We want to cling to what we know because what we know is comfortable. The trouble is, in our longing for normalcy, we let go of the welcoming hand of grace. In our struggle to hang onto what we used to have, we let joy slip through our fingertips, but in trying to move forward in the chaos, we can grab God's hand because, as he promised, he will never leave us.

Finding joy amid chaos means being honest about what we are facing, and sometimes that takes time. We do not adapt in chaotic times by leaning away from what's in front of us, but by moving with the current of our ever-changing reality. Finding joy in these challenging times means leaning into grace, for ourselves and for others.

To embrace God's grace is to focus our spirit on God's vision of true joy and peace. Let us embrace that vision for ourselves, share that vision with others and work to make it a reality even when the odds seem slim. Hope is not a prediction that things will turn out all right. The grace of God helps us to open the door, even when we feel that we do not have a drop of energy left and walk towards God's vision of a world free from oppression and exploitation. Hope is the creation of space for

something new to unfold.

How do we cultivate hope in ourselves and others? We begin by keeping our eyes and hearts open to witness the miracles in our midst. They may seem small given the challenges we face, but they are life giving. It is so easy to focus on what's broken and unrealized, but take time to celebrate victories, large and small and share them with others, send thank you notes, make phone calls, and give someone a hug. Give thanks for these opportunities in prayer knowing God is moving among us, not necessarily in a time that we understand but always honoring the promises he made.

Next, spend time imagining the kind of nation and world for which we are striving. The prophet Habakkuk told us in chapter 2:2-3 (The Message)

And then God answered: "Write this. Write what you see. Write it out in big block letters so that it can be read on the run. This vision-message is a witness pointing to what's coming. It aches for the coming – it can hardly wait! And it doesn't lie. If it seems slow in coming, wait. It's on its way. It will come right on time."

Hope is contagious. Hope is the force of energy that moves us forward and keeps us from sliding into the abyss of pain. Hope comes in both big and small experiences. The smallest, yet most powerful the world has ever seen was found in the manger. The hope that was born that night changed the world forever!

*In the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love of Advent,*

*Rev. Cathie+*

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE - [WWW.STBARTSHHK.COM](http://WWW.STBARTSHHK.COM)**



## QUARTERLY VESTRY FOCUS

### ***Highlights from the Vestry Meetings June and September 2023***

*(Note October's Vestry Minutes haven't yet been approved so not included in this edition)*

#### **Treasurer:**

Dave Ackerman has reported that our Annual Audit that was prepared by Jack Konzelmann, Ann Woods, Rev. Cathie and himself was sent to the Diocese after the Vestry approved the findings. Our September Treasurer report showed that operating expenses were 65% below budget of operating loss. We have had to withdraw \$70,000 from investments to date for cash flow; \$15,000 of which was for the memorial garden. (Last year this time we had to withdraw \$60,000). Regular contributions are above budget.

#### **Building and Grounds:**

Kathy Gabrielle had presented the Vestry with the following:

Two proposals were presented to the Vestry for necessary pruning of trees on the church and rectory property. The Vestry approved Mahwah Tree Service.

Our AA group has approached us in allowing service dogs to attend their meetings. After discussion at the September meeting, the Vestry decided that they did not want to prohibit a person's comfort in attending a meeting, so service animals will be allowed; with a set of guidelines given to AA.

Judy Malhotra has had further discussion with an iron work vendor for the fabrication of (2) rails up to the altar in the sanctuary vs. installing wooden railings. The quote for the wooden handrails by Smart Home Updates is \$2,135.

Kathy has forewarned the Vestry of the possible upcoming expenses for 2024 additional tree pruning (particularly at the Rectory), sidewalk repair on the Sycamore Ave side of the church, and exterior painting of the entire church (with plaster work).

#### **Outreach:**

Judy Malhotra reported that Saturday morning classes at Oasis have resumed; volunteers are welcome to accompany her and Joan Lupardo. Our once-a-month food donation Saturdays are going well. In September the food drive teamed up with some HHK 8<sup>th</sup> graders which was very successful. An article of this event was featured on the Oasis website. Our school supply drive for the Ramapo Indian tribe was well received, and they look forward to us joining them once again at their Christmas party to receive our donations of children's gifts. The next Diaper Drive is October 7<sup>th</sup>. Judy was able to secure a furniture donation for our Rectory to make it easier to meet and have events in the home. A collection of food and toys for St. Hubert's Animal Shelter is being considered for St. Francis Day.

#### **Memorial Garden:**

The re-planting of the side Memorial Garden has been completed. Peggy Kievit is looking into the charges that have and will continue to incur for our sprinkler system in the Garden from Horizon since we have no contract for these services.

#### **Rev. Cathie:**

**New Office Staff:** The church has hired Sharon Scarpelli as our in-house accountant.

**The Food Pantry:** (Open 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month) continues to grow for those who come.

**The Rectory:** Right now this is being considered a "functional Mission Center" until the Vestry decides it is time to rent the home.

**Adult Study:** Wednesday and Thursday nights are going strong.

**Blessing of the Animals:** October 8<sup>th</sup>.

**2023 Stewardship Theme:** "Rooted in God's Word, Rooted and Grounded in God's Love."

### QUARTERLY VESTRY FOCUS (continued)

#### **New Business:**

**Arts at St. Bart's:** The next scheduled event approved by the Vestry will be a performance by Jenna Esposito on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. The church made a profit of \$260 from the Chamber Music event in June.

**Sunday Church Music:** Discussion on the process of determining the music and songs was held. It was decided that the Prelude and Postlude will be chosen by Soon and the others by Rev. Cathie. It was asked that our Sunday music be more contemporary, uplifting and a wider variety of music presented on Sundays.

#### **Old Business:**

**Senior Recognitions:** Ghada Harb has organized a listing of names to be recognized of past members of our church that used their Stewardship to guide us to where we are now. During a Sunday Service in September, the first names honored were Helen and George Clark. Other names have been assigned dates through the end of this year, continuing into 2024.

**Technology Ministry:** Instead of investing in a desk that would only secure some of the AV items, the team is considering it might be better to have a room constructed at the back of the Sanctuary to store everything in-place. Further discussion and quotes are being obtained.

**Marketing:** Wayne Kamidoi is working on a write up for the upcoming Jenna Esposito event for the newspapers. We were on the Borough of Ho-Ho-Kus website for the Blessing of the Animals and the Jenna Esposito events.

Respectfully submitted by: Kathy Gabrielle, Warde

### **NOTICE OF OUR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

St. Bartholomew's **109th Annual Parish Meeting** will take place on **Sunday, January 28, 2024** after the 10 AM service. Complimentary brunch will be served before we begin.

The Vestry and other staff members will report on their activities for 2023, the Treasurer will present his financial report and propose a budget for 2024, and we'll elect delegates to the 2024 Diocesan Convention. The Vestry welcomes members to serve as delegates or to fill our many volunteer positions. If you would like to serve in any capacity, please speak to one of our Wardens, Kathy Gabrielle or Ghada Harb; their contact information is on the title page.

This is your opportunity to ask questions, offer suggestions, and learn how our Vestry keeps St. Bart's running smoothly. Please mark your calendars and join us on **January 28** for our annual meeting!

**NOTE FOR THOSE SUBMITTING REPORTS:** Please email your reports to the office by **JANUARY 10**.



*Volunteers are always welcome at St. Bart's. You can serve God as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, Acolyte, Choir Member, Collection Counter, Verger, Altar Guild Member, Coffee Hour Host - there's a place for everyone. The duties are not difficult, your fellow volunteers will be friendly and helpful - and the retirement benefits are out of this world! Please speak to Kathy Gabrielle or Rev. Cathie; their contact information is on page 1.*



*St. Bartholomew's Christmas Party*

*Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>*

*3pm-6pm*

*At the Rectory*

*Please bring an appetizer  
or dessert to share.*

*“Christmas, my child, is love in action.”*

*~ Dale Evans Rogers*

*St. Bartholomew's Cares  
Feeding Body, Mind, & Spirit*



*Open on the second Saturday  
Of the month 10:00-11:30am*

*If there is a need at another time, please call  
201-444-5025.*

*If you would like to volunteer at the pantry,  
please let Rev. Cathie know.*



## CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Please use the enclosed Christmas Flower Memorial Envelope to memorialize or honor your loved ones at our Christmas services. (On-line copies, please use the form included in your covering e-mail. Or you may pick up a flower memorial envelope in the Narthex or at the rear door.) Your contribution will go toward decorating the altar with the lovely flowers that add so much to the Christmas services.

Please submit your envelopes or requests to the church office no later than **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15** for the names to be listed in the Christmas service bulletins. Thank you!

But you don't have to wait for Christmas or Easter to remember your loved ones. Fresh flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday. You can contribute toward their cost, and your loved ones will be listed in the Sunday bulletin. Please contact the office.

## **PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER - SHARON SCARPELLI**



It's been about 12 weeks since I started working at St. Bartholomew's and it has been great! Dave has been getting me up to speed on all the various aspects of my position as Staff Accountant.

My husband Rich and I have four children: Matthew 21, Mackenzie 19, Reagan 17, and Riley 15. We also have a black lab named Finn. We enjoy spending quality family time together in the Outer Banks, family dinners and an occasional game night!

For the last eight years, I have served as a Trustee on the Glen Rock Board of Education. I have held the position of President or Vice President for the majority of my time on the board. During my tenure as President, I helped in hiring a Superintendent, negotiated contracts with the GREA and GRAA, worked for the passing of a referendum for air conditioning in the elementary schools, renovating the MS/HS media center and improved the ball fields at Hamilton school. Most importantly, I supported the successful and safe opening of our schools for in-person learning during the pandemic.

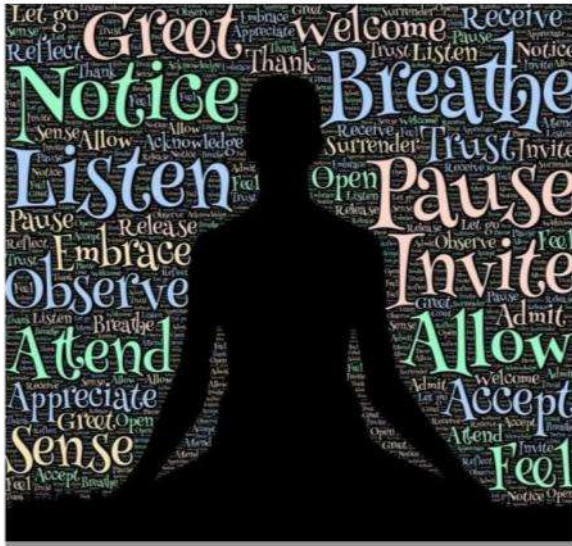
Before putting my career on hold to stay home with my children, I was a senior manager at BCRS Associates, a boutique tax firm, which specialized in tax planning for ultra high net worth individuals. Prior to working there, I had worked for KPMG Peat Marwick and Goldman Sachs. I am a NYS CPA and a graduate of Fordham University – Go RAMS!

When I am not running around with my kids or serving on the Board of Ed, I volunteer with Healing Meals. I enjoy reading, running, and spending time with friends.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone at St. Bart's in the near future.

# Our Spiritual Journey Together...

## Reducing Stress, Caring for Body, Mind, and Spirit



Meditation Room is open Tuesday and Friday from 11am-Noon. Guided meditation on the Beatitudes along with silent reflection will be offered.

Mindfulness encompasses two key ingredients: awareness and acceptance. Awareness is the knowledge and ability to focus attention on the experience of the present moment.

Acceptance is the ability to observe and accept—rather than judge or avoid.



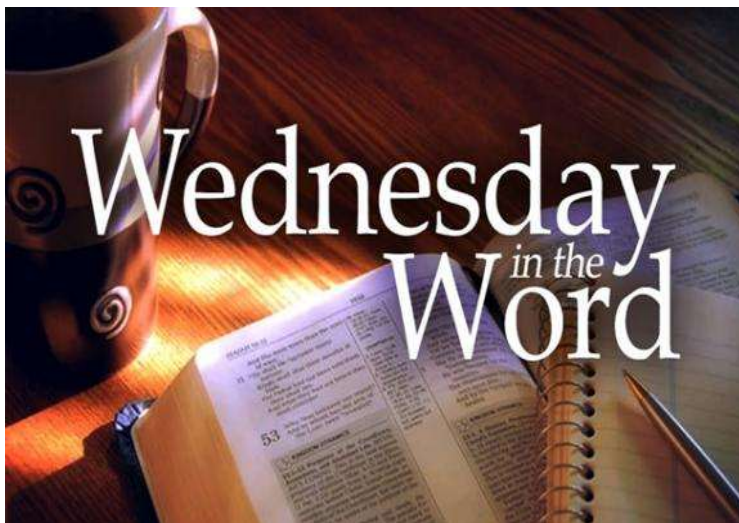
**Beginning Thursday, February 1**

Join us at the Rectory on Thursdays from 7:15-8:15pm for a 4-week series on the practice of mindfulness.



## Our Spiritual Journey Together...

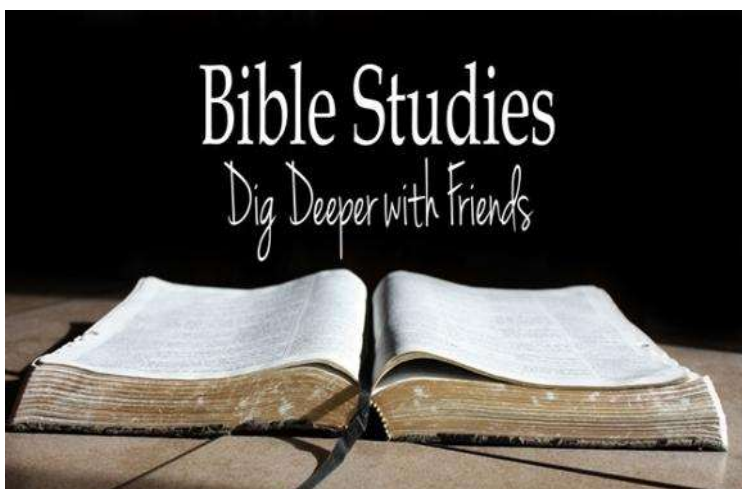
Monday-Friday at 9:15  
Call 339-209-6277



Wednesday Night 7:00

The Book of Romans  
See email for logon information

Conference Call  
929-205-6099

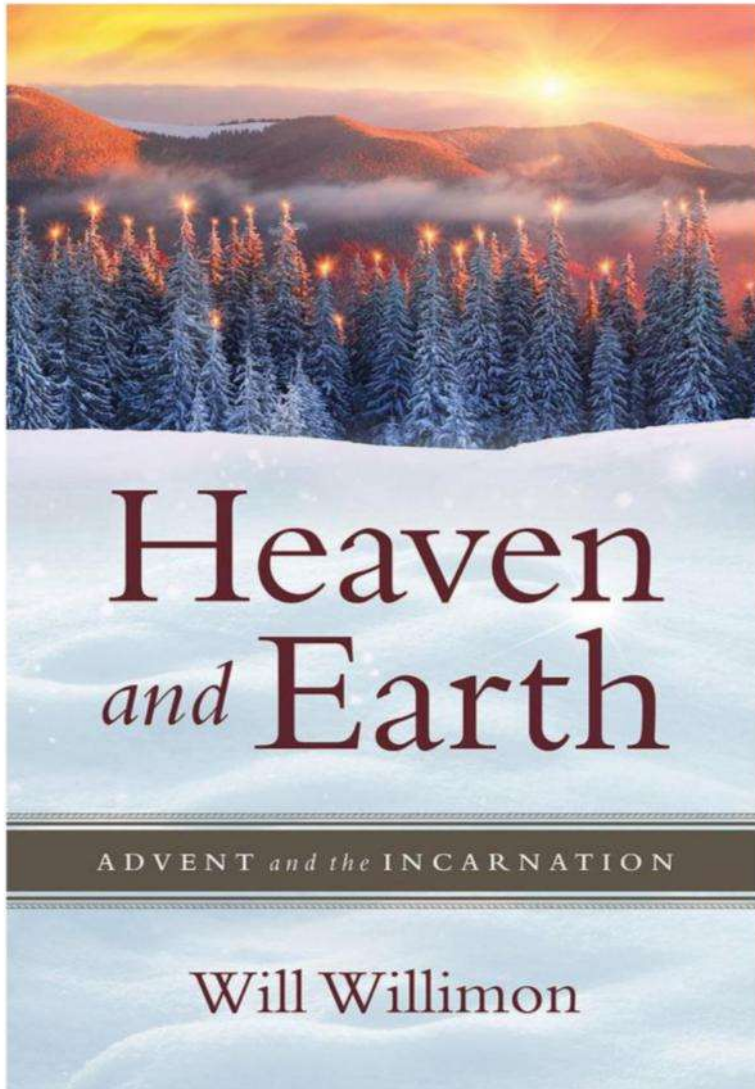


Thursday Morning

A study of the Prophets  
10:30-11:30

Conference Call  
339-209-6277

# Advent 2023 Study



Join us for coffee hour  
conversations beginning  
on December 3

## SENIOR TRIBUTES

Many church members that we love and see no more planted seeds leaving lasting memories. Each month we will honor one or more of these. A church member will research our records and interview our parishioners, then make a presentation at a Sunday service. These presentations will be shared with our members via the B-Line. Here are the first two.

### Honoring Dorothy Becica

Dorothy Dockray was born in Waldwick in 1916 and grew up in Ridgewood. Coming from a good Episcopalian family, she worshiped at Christ Church and later taught Sunday School there. She attended Ridgewood schools, and after graduating from Paterson State Teacher's College in 1939 she taught in the Waldwick school system. After her marriage she moved to Ho-Ho-Kus where she lived for the next 60 years.

During her time in Ho-Ho-Kus, Dorothy was a substitute and teacher's aide in the Ho-Ho-Kus Public School and a librarian at the Ho-Ho-Kus library. She was a Trustee of the library for fourteen years including six of them as President. When she joined St. Bartholomew's, and her teaching experience became known, she was immediately recruited to teach Sunday School. Later she became one of the first women to serve on the Vestry.



*Dorothy in 2006*

But Dorothy's greatest contributions to St. Bart's came when our Rector, Charles Judson Child, invited her to join the Altar Guild. This became her major service to the Lord for the next 50 years. She used her sewing skills to make many of our communion linens. Dorothy was Directress of the Altar Guild for many years.

In the 1960s Bishop Leland Stark invited her to head the Diocesan Altar Guild. Dorothy declined this honor as Newark was not a safe place in those days.

Wendy Dockray, a former Warden at St. Bart's whose father and Dorothy were first cousins, shared this:

"Dorothy's work with the Altar Guild, including sewing and embroidering cloths, along with her time as Clerk stand out to me as important contributions to the church. She was truly a gracious and devoted member of St. Bart's."

Mike O'Neill, a massage therapist who cared for Dorothy a few years ago, recalls her as "a very nice lady."

And Ghada Harb, now Director of our Altar Guild, shares this:

"You cannot be in Altar Guild and not hear about Dorothy Becica. When I first started with Altar Guild, one of the most precise instructions I received was how to care for the altar linens. I was given a typed manual by Dorothy Becica for laundering, ironing and folding the altar linens. This manual is still used to this day to instruct new and existing members. If you have ever handled one of the St. Bartholomew's altar linens that has been embroidered ever so precisely, know that Dorothy's hands were at play. Yes we still have a few of those. Her memory is eternal!"

In 2005 Dorothy and her son John moved to Palmer Township, Pennsylvania, near Easton, where she lived until her passing in 2014. She is buried in the family plot in Valleau Cemetery.

So now you know about Dorothy Becica, a lesser-known member who made significant and lasting contributions to the life of St. Bartholomew's Church.

*Dave Ackerman*

## Honoring George and Helen Clark

As you heard from Pastor Cathie, we are honoring the seeds that George and Helen Clark had sown in our Parish, and we continue to this day to see bloom and flourish in our midst.

I truly enjoyed talking with several of you as you joyfully and reverently spoke and emailed me about your memories of George and Helen and their contributions, and it gave me great insight on the wonderful parishioners that they were in our church. I am honored to share my learnings.

Helen and George Clark moved to the area in the early 1950s to Waldwick and joined our church and made numerous contributions to our Church Family. George was a vestry member several times and since his profession was commercial architecture, he was happy to support our church in many of the projects that you see and enjoy today.

He oversaw the expansion and renovation of our school rooms; the Chancel and sanctuary were also added under his guidance which gave the church a cruciform shape. The beautiful ceiling that you see here was exposed and the trusses were added to support the roof. Just look how beautiful it is.

George also designed the altar and altar rail for the sanctuary as well as the pascal candle and baptismal font that we still use today. Windows were replaced in accordance with his design and the etchings were done by one of George's skilled contacts from his architectural network and as you know they are totally unique and definitely works of art. Do you look up to the top of our roof as you enter our church? If you do you will see the beautiful cross that George also designed. Our free-standing altar table was designed by George and materials were used when the altar was lowered and resized. The walnut frames, wainscoting for the walls and tabernacle, a focal point for our congregation. And we kneel for our communion at the railing that was also designed by George.

I do recall the blessing of the beautifully designed sanctuary lamp and the honoring of George's design and how humble he was during that recognition. He always made sure that everyone felt he was just one of us with his lighthearted humor and welcoming approach to all young and old alike, as well as new or well-established members of the congregation. We also credit George's gift of architectural design of our memorial garden on the south side along with the Celtic cross in the center that was from Vermont. The wood panel and plaques of those interred in our garden was also his design.

Wow! How much surrounds us today that sprung its beauty and efficient function from the seeds George planted with his God given gift of architectural design and love for our church. All of this couldn't have happened without Helen Clark's quiet demeanor and support for her husband's work in our Parish and testament to her love of her church. As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "A man's wife has more power over him than the state has." She was a member and dedicated supporter of the women's group in our church. Did you know that she also served as a director to the YMCA in Ridgewood.

Kathy Gabrielle shared from her mother-in-law Evelyn that Helen was a leader and has led and supported many fundraisers and activities in our church. She chaired the annual antique show, organized Advent woman's teatime, co-chaired craft fairs, assisted in the collection of items for annual Action Auction. She also shared her influence and wonderful writing skills to keep our church happenings in the Ridgewood News as a liaison.

Both Helen and George were very hospitable and opened their home to many parishioners as I have learned. They continued to plant seeds of love and encouragement of parishioners of all ages. Toby Winiarski shared how he was honored to be invited to dine with the Clarks and remembers thinking that he was one of the youngest invited. Many of you shared stories of their hospitality. This reminded me of a saying by Homer: "There is nothing nobler or more admirable than two people who see eye to eye, keep house as a man and woman, confronting their enemies and delighting their friends."

Here are some more of George's accomplishments. Did you know he served as Commissioner and also Mayor of Ridgewood in the 1960s? As Commissioner he was in charge of public works and

*(continued)*

### Honoring George and Helen Clark (continued)

during his tenure as mayor, he lobbied to ensure the continuation of commuter rail service to Bergen County when Erie Lackawanna Railway had threatened to shut it down. (Can you imagine how much different Bergen County would've been if that train actually shut down?)

Also, at the time he served as mayor the Civil Rights movement was at a critical time in our country. George worked hard to keep communication open amongst black and white communities in Ridgewood to establish racial reconciliation and harmony. The conviction of his faith was a significant factor in his actions as our previous Pastor Dan and Janet Kreller shared.



*George and Helen in 2005*

Did you know that if it weren't for George, Michael Gnerre would not be in the Choir? As he shared one year when he agreed to sing just for Christmas, George cleared the seat next to him for rehearsal so Michael could sit as he coached him on the nuances of singing bass. After the rehearsal he put his arm around Michael and said "Let's go find you a robe." Michael stated, but I do not need a robe since I am only singing for Christmas. George replied: "Oh come on, you might as well sing this Sunday. It'll be fine, I will help you." And the rest is history as Michael shared that he is forever grateful to George for taking him under his wing.

Virginia Smith remembers the wonderful neighbors in Helen and George when they lived in Waldwick and the kids played together. In fact, through my conversation with Virginia I learned that Merry Smith would be able to connect me with their son Russell whom we are pleased to have in attendance today with his Fiancée Beth McInnis as well as his daughter Hayley.

George also reminded Dave Ackerman often of his admiration of his father as a Ho-Ho-Kus Councilman. And Dave shared George's admiration of Isaiah as he advised him with this: "Be sure you assign someone with a strong voice to read Isaiah. Isaiah needs a strong voice!!!" In fact he also complimented Toby on the way he read the lesson. Toby shared he was glad that someone paid attention to what he was reading. As for the ushers, he always accepted a helping hand on the way down from taking communion and was resilient to stay independent on the way up.

It is such a pleasure to have talked with so many of you about George and Helen and what an honor to know them through you and see the impact of the seeds they have planted. Both have tirelessly worked to make our church life so beautiful and loving during their time and many more years as their legacy lives on. They epitomized the saying by Robert Louis Stevenson "Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap, but by the seed that you plant."

I am sure that there are many other contributions and stories, too many to name, just keep them coming as they are the fiber that knits our tapestry together.

I will leave you with this as a remembrance of George and Helen Clark from May Sarton:

"I would like to believe when I die that I have given myself away like a tree that sows seed every spring and never counts the loss, because it is not loss, it is adding to the future life. It is the tree's way of being. Strongly rooted perhaps but spilling out its treasure on the wind."

Thanks be to God for the seeds that George and Helen planted in the life of St. Bartholomew's.

**Ghada Harb**

### HO-HO-KUS DAY

The Second Annual Ho-Ho-Kus Day was held on the town green on September 9. Ghada Harb, Rev. Cathie Studwell, Judy Malhotra and other parishioners staffed our booth, greeted our neighbors, and promoted our many activities including The Arts at St. Bart's and Outreach.



### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual Blessing of the Animals took place on Sunday, Oct. 8. Judy Malhotra created a sign promoting the event. Rev. Cathie blessed nearly a dozen dogs. We collected food and toys for St. Hubert's Animal Center in Madison.







**ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Did you know that olive trees take 15 years to mature, and their roots can reach up to 23 ft below the ground? An olive tree life span is 500 years, the oldest of which is 1500 years old. So, what is the relevance here?

Our St. Bartholomew's Church Gardeners' commitment to our community garden is equal to that of the olive trees. Our roots are deep, though we are relatively young as we started it just 6 years ago. We plant the seeds, nourish, and watch them grow as we share our bounty with our Oasis partners and enjoy it with our parishioners and neighbors.



Our garden is now in dormancy readying itself for our spring season in 2024. The last Harvest was at the end of October (pictured at right). We would love to add gardeners to our list. Reach out and Join our Spring 2024 Season; we would love to have you.

As Audrey Hepburn said: "To Plant a Garden is to Believe in Tomorrow." I would just add to her saying, like this: "To Plant a Garden is to Believe in a Better Tomorrow."

Come join us, we always have room for YOU!

*Ghada Harb*



**TRIPLE BLESSING:** After our September 17 service, Rev. Cathie blessed our new American and Episcopal flags (with Boy Scouts Austin and Trevor Hintz, our new roof, and our renovated Memorial Garden (with Memorial Garden Committee chair Peggy Kievit).

## OUTREACH

OASIS continues to be an important part of our St. Bart's outreach program. Joan and I shared our knowledge of Art with 20 plus young children in the Rise & Shine Saturday morning Fall program. It consisted of 10 weeks of art lessons and a wonderful field trip to the Montclair Museum of Art.

Kathy Kamidoi came along and helped make our trip a success. Part of the tour included a hands-on workshop for the students. A tour of the museum and a studio experience! What a great day for children who have never had an opportunity like this.

In addition to our monthly food collection for Oasis, we had a special Animal food and supply donation day which coincided with our Blessing of the Animals (see page 14). We will be taking our own field trip shortly to St. Hubert's Animal Center in Madison to deliver all these wonderful supplies to our four legged friends.

Peggy continues to guide us in the diaper donation for Goshen. Thanks Peggy!

Blessed Holidays to All!

*Judy Malhotra*



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK**





*For all of the donations of food, diapers,  
and pet supplies that you have donated  
this year.*

*You are the Message of love and support  
for those in need!*



### THE ARTS AT ST. BART'S presents JENNA ESPOSITO



Back in 2008 a young and relatively unknown singer, Jenna Esposito, and her band performed for us to an enthusiastic audience. Now, with a career that has taken her all across the country, she made a return visit to us on October 15. singing a variety of 50s-60s pop and rock selections and standards from the Great American Songbook.



Jenna and her band: David Crone on keyboard, Jenna's father Fortune on guitar, and her nephew Charlie Broelmann on drums.



At the reception following the concert, Jenna was happy to meet us and sign her albums.

### MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION



To benefit **OASIS - A Haven for Women & Children**  
10:45-12:15 on the Fourth Saturday of Each Month  
(Third Saturday in November & December)  
Front Driveway, St. Bart's, 70 Sheridan Ave., Ho-Ho-Kus  
**Let us serve God by serving those in need.**

**ITEMS NEEDED:** Bottled Water, Individually Wrapped Snacks, Peanut Butter & Jelly, Cans of Soup, Tuna, Chili, Pasta, Rice, Boxes of Mac and Cheese, Cereal, Oatmeal, Tomato Sauce, Diapers, Crayons, Pencils, Colored Pencils, Sharpeners, Sketchbooks

**REMINDER - Please fill out your PLEDGE FORM and send it to the church office. Thank you!**

## Prayer Requests

*Kindly keep the following parishioners and friends in your prayers:*

Virginia, Joan, Allan, Audrey, Evelyn, Rich, Becky, Jeffrey, Vern, John, Rakesh, Brigida, Beth, Jennifer, Grace, Paula, Judy, Bill, Dick, Pasquale, Rick, Chris, Mike, Andrew, Veronica, Sherri, Don, Kathleen, Lisa, Sarah, Daniel, Jen, Milë, Bonnie, Susan, Peter, Nancy, Bonnie, Jim, Denise, Karen, Margie, Susan, Chuck, Cindy, Jennifer, Mel, Donna, Janet, Ed, Marion, Tom, Fred, Tom, Brad



For our nation that we may heal and join together.

For our President, Vice President, and all Elected Officials.

For all families suffering from the loss of a loved one.

Prayers for those who are grieving the loss of people globally and in the United States who have died from COVID-19.

We pray for those suffering in our country and around the world.

We pray for those whose lives are forever changed because of senseless gun violence.

We pray for the people that have suffered damage and loss from wars and natural disasters.

We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine.

We pray for the people in Maui, those impacted by hurricane Idalia, and those impacted by the floods in Libya.

We pray for peace between all nations; we pray for the people of Ukraine.

For Wounded Warriors, All Medical Professionals, First Responders, Educators, Grocery Store Workers, Delivery People, and Everyone working to help our country.

Our Wardens, Vestry, All Ministry Teams, and all Parish members needing prayer.

*Please remember in your prayers the friends and families of our parishioners and neighbors who are serving in the military:*

Bobby, USA    Nicholas, USMC    Miles, USA

Please contact the Church office at 201-444-5025 or [StBartsHHK@gmail.com](mailto:StBartsHHK@gmail.com) if you would like a name added to or deleted from the prayer list.

### JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND

We pray without ceasing,  
for justice, reconciliation, peace,  
and an end to hatred and war.

We also pray for God to change the hearts  
of all leaders and decision-makers  
in our countries and around the world.

For we are in dire need of hearts that love, show mercy,  
and are willing to live in unity with others,  
hearts that respect human dignity  
and choose life rather than death.

God of peace and justice, hear our prayers.

Amen.

*Prayer by Archbishop Hosam Naoum, the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem.*

## SUSAN CORDES BLACKWOOD

Susan Cordes Blackwood, 83, celebrated life from February 28, 1940 until October 9, 2023. She passed away at Kendal-on-Hudson in Sleepy Hollow, NY, after a brave struggle with cancer, her partner, Kamel Bahary, at her side.

Susan was born in 1940 to the late John and Mary ("Mae") Bernhardt Cordes. They were a close-knit family, and Susan was a much-loved daughter. She grew up in Ho-Ho-Kus, where she lived for 70 years, graduating from Ridgewood High School and later from Elmira College.

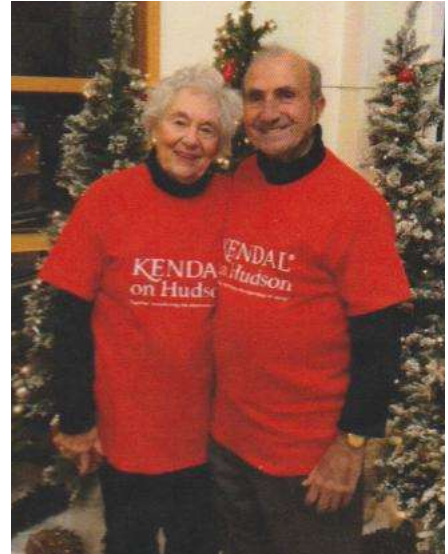
Susan had a successful career as an educator, teaching both first and second grade at Ho-Ho-Kus Elementary School and the Reynolds School in Upper Saddle River. She was beloved by students, parents and staff. After her retirement, she volunteered at Valley Hospital and managed several rental properties.

She was a cheerful and happy person. When Susan entered a room, her joy and positivity could be felt by all. Susan was always willing to help someone in need and her generous spirit touched many lives. Her laugh was contagious, her smile ever-present and her kindness front and center each and every day. Being in Susan's company made everyone feel better. Susan loved to travel and experience all that the world has to offer. She also enjoyed skiing, bicycling, and swimming. She especially loved spending time at her family's summer home in Montauk, New York exploring the town, walking the beach, and creating a host of memories. Susan was a member of St. Bartholomew's for many years; her mother, Mae Cordes, was St. Bart's first woman warden.

She is survived by her partner of 50 years, Kamel Bahary, and by numerous cousins and lifelong friends. She lived at Kendal-on-Hudson for only a year, but in that time made many new friends. Everyone she met immediately loved her.

A funeral service for Susan was held on October 27, 2023, at St. Bartholomew's, with over 75 in attendance.

*Adapted from obituary published on Legacy.com by C.C. Van Emburgh, Ridgewood.*



*Susan and Kamel, 2022 Christmas card*

### DONATE TO THE COMMUNITY THRIFT SHOP AND HELP ST. BART'S

The Community Thrift Shop is in the rear of Kings,  
85 Godwin Ave, Suite 33, Midland Park, NJ 07432

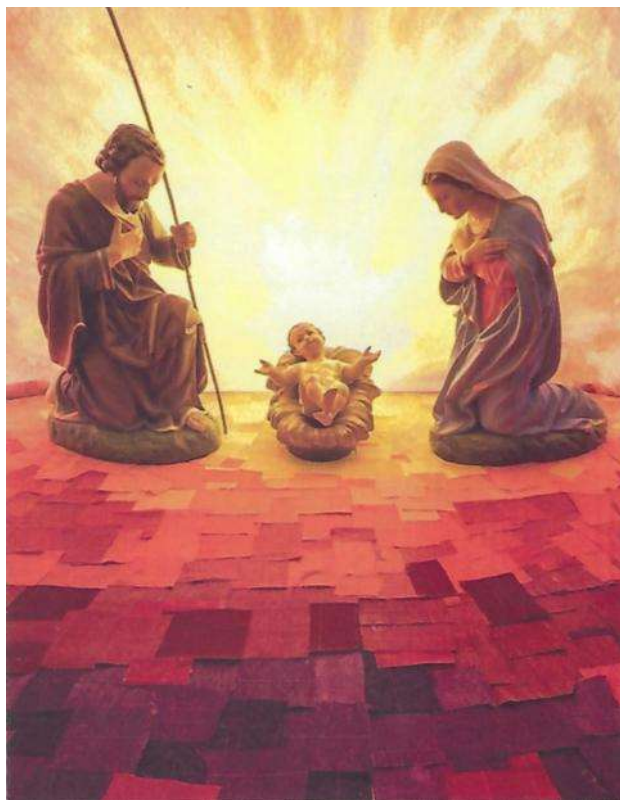
Google "Community Thrift Shop Midland Park" or phone 201-652-7661  
to learn what hours they are open and what items they are accepting.

How your donation helps St. Bart's: You drop off **items marked with #43**.  
St. Bart's receives a quarterly check for 30% of the sales of items marked with #43.

### <<<<<< BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES (previous page)

If your birthday or anniversary, or your children's birthdays, are not listed in the B-Line, please contact us at 201-444-5025, or StBartsHHK@gmail.com, or 70 Sheridan Avenue, Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423.

For security purposes, the birthday and anniversary page has been excluded from the version on our website.



## *Come Let Us Adore Him*

**December 24, 10:00am Advent 4 Worship**  
In~Person and On Line

**December 24, 4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship**  
In~Person and On Line

**December 25, 10:00am Christmas Day Worship**  
In~Person and On~Line