



ST. B'S ANNUAL 30 DAYS OF GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY

SET TO SAIL

Moving toward God. Moving toward the world. Moving toward the poor

All Aboard

FR. SAMMY WOOD, RECTOR



Over the last two decades, Bishop Tom Wright has been such a wonderful conversation partner to me through his writings. At the beginning of the pandemic, when I needed help making sense of the state of the world, his was one of the first voices I sought out. As usual, he anticipated the question I brought:

So often when people look out on the world and its disasters they wonder, why God doesn't just march in and take over? Why doesn't he send a thunderbolt and put things right?

His answer would change how I thought about my vocation and God's call on St. Bartholomew's:

The answer is that God does send thunderbolts — human ones. He sends in the poor in Spirit, the meek, the mourners, the peacemakers, the hungry-for-justice people. They are the way God wants to act in his world.

Reading those words planted the seed of an idea that would become the Barque of St. Bartholomew, a vision for how God is shaping and sending us — shaping us through worship, formation, and community, and then sending us into the world with the gospel to love our neighbors and serve the poor.

It's in that vision that I'm asking you to invest your resources — your energy, prayer, and finances — in the coming year. I'm convinced God is inviting us to join Him in what he's already up to in the world around us, and in these pages is a narrative of how we see God moving us forward in 2021 and beyond.

As you pray about your commitment to St. B's, take some time to reflect in gratitude on the ways God has blessed you, then ask God how you're invited to respond in generosity. God's power at work in us can do even more than we ask or imagine (Eph. 3.20). May we all find the courage to sail with Him into the deep.

With gratitude for you and God's work among us —

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sammy Wood'.

Fr. Sammy Wood, Rector



**Held in the hull of our Barque, called St. Bartholomew, we are set to sail in 2021:
Moving toward God. Moving toward the world. Moving toward the poor.**

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples,
and he said to them, "Let us go."
Luke 8:22 (MSG)

ALMIGHTY GOD, WHOSE LOVING HAND HATH GIVEN US ALL
THAT WE POSSESS: GRANT US GRACE THAT WE MAY HONOR
THEE WITH OUR SUBSTANCE. AND, REMEMBERING THE ACCOUNT
WHICH WE MUST ONE DAY GIVE, MAY BE FAITHFUL STEWARDS
OF THY BOUNTY, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.

BCP P. 827

The Barque of St. Bartholomew

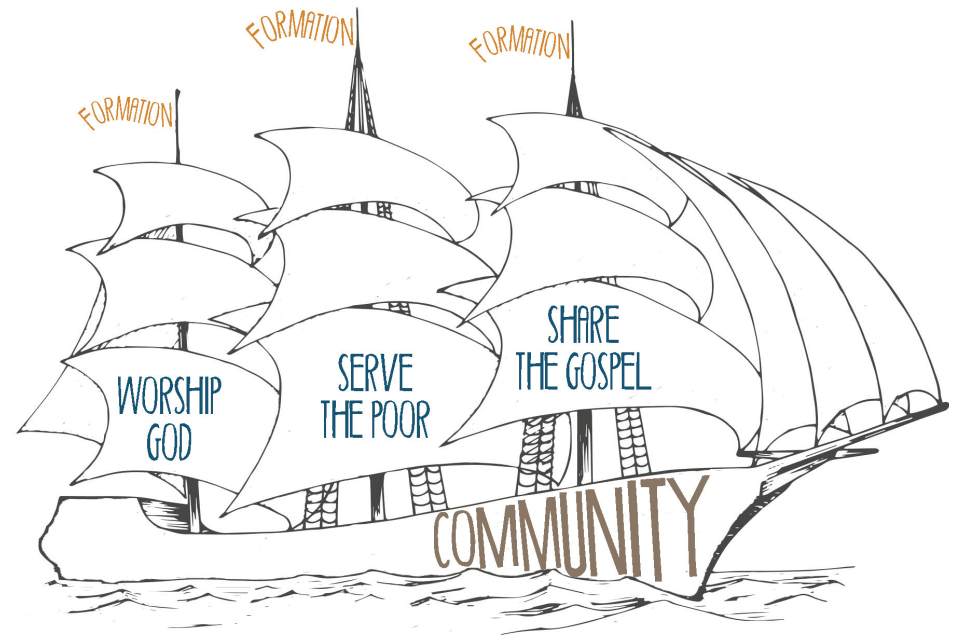
RODGER DINWIDDIE, STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

In 1966 Robert Kennedy is quoted as saying “Like it or not, we live in interesting times! A time of uncertainty and danger but they are also the most creative of anytime in the history of mankind”

UNTIL NOW!

If we have learned anything in 2020, it is the importance of connection and community. It is something we have missed. As our community enters this interesting time of stewardship we have a clear vision set before us.

God is calling us to sail into familiar waters at a very unfamiliar time. Our image of the barque reminds us that without the resources of energy, wind, a crew and someone at the helm, the barque does not move. Just as the barque needs resources, so does St. Bartholomew's. Our community is being called to share the good news with our neighbors, locally and globally. To do this we will need community, being with one another to be reenergized, and renewed through worship. And, we will seek acts of service that foster relationships where it will be clearly said of us, as it was said of the early Church, “See how they love one another.”



THE BARQUE OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW
MOVING TOWARD THE WORLD, THE POOR, AND GOD.

*“By this shall all men know that you are my disciples,”
Jesus tells the Apostles, “if you have love one for another.”
John 13:35*

The hull of the barque is the community at St. Bs! As a community we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus on this new journey. As one dear friend has often said, people need “Jesus with skin on.”

We all are needed on this voyage. Read on to learn of the places we will sail with your promise for 2021.



Stewardship is part of *worship*, and the third sail that carries us on our journey. In the barque as God's church, we gather every Sunday and hear the offertory invitation from the Book of Common Prayer:

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offering and come into his courts. *Psalms 96:8*

We approach God with our offering to return a portion of His provision not because it is merely the "right" thing to do, but because we are responding, in worship, to His great love for us.

We come into his courts with humility—perhaps an extra dose of humility after a year like this one. In honoring God with our finances, we find ourselves restored by and reminded of His grace. God's boundless gifts

Moving Toward God

ANDREW &
TOWLES KINTZ



of generosity are more than we could ever hope to return to Him, and yet He rejoices as we draw near with whatever we have to offer.

The masts of the Barque is "Formation." As our spiritual lives grow and develop, so does our perspective on giving. Gradually, it moves from an obliging, ritualistic act to one of devotion. The invitation continues:

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Giving is, inherently, an act of sacrifice, and the self-reflection it requires yields transformation. As individuals and as a community, the ways in which we give, and the tension that exists between our own desires and those which are more divinely inspired, help fashion us into vessels of infinite purpose. The act of giving draws us closer to the heart of God, a sacrifice formed of devotion. In so doing, we begin to perceive all that we have as something that has been His, all along.

In giving, we receive spiritual formation. In giving, we participate in worship and devotion; and in giving, we become more careful stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

Moving Toward the World

SALLY CHAMBERS-



It is no coincidence that in the same year that we have been forced as a people to forsake 4800 Belmont Park Terrace as our primary gathering place, Fr. Sammy began to speak to us about the role of *evangelism* in our life as a church family.

Evangelism, the invitation to be messengers of the Good News of God in the world, is the first sail on the Barque of St. Bartholomew. Though we may grieve our “exile” from church buildings and large gatherings, it has created new opportunity for us (literally and figuratively) to move toward the world and into a deeper understanding of evangelism.

For most of 2020, we literally moved toward the world. We made altars in our home. We gathered for worship, community, and formation in small groups on patios, drive-ways, and club house lawns. We streamed videos to share, inform, worship, and grow. Love it or hate it, we conquered Zoom as a way to connect and see each other’s faces while in exile.

Our weekly worship, daily prayer, and seasonal classes became available and accessible to people all over the world. And because of this ten new households found their way to rest in our pews because of both our online presence and word-of-mouth.

In particular this year, we had *Good News* to share with the neighborhood. We had grass, gardens, and pavement that provide plenty of space to be



together yet socially distant. On many a day in 2020, this was *really* Good News. Some of our best evangelism to both the neighborhood and the city might very well have been a parking lot for riding bikes, a path to walk with a friend, picnic benches to eat with Grandparents, a gym so the preschool could open, and plenty of grass for both frisbees and worship.

Albeit *unintentionally*, the great pivot of 2020 moved us as people toward the world, and put wind in the sail of evangelism. Investment in our facility, grounds, technology, staffing, and communications, will help us to raise this sail again in 2021. Imagine what we can do as a people when we *intentionally* contribute to the means through which we share the Good News of God in Jesus with a world in need.



The second sail of the Barque of St. Bartholomew invites us as a people to move toward the poor. When Fr. Sammy preached on this sail, he defined poor as more than those who are without money. Additionally, he extended the word poor to include more than people: The earth, too, could be considered poor and in need.

In 2020, the vestry re-committed St. Bartholomew's to the work of caring for creation by designating money to revive composting and reducing our contribution to landfills.

But this year saw us move toward the poor in many others ways. *St. B's gave 18 cents for every dollar away* — much of that to the poor.

Moving Toward the Poor

BRIAN ROARK



When so many are suffering, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. How can I help? Where do I begin? One of the beauties of going to a church with long-established opportunities and commitment for service is that we don't have to look far to find ways to serve. Have you volunteered as a host or innkeeper for Room in the Inn yet? Prepared and shared a meal with someone hungry? Welcomed a weary stranger at the doors of Siloam Health's new clinic in Antioch? St. B's has a long history of participating in vital local programs which provide hospitality to our neighbors through the winter (Room in the Inn), health care to the uninsured and underserved, training in whole-person care for medical students (Siloam), and housing assistance (Rooftop Nashville). We provide gifts, lunch, and a place to celebrate for the Thistle Farms Residential Program graduates. And we support parishioner, Nathan Lee who brings the transformative power of art to prisoners in his Send a Musician to Prison ministry. In partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee, we support the Beloved Community: Commission for Racial Reconciliation, founded in 2017 and currently working to encourage voting education and registration.

Fr. Sammy put wind into this sail this year when he created a new, volunteer staff position, the Assistant to the Rector for Justice and Mercy. This new role, created to seek new ways to serve the poor and bring healing, sets St. Bartholomew's up to raise this sail in 2021 with a renewed focus on *serving the poor*.

Planning to Sail

BOB GARTH



Each year and sometimes more frequently, the vestry, in collaboration with the Rector and staff, develops a financial plan. Ideally, this plan reflects the priorities of St Bartholomew's. The way we spend our financial resources should reflect who we are and who we intend to be. With this in mind, we have analyzed the priorities of the draft 2021 financial plan (budget.)

Traditional budgets segregate expenditures into functional areas such as personnel, operations, mission & outreach and so forth. This analysis attempts to segregate expenses into the rhythms of the Barque of St Bartholomew. Note: some of our expenses support all of our activities. The clergy, staff, facilities and administration are employed in furthering all 5 rhythms of the Barque. Therefore, the 2021 draft financial plan has been allocated into Evangelism, Service, Worship, Formation and Community.

Evangelism is 13.5% or \$202,500 of our 2021 financial plan. Most of this is reflected in our funding of outside ministries that are proclaiming the word and love of Christ. Over 15% of this amount is a reflection of the time that the clergy and staff devote to this priority.








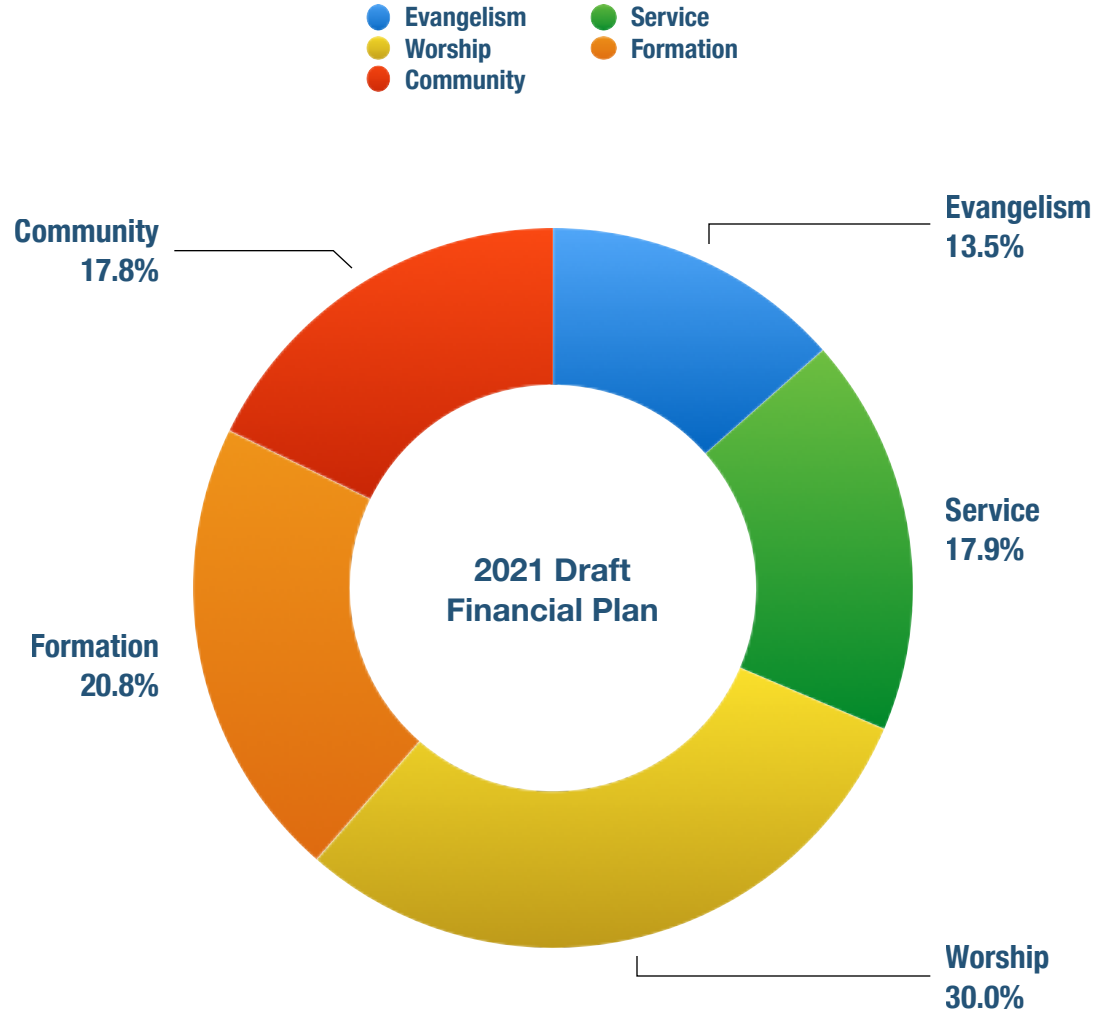
Service is 17.9% or \$268,900 of the 2021 financial plan. About half of this is spent on supporting diocesan programs and about one third represents the time spent by the clergy and staff in this area. The balance is direct support to ministries such as Siloam, Rooftops and Nathan Lee's prison ministry with a mission of serving the poor.

Worship is 30.0% or \$449,600 of our 2021 financial plan. Over 85% of this is spent on the clergy and staff who consistently help the family of St. B's Worship almighty God in the fullest way possible. Most of the balance, \$67,440 is spent on supplies.

Formation is 20.8% or \$311,800 of the 2021 financial plan. Over 85% of this is spent on the clergy and staff needed to provide outstanding discipleship opportunities to the adults, youth and children of St. Bartholomew's. Most of the balance is spent on supplies to make these programs happen, like projectors for youth group movie nights, downloadable children's bulletins, and licenses for Zoom that allows adult formation to continue.

Community is 17.8% or \$266,800 of the 2021 financial plan. Almost 80% of this is spent on the Clergy and staff who help create opportunities for St. B's to get together as a family. St. B's loves to get together and form bonds that extend way beyond the Sunday morning, "hello." A large part of the remainder is spent on special events and childcare.

		Dollar Amount	Percent of Budget
	Evangelism	\$202,500	13.5%
	Service	\$268,900	17.9%
	Worship	\$449,600	30%
	Formation	\$311,800	20.8%
	Community	\$266,800	17.8%
	Total 2021	\$1,499,600	100%





God has invited us to go on a journey with Him. Although it may be marked by uncertainty and tumult, it will also surely be marked by His consistency and faithfulness. He has given each of us the provision we need to move toward Him and to move toward others.

In many ways, the circumstances in which we now find ourselves bring clarity to what the theologian Frederick Buechner called “the world’s deep hunger.” This clarity brings resonance to each of our own desires to feel a useful, active participant in the journey marked out for us, be it in our local community or in the world at large, and we are eager to answer that call.

2020 has been a year of disruption, fear and uneasiness. Yet, in spite of these uncertain times, in this season of stewardship, our church encourages every member to set clear intentions for their giving in 2021. Throughout the life of our church, no matter its external circumstances,

Set to Sail



ANDREW & TOWLES KINTZ

or the personal circumstances of its members, we have held to the following tenets:

- Gratitude
- Generosity
- Response
- Provision

We ask that you would prayerfully consider your promise to St. Bartholomew's for 2021. We believe each pledge is your intention, promise or estimate of financial support for St. B's.

Even in a time marked by disconnectedness, you are a vital member of our community! In order for our church to move forward with its plans, we need to know that you are on board. Your financial commitment for the year 2021 will draw us all closer as we embark upon a journey filled with hope and the anticipation of God's great plans for our parish, Nashville and the global impact we can make together.

Giving is a spiritual activity between you and God. *Pledging* is a budgeting activity that helps the church plan for the coming year.



A COLLECT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Gracious God, giver of all we have and hold as stewards; Grant the people of St. Bartholomew's a deep and abiding awareness that all things come from You — our health, our incomes, our jobs, our talents, and our generous impulse. Send your Holy Spirit to help us swim against the rising tides of materialism, envy, individualism, and greed in our culture. When we are tempted to think of money as a private matter, remind us that You have asked for part of what we have been given to be returned to You as a symbol of our awareness that You give all we have. And, further, help us to help each other in this grace of giving, for You are the lover of souls and call us to nothing less than transformation in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

How Will You Move?

30 DAYS OF GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY

1. **TAKE ACCOUNT.** GENEROSITY IS GROUNDED IN GRATITUDE. WHAT ARE YOU GRATEFUL FOR?
2. **ASK GOD:** WHAT'S NEXT? HOW DO I RESPOND TO ALL THAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN?
3. **ACT IN FAITH.** MAKE A FINANCIAL PROMISE TO ST. B'S FOR 2021

Make your promise for 2021 between now and Sunday, November 22 through form at the end of this brochure (printed or emailed) or online >>> [here](#).

ST. B'S STEWARDSHIP TEAM

RODGER DINWIDDIE, CHAIR
FR. SAMMY WOOD, RECTOR
SALLY CHAMBERS-RHEA, DIR. OF COMMUNITY LIFE
DAVID WEST JR, TREASURER
BRIAN ROARK, JR WARDEN
ANNA FIELDS
BOB GARTH
ANDREW KINTZ
PHIL SHAY

Thanks to Anna Fields for designing the Barque graphics.





ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



30 DAYS OF GRATITUDE & GENEROSITY

2021 PROMISE OF SUPPORT

*FR. SAMMY & THE VESTRY INVITE YOU TO MAKE A
COMMITMENT FOR 2021 OF TREASURE, TIME, AND TALENT
TOWARD THE WORK OF GOD HERE AT ST. B'S.*

MY 2021 PROMISE TO THE ST. B'S FAMILY

In gratitude for God's generosity, I/we promise the following

TREASURE:

\$ _____ TO BE GIVEN TO
THE CHURCH'S GENERAL FUND
please write dollar amount

*In addition to
committing
our treasure,
we also
commit our
time and
talents.*

TIME:

E.G. WE COMMIT TO SERVE WITH RITI AND HELP WITH RECYCLING EACH MONTH.

TALENTS:

E.G. I AM GOOD AT PHOTOGRAPHY; I WILL TAKE PHOTOS AT A CHURCH EVENT.

Name (s) _____

Email (s) _____

Please return by post to the church office or email to trobinson@stbs.net by Nov. 22.