

# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

January 2021

*St. Bartholomew's is an inclusive and affirming faith community, welcoming all.*

*"For last year's words belong to last  
year's language. And next year's words  
await another voice. And to make an end  
is to make a beginning."*

T.S. Eliot



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Inside the January Newsletter You'll Find:

News from the Vicar \* Annual Meeting Notice \* Memorials \* Treasurer's  
Report \* Humor \* Prayer List \* Thank You's \* Announcements \* How to Zoom  
\* Good News Garden Update

## **Our Spiritual Evolution: A Continuity of Practice as Secret of Our Success**

Spiritual well-being influences our mental-emotional and physical wellness. As clergy and spiritual leaders, there needs to be an emphasis on what makes a spiritual being on a human evolutionary journey happy, whole and, over a lifespan, well. When asked to collect some thoughts on managing self while responding to the call of Christ to be a pastor and priest, I reflected on the influences that shaped and sustain my 24 years in ordained ministry. That self-assessment revealed three essential bandwidths, or capacities, that need our interest and attention on the way of learning to love like God. They are community, spiritual discipline and biblical literacy.

Spiritual Discipline – consider how you are lovable, loved and loving, in other words, both Becoming (moving forward) and Being (wholeness)

I learned about well-being from two mastery level practitioners, my parents, Linda Rose Abbott and Marvin Mickey Cobb. My soul spirit is quite privileged by landing in their loving and spiritually intelligent arms. Their hugs surround me to this day without conditions for their continuous requital of love divine. They are at least 90 percent of how I know the Way of Love as shown to us by the Lord Jesus in the Gospels. It is their sufficiency that drowns out the trauma of their marriage ending in divorce. It is the practice of willingly calling upon the Lord Jesus' Holy Name, that will always hold and keep me on the long haul to build up the kinship of God, Our Beloved Community.

My parents taught me that physical, mental-emotional and spiritual well-being are only realized when everyone is considered to be an integral part of life's journey of becoming more like God in God's ever-flowing and ever present love. The Good Life will always point us forward to our authentic self in Christ, which is forever by nature of the integrity of Creation, interconnected, interdependent, and interrelated. At the same time our well-being in this life is also forever impermanent and cannot for one single moment be taken for granted. It is a pure gift of God. When we deny this gift and forget for one moment to be grateful for the love of God, we are swerving attention away from the truth and falling prey to a false light. Our discipleship is always on a razor thin edge of development and evolution as a soul who is becoming mature in Christ Jesus and a spirit who is never separated from the love of God in Christ.

Our parish family, faith community, Episcopal congregation at St. Bartholomew's Bemidji, continues to try and understand what our mission, vision, and core practice will be over the next generation. Our current statements reflect who we are and who we really want to become on our faith journey together - <http://www.episcopalbemidji.org>.

# Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 12:00 pm

St. Bart's Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 12:00 pm noon. Bishop's Committee members will be the only ones allowed into the building for the meeting.

You may participate by calling in on the conference phone line or gathering together on Zoom. Instructions for both are listed elsewhere in this newsletter. The full report will be published in Feb.

## Reports due:

Those who are responsible from the following committees, please submit a written report to Abbey by Jan. 21. This should be a brief summary of your activity from this past year. They may be brief. Please sign your name.

## Committee reports are:

Budget

ECW

Outreach

Pastoral Care

Bishop's Committee

Vicar

Sr. Warden

Jr. Warden

Food Shelf

Community Table

People's Church

Pledge

Theology for Breakfast

Area Mission Gathering & Diocesan Convention

Good News Garden



# Annual Meeting

Peter ringing the bell at St. Bartholomew's Church



**Peter Oscar Bohn**, age 83, of Trail, MN, passed away on Thursday, December 17th, at his home in Trail. Memorial services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 2nd, at New Journey Church (Family Life Center) in Fosston with the Rev. Bob Kelly officiating. Family will greet friends for one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the Life Center. Mask use is required. Arrangements are with Carlin Family Funeral Service of Fosston and messages of condolence may be shared at [www.carlinfuneral.com](http://www.carlinfuneral.com).

Peter Oscar Bohn was born on April 3, 1937 at Rosy, Minnesota to parents Oscar and Grace (Mash) Bohn.

At the age of 17, Peter married Mary Hardy. To this union were born five sons, Don, Randy, Daryl, Bryan and Dale. Mary and Peter later divorced.

Peter worked in sawmills, on dairy farms, mowing lawns, shoveling snow and his last job was working for the City of Clearbrook.

Peter married Virginia Brown and cared for her during her long illness. After Virginia's death, Peter raised his three step grandchildren, Amber, Bonnie and David Layton.

Peters liked to watch fire works, local basketball and Vikings football. He liked going out for rides and having ice cream treats with Bessie.

He liked to ride four-wheeler, play pool, visit, listen to country music and color pictures. Peter loved his family and friends, being with them or talking on the phone with them. He loved nature and the world God created, the flowers, birds and animals, specifically the deer and a little dog named Bessie.

Peter had a child-like faith. He was humble and kind. He attended St. Bartholomew's Church in Bemidji where he loved to ring the bell.

Peter is survived by his sons, Don Bohn, Daryl (Amber) Bohn, Bryan (Pam) Bohn, and Dale (Shelly) Bohn; brother, Reynold (Beverly) Bohn; sister, Lucille Nolan; grandchildren, Randy, Arron, Brittney, Devin, Darrion, April, Brian and Makayla.

Peter was preceded in death by his parents; his first wife, Mary Bohn; second wife, Virginia; son, Randy Bohn; grandson, Mike Bohn; sisters, Lillian, Minnie, Mary, Ruth, Marie, Virginia, Emma and Harriet; brothers, Ole, Raymond, Fred, Edward, Harold and Donald. Peter was also preceded in death by his dear companion, Claudine Walton. Blessed be his memory.



Peter was a courageous, generous soul who gave so much of himself to others. He attended St. Bart's for years and was always willing to give a strong hug or helping hand to others. After St. Bart's bell was installed during the 2012 Centennial, Pete was one of our loyal bell ringers. He perfected the technique of doing it just so! It made him happy. Pete was dedicated to raising his family with wife Virginia, and faithfully brought her and others to church often. In later years, Pete was a good partner and support for Claudine Walton. She brought him such joy! They often served big meals at People's Church after they attended worship and coffee hr. at St. Bart's. Off they'd go in Claudine's big yellow hummer!! We will miss Pete for his humble quiet presence at St. Bart's. He always had a ready smile and easy way that made you instant friends. Pete endured a lot of his own pain and suffering these last few years without complaint. We are grateful to Margie Buer and her husband Frank who took Pete into their home after Margie's mother Claudine died the Dec. before Pete. They gave him peace and comfort as well as physical care and nurturing.

Now may God Almighty comfort all Pete's family and friends who mourn and grant him Life Everlasting.

Amen.



“He leads the humble in  
what is right,  
and teaches the humble  
his way.”

†  
Psalm 25:9

“Truly, I say to you, whoever  
does not receive the  
Kingdom of God like a  
child shall not enter it.”

†  
Mark 10:15



**Memorial Service**

Saturday, January 2, 2021 ~ 1:00 p.m.  
New Journey Church  
Fosston, Minnesota

**Officiating**

Rev. Bob Kelly  
Rev. Matthew Cobb

**Soloist & Selections**

Tim Johnson  
“Angel Band” “Wings of a Dove”

**Special Music**

“This Ol’ House”

**Honorary Pallbearers**

All of Peter's grandchildren



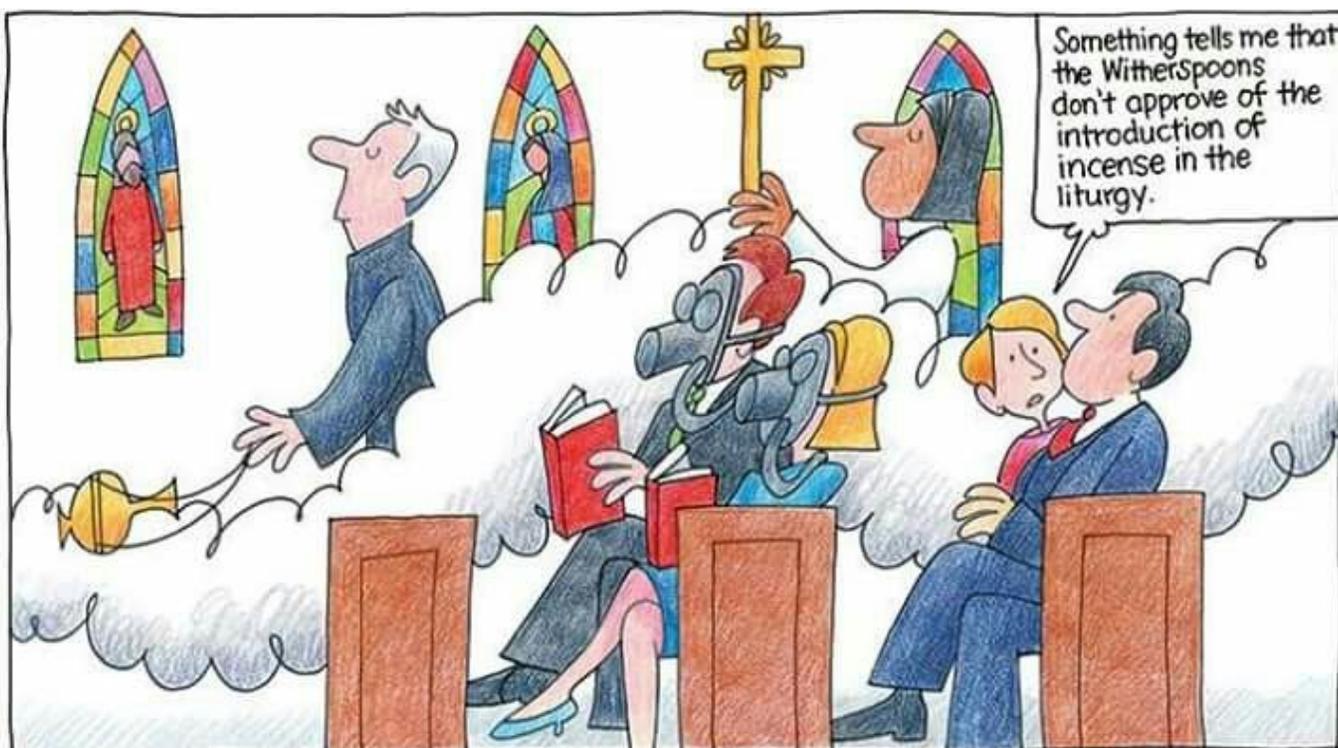
## A brief note from your Treasurer:

The total amount of the church's "liquid assets" as of January 1, 2021, was \$73,367; the total in the same accounts from one year ago was \$74,844. We have done admirably, in financial terms, in this most unusual and challenging year of the COVID. Despite many months without worshipping together at the church, we remembered our offerings and pledges to St. Bartholomew's and its good work and mission. Despite not seeing one another, our spirits were so moved ... such a fine display of faithfulness!

I'll leave it at that for now, since a much more detailed report from me will be forthcoming very soon at the annual meeting.

Respectfully, Eric Lund

## A LITTLE HUMOR...





Please let our committee know of any cares, concerns, joys or thanksgivings you'd like us to pray for.

Carol Carpenter, Claire Buhn, Milly Olafson, Marilyn Levine, Charlie Champlin, Danny Stone and Vicar Cobb

*For the "aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering," especially;*

Erica, Matthew, Tom, Ann, Margie, Catherine, Charlie, Michele D., Michelle & Teresa, Nancy, Rheta, Barry, Helen, Elena, Rodney, Lenny & Bill, Carolyn, Shirley, Cherise, Edie, Bob, Kathy, Steffany, Sarah, Jill, Maris, Fr. Bill Butcher, John Rock, Jennifer & Family

*For "all who have died in the hope of the resurrection and for all the departed," we pray especially for;*

**Rev. Steve Schmit, Gretchen Hazard, Patricia Conner & Pete Bohn may they rest in peace and light eternal.**

*Almighty God, we entrust all who are dear to us to thy never-failing care and love, for this life and the life to come, knowing that thou art doing for them better things than we can desire or pray for; Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*AMEN (BCP p.831)*



## THANK YOU FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

We are grateful to Vicar Cobb, Jennifer and Carol Johnson, Soren Sorenson, Liam and Abbey Bakker, Terri Ayers, Danae and Eric Lund who provided us with our first virtual worship service Christmas Eve, 2020. Soren and Abbey set up our St. Bart's web site where you can access this service and the Epiphany one. It is [episcopalbemidji.org](http://episcopalbemidji.org). Soren also spliced together parts of the worship service so those participating could record at another time and stay safe.

THANK YOU, Soren and Abbey!!

<http://episcopalbemidji.org/index.php/christmas-eve-service/>

<http://episcopalbemidji.org/index.php/epiphany-service/>

## Church Remains Closed and Locked

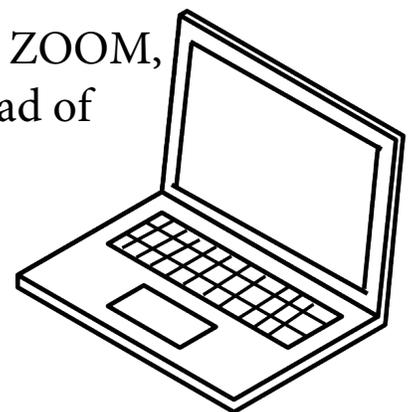
In order to provide ultimate safety and security for our church property and those who work within, the Bishop's Committee granted approval to change the locks this week. Your former keys will not work. If you need access to the church, please enter between the hours of 11:00 am and 1:00 pm on Tues. and Thurs. while Abbey is in the office. Thank you for understanding.

## Basic Zoom Meeting Instructions

Joining a ZOOM meeting is quick and easy and does NOT require you to have your own zoom account! Follow the steps below and give it a try. Once you have accessed the meeting, you can watch the meeting "live" and can ask questions with a mute/unmute feature OR type comments or question in a chat box.

1. A Zoom Meeting "link" will be emailed out to our email list prior to January 31st
2. Five minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin, click on the link and follow the prompts (say yes) Our meeting begins at 12:00 noon
3. You can use your computer, laptop, IPad or your SmartPhone - a free zoom app will download on your device
4. Once you enter the meeting, you can have the option to mute your audio and or the video so know one will see or hear you.

If anyone would like to do a "test run" just to try a ZOOM, Julie Loxtercamp would be happy to help you ahead of time. Please call or text her at **(218)766-3220**.





## Good News Garden Update - January 2021

While the plants in the Good News Garden have been dormant, slowly being covered with a protective layer of snow, we've been busy trying to make connections, organize our own resources within Episcopal networks and with experts in pollinator biology, plant conservation and in state and local government to connect the garden with the larger issues of the climate emergency, protecting endangered species, and the fight to Stop Line 3.

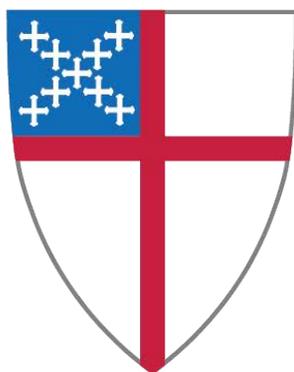
I had hoped that one way to reduce the toll on local biodiversity was to appeal to the MN DNR to follow its

policy to conduct wildflower or plant rescue in advance of construction (a model that has been used locally to relocate Showy Ladyslippers before construction on the Ladyslipper Scenic Highway). Usually these plants are considered "state assets" and are relocated to other State of Minnesota properties, but if the state is unable/unwilling to do it, other parties can appeal to the local land managers for permission to rescue plants, and a permit is usually only required if plants are going to be offered for sale. In investigating this opportunity and talking to current and former DNR staff biologists and managers I discovered a potential shared interest with the Mississippi Headwaters Audubon Society and the University of Minnesota Bee Lab. Vicar Cobb and I have had a few zoom conferences about what we can do to preserve plant and pollinator interactions in the context of Enbridge Line 3. One of the results of these conversations has been the creation of a project on iNaturalist: Minnesota Enbridge Biodiversity Accountability (link: <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/minnesota-enbridge-biodiversity-accountability> ).

Minnesota Headwater Audubon Society is interested in helping to promote some of our garden projects seedling sales if we grow enough appropriate native plants that are important to pollinators. They have an annual project called "BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES - BEMIDJI" and we were invited to contribute some expertise or pitch a species to boost within the Bemidji community this year. In order to maximize the value of this we might need to plan to grow even more plants than we have started outdoors in our seedling cage. I would put a motion of sorts forth to allow the garden to set up some temporary plant shelves to start seedlings in the windows in the lobby - as long as the church is closed due to covid, we might try to make use of the free space and sunshine streaming through those big south facing windows. I propose half of the space be for starting traditional edible garden plants and half for sale or other uses through our partnerships like "BIRDS, BEES & BUTTERFLIES - BEMIDJI" (<https://www.spearheadmhas.org/birds-and-bees.html>) or as tokens of love to our sibling churches at Cass Lake and Onigum. I propose we create a little video and webpage about our garden project and pollinator projects and use a crowdfunding site to allow the general public to contribute towards the project.

In the spring it looks like we will have the opportunity to learn more about the native wild bees of our area and to participate in some community workshops on how to identify them, to monitor their populations to track decline or recovery, and survey in our area to detect the presence of the federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee. We should think about crowdfunding to afford to set up our bee monitoring project, to afford the gear we need to do a proper study of pollinators of our garden, and to pay a fair stipend or honoraria to the bee scientists that might come to train us and to conduct some of their own research on native bees in our area - as the pollinators of the Twin Cities are better studied, they tend to attract more resources like the Lawns to Legumes grants, though the same rare species are also thought to be present near Bemidji.

We can also apply for some MN State grants for planning water quality grants. It sounds like we can get some support for covering the removal of asphalt in the vacant lot and improving groundwater recharge and handling runoff better on both properties. It might be good to have some extra eyeballs and help writing grants and public relations pieces about our efforts if more members are excited about this work to conserve water and pollinators in our garden.



# St. Bartholomew's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Remember, St. Bartholomew's Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 12:00 pm noon

This will be a VIRTUAL MEETING only.

If you need help setting up or using Zoom, please see the instructions located inside this newsletter!

*DON'T MISS  
THE DEADLINE!*

Deadline for the February Newsletter is February 1st. Please email your stories, photos, news, memories and announcements to [stbartschurch@gmail.com](mailto:stbartschurch@gmail.com)