



The Scroll

Volume 46, Issue 5 May 2026

Reflections from the Rector:

We are traveling through the Easter Season to The Feast of Pentecost. On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the event when the disciples were gathered, frightened and uncertain, and the Spirit arrived like wind and fire. Everything changed. People who did not know what they were supposed to do suddenly knew exactly what they were supposed to do. That is the Pentecost story. It has been happening ever since.

On a Pentecost Sunday — I do not know exactly which year — Pam Crossley heard God speaking to her. She heard a call to promote justice and peace, to help the church serve the least of these. It was not, by her own account, the only moment in her journey toward ordination. But it was a clarifying moment, the kind that you carry with you. The kind that, years later, you still describe with a particular quietness in your voice.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 24, 2026, Deacon Pam Crossley will preach the sermon at St. Bartholomew's. Then she and we will gather in the Parish Hall to give thanks for nearly four years of her ministry among us.

In order to describe what those four years have meant, I need to tell you something about where we were when Pam arrived.

In the summer of 2022, I was serving St. Bart's as a bi-vocational, part-time interim priest-in-charge. I was holding another job while also trying to hold this parish. I was doing the best I could. The truth is, though, that "the best I could" was not enough. This community needed more clergy presence than I was able to give. I needed help in ways I did not fully know how to name.

When Pam arrived in July 2022, it was truly a "God-send." She arrived, and there was new energy in the parish. She proclaimed the Gospel on Sunday mornings. She dismissed us into the world. She showed up at Masters Table and Golden Harvest Food Bank and Walking Tall Ministries and CMONA. She trained our servers and coordinated our Safe Church ministry. She met regularly with me to help plan our Christian Formation and special liturgies, like the Blue Christmas Service and this year's Tenebrae Service with string quartet. She did the unglamorous, irreplaceable work of a deacon: leading us in connecting what happens at the altar to the needs of the community.

She also helped plant things that are still growing. She helped us fundraise and organize the labyrinth project. She helped Julie Bush with getting Hope 4 Our School started. The formation of lay leaders who now serve confidently at the altar — Pam trained them. The culture of outreach that is woven into who we are as a parish — Pam modeled it, week after week, in ways that shaped what we understand ministry to look like.

Nearly four years. It sounds like a short time. In the life of a parish, it is not. What Pam has built here is not short-term. It is durable.

I should tell you, too, that Pam and her husband Neil are not going anywhere. St. Bart's is their church home, and they intend to remain here. What Pam's ministry looks like going forward is something she is still discerning, and we want to give her the space and grace to do that discernment well. What I can tell you is that the relationships she has built here do not end when the title changes. That is not how Pam works.

So we return to Pentecost. The Spirit descends. People are sent out. On a Pentecost Sunday long ago, Pam heard her call. On this Pentecost Sunday, we get to say — together, out loud, in the presence of God and one another — that she answered it faithfully.

Please join us on May 24 for the 10:00 a.m. service, and for the reception in the Parish Hall at 11:00 a.m. Come ready to celebrate Pam Crossley and the gift of the Spirit that continues to call, empower, and move us in ministry.

Blessings,

Joseph+

Rector

The Rev. Joseph Shippen
priest@saintbart.org

Deacon

The Rev. Deacon Pam Crossley
deacon@saintbart.org

Senior Warden

Jackie Raeth
srwarden@saintbart.org

Junior Warden

Charles Duchscher
jrwarden@saintbart.org

Treasurer

Zeny Vo
finance@saintbart.org

Youth Ministry

AnneMarie MacMurray
herbam@bellsouth.net

STAFF:**Organist/Choirmaster**

Jessica Dollar Jones
music@saintbart.org

Parish Administrator

Janice Furman
admin@saintbart.org

Church Phone: (803) 279-4622

Website: www.saintbart.org

CELEBRATING DEACON PAM

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE! On **Pentecost Sunday, May 24**, we will celebrate the ministry of **Deacon Pam Crossley** at St. Bartholomew's. Pam will preach at the 10:00 a.m. service, and a reception in her honor will follow at 11:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. More details to come in the days ahead — but mark your calendars now. This will be a celebration not to miss.



**On Deacon Pam's Ministry Celebration -
 A Word From A Friend - By MaryAnne Good**

On Sunday, May 24th, we're having a celebration. It is the Feast of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles of Jesus, Mary, and the other followers of Jesus. It marks the birthday of the church.

We're also celebrating our dear Rev. Pamela Crossley and all she has done for St. Bart's.

John and I were there when Pam was ordained, outside of course, because it was during the Covid crisis. As it turned out, Pam and Neil followed us to Aiken. And then we followed her to St. Bart's. For that we are grateful. And I know all of us are grateful for her ministry here.

Please be sure to come to St. Bart's on May 24th (yes, I know it is Memorial Day weekend!) to be with Pam as she moves into a new season of ministry. She and Neil are staying right here with us, and "Deacon Pam" she will always be.

Deacon Pam, we love you!

About St. Bartholomew's

We are called to be an inclusive community where all may encounter God's love. God strengthens, nourishes, and speak to us through scripture, tradition, and reason.

Our worship services are fully accessible in person and online, supplemented by a variety of other opportunities for spiritual growth and fellowship. We welcome the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as we seek to follow Christ.

With God's help, we seek to share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ through our outreach and social justice ministries.

All have a place here.

- *St. Bartholomew's Vision Statement*

MASS on the GRASS at CAMP GRAVATT - SUNDAY, MAY 10TH - 10:00am

Every year, at least one person suggests that we take our spring parish picnic somewhere new. This year, we listened.

On Sunday, May 10 — Mother's Day — St. Bartholomew's is leaving campus for the first time in recent memory and heading to Gravatt Camp and Conference Center, just twenty minutes down the road in the pines of Aiken County. We will gather outdoors for worship at 10:00 a.m., share a potluck picnic on the grounds afterward, and witness something that has been a long time in the making.

A Baptism in Living Water

Three of our own will be baptized that morning in the waters of Gravatt's pond. For one of them, this moment is the fulfillment of a dream she has carried for a long time. She wanted to be baptized the way Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River — outdoors, in living water, surrounded by her community. We considered the Savannah River, but quickly ruled it out for several reasons, including alligators! When we remembered that Gravatt had a pond, the rest fell into place.



She will be joined by two other children from our parish family, and together the three of them will enter the water and emerge as newly baptized members of the Body of Christ. If you have never witnessed an outdoor Baptism we encourage you to think carefully before missing this one.

Why Mother's Day?

When we first scheduled this event, some wondered whether Mother's Day was a complication. We have come to believe it is a gift. Mother's Day, at its best, is about the people who have given us life — and the communities that sustain it. What better way to spend it than gathered outdoors, around a table, near the water, with the people who have prayed for you and broken bread with you? We hope you will bring the mothers in your life and let this morning be part of how you celebrate them.

What to Know

The service begins at 10:00 a.m. at Gravatt's outdoor chapel. Our praise band will lead the music, and the Baptisms will take place at the pond. The potluck picnic follows the service on the grounds of the summer camp.

Please bring a dish to share, lawn chairs or a blanket if you have them, sunscreen, and comfortable shoes. And bring someone with you — this event is open to everyone, and a morning like this is exactly the kind of thing worth sharing with a friend or neighbor who might be looking for a community like ours.

Gravatt Camp and Conference Center is located at 1006 Camp Gravatt Road, Aiken, SC 29805 — follow signs to the summer camp side of the property upon arrival.

RSVP at saintbart.org/event/mass-on-the-grass-at-gravatt or contact the church office at admin@saintbart.org or (803) 279-4622.

Serving as the hands of Christ CMONA Sunday - May 17th

On Sunday, May 17, St. Bart's will celebrate Community Ministry Sunday — a day set aside each year to honor our congregation's partnership with Community Ministry of North Augusta, known throughout our community as CMONA.

CMONA is a Christian non-profit organization that provides emergency assistance to neighbors in the North Augusta, Belvedere, and Clearwater communities. When a family cannot keep the lights on, when a pantry runs empty, when a medical bill arrives with no means to pay it — CMONA is there. Through its food pantry, utility and transportation assistance, medicine stipends, and a thrift store that serves both clients and the wider public, CMONA addresses need with dignity and consistency.

The numbers from 2025 tell the story: CMONA fed 3,323 individuals from 1,318 families, distributed 3,477 bags of food and personal care items, paid over \$587,000 in past-due utility bills, and provided clients with food valued at more than \$818,000. None of that happens without the network of 27 churches — including St. Bart's — that make the ministry possible. This is our 42nd year of North Augusta churches working together as the hands of Christ for our neighbors in need.

On May 17, we are honored to welcome **Tammy Butler**, Executive Director of Community Ministry of North Augusta, who will speak to our congregation about the ministry's work and the difference our partnership makes.

St. Bart's is represented on the CMONA board by **Neil Crossley** and **Zeny Vo**, who serve as our congregation's voice and connection to the ministry throughout the year. Neil also serves as Treasurer of the CMONA board. If you have questions about CMONA's work or how to get involved, Neil and Zeny are wonderful people to speak with.

How can you participate?

Peanut butter and jelly. Beginning April 27, a collection basket will be in the narthex each Sunday. We are asking every family to contribute at least one jar of peanut butter or jelly before May 17. Let us fill it to the brim.

A special financial gift. A special collection for CMONA will be received on May 17. If you wish to give in advance, you may do so online at cmona.org/donate — simply include St. Bartholomew's in the memo field.

Your time. CMONA welcomes volunteers for a wide range of roles, from working in the food pantry and interviewing clients to staffing the thrift store and picking up bread and pastry donations at Publix. To inquire about volunteering, contact Bacilia Hernandez at cmonaoffice@gmail.com.

Our donations will be delivered to CMONA by **Pearce Truesdale**, who has generously taken on the role of coordinating St. Bart's physical contributions to the ministry. We are grateful for his service.

Community Ministry of North Augusta is located at 531 Belvedere Clearwater Road, North Augusta. Learn more at cmona.org.





Ministry of the Month -

Kay Bryden Brown Bag Ministry

Below is a list of items needed to fill bags for May ...
Please Bring Donations no later than Sunday, May 17th

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 - Cans Vegetables | 2 - Evaporated Milk |
| 2 - Boxes Mac & Cheese | 1 - Box Rice |
| 1 - Can of Salmon | 1 - Peanut Butter |
| 1 - Can Fruit in light syrup | 2 - Cans Soup |
| 2 - Rolls Toilet Paper | 1 - Jelly |

Many thanks for your continued support of this ministry



Saint Bartholomew's
North Augusta, SC

For more information
contact Dino Pierucci
via text (803) 634-0805

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS Continue — MAY 13 | 5:00–6:30 p.m.

Join us for our next Wonderful Wednesday on Wednesday, May 13, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will begin with a potluck dinner and then enjoy a guided discussion led by Fr. Joseph.

Our featured film is *The Apostle* (1997), written, directed by, and starring Robert Duvall in what many consider the finest performance of his career. Duvall plays Sonny Dewey, a Pentecostal preacher from Texas whose extraordinary gifts for faith and ministry exist alongside deep personal failings. When his life collapses around him, Sonny flees to rural Louisiana, where he starts over — building a new church, a new community, and perhaps a new self.

The Apostle is one of the most honest and generous films ever made about Christian faith in America. It does not mock or sentimentalize. It asks the most important questions a believer can ask: Can a deeply flawed person be genuinely called by God? Can real faith coexist with real sin? And what does grace actually look like when it arrives in the middle of a ruined life?

Warm, funny, musical, and profoundly moving, this is a film that will give us a great deal to discuss together.

Please watch the film at home before we gather. For those who prefer not to watch it on their own, we will screen the film in the Parish Hall at 3:00 p.m. on May 13. Recommended for adults and older teens.



HEALTH SCREENINGS



The Health Ministry Screenings take place on **Sunday, May 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the Parish Hall.** During this time, you can have your blood pressure, blood glucose and weight checked, as well as ask general health questions. For any questions, contact Robin Petry, 706-836-3027 or petrymail@yahoo.com.



The St. Bartholomew's Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a group of women who commit themselves to a life-long practice of prayer, service and evangelism with the mission to spread Christ's Kingdom. Here at St. Bartholomew's we support the clergy's pastoral care. **We meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 11:45 a.m. in the Nursery.** Any woman interested in joining, can contact Robin Petry at:

petrymail@yahoo.com or call: 706-836-3027



EpiscoPals Lunch

The EpiscoPals is a monthly luncheon gathering for Adults 50+. It is a fun, relaxed time of fellowship and eating good food! For some good food and a whole lot of talking, make plans to join us: Our monthly luncheon will be held on **THURSDAY, May 21st.** We will meet at **11:30 a.m. at Back Porch, 808 Belvedere/Clearwater Rd, N. Augusta** Sign up Sheets are in the Parish Hall. For more information contact **Mike Osteen at 803-315-3549** We hope to see you there!

Crafters for Christ - MAY 19th

Crafters for Christ are accepting requests for personal crafted items including: quilts/blankets of various sizes, pillowcases, walker caddie, key fobs, bibs, aprons, infant sensory taggies, and comfort stuffed animals like bear, cat, rabbit, dog, giraffe, or elephant. Items can be made from a loved one's clothing. Color or patterns can be specifically requested. Pricing is per the item ordered.

Any of the Crafters can take your order or you can complete order form. Forms are available on the table in the Parish Hall, the Parish Office, or online @ saintbart.org/form/C4C. One of the group will be in touch with you for confirmation.

All proceeds go to local ministry outreaches of St. Bart's Episcopal Church. Please make checks out to St. Bart's Episcopal Church and mark "**For Crafts**" in the memo line.

If you would like to contribute your time and talents, our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday – May 19th at 10:00 a.m. in the Adult Education Building** (across the driveway from Parish Hall).



*Loose Plate Offerings collected on **THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH** (as well as designated cash & checks) will go to the Rector's Discretionary Fund*

Donations to the Rector's Discretionary Fund are used to support individuals and families in need. Assistance is kept confidential.

STEWARDSHIP AT WORK

“It is an anomaly of modern life that many find giving to be a burden. Such persons have omitted a preliminary giving. If one first gives himself to the Lord, all other giving is easy..” *John S. Bonnell, pastor & author*

Year to Date receipts through March, 2026:

	OPERATING FUND		Difference
	Actual	Need	
Pledge	\$ 78,771.03	\$ 83,400.80	- \$ 4,629.77
Other	\$ 3,395.01	\$ 7,137.31	- \$ 3,742.30
TOTAL	\$ 82,166.04	\$ 90,538.11	- \$ 8,372.07

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 If you are a member who has not pledged, please consider doing so. Just contact the church office, get a pledge card, and drop it in the offering plate. Pledges are welcome at any time during the year.

A Wish and a Prayer



When you wish upon a birthday candle, God hears it as a prayer. These dreams of your heart ascend to His heart, where they ignite in hope. Hope for happy days ahead, for making more good memories. Hope for loved ones coming together, sharing smiles and stories and hugs. For reasons to celebrate – big and small – and for joy upon joy. Each candle, like

each year of your life, represents God’s faithful care for you. He is always working things together for your good, bringing you more grace, making your hopes and dreams come true.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 **Bill Jopling**
- 1 **Robin Petry**
- 3 **Molly Campbell**
- 4 **Florence Ussery**
- 5 **Donna Butler**
- 6 **Erin Redwood**
- 10 **Rev. Pam Crossley**
- 22 **Kim Rickers**

An Anniversary Blessing



To celebrate the day of your marriage is to celebrate Love, itself; For rare is the joy of a perfect match.
 To honour the day of your marriage, is to honour Life, itself; For as one, Together you are a true inspiration.
 May God continue to Bless your marriage with Love and Happiness.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries in May



ALTAR
FLOWERS

We invite you to purchase altar flowers in *Loving Memory of* or in *Thanksgiving of*, by signing up for a Sunday in the Flower Book, located in the Narthex or by contacting Janice at admin@saintbart.org. The cost is \$45 and may be paid by cash or check, earmarked “altar flowers” in the Sunday collection, or by text-to-give: Text SAINTBART Flowers \$45 to 73256 using your text messaging. Standard rates do apply.

Pastoral Emergencies

All pastoral concerns including: hospitalizations, illnesses, deaths, child concerns, or relationship issues may go directly to Father Joseph via his secured email at priest@saintbart.org or by phone at 803-279-4622.

All concerns will be held in the strictest of confidence.



The Scroll

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
471 West Martintown Road
North Augusta, SC 29841

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 A.M. Centering Prayer
9:00 A.M. Sunday School
10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 AM Children's Church
10:00 A.M. Live Streaming to Facebook & YouTube
11:00 A.M. Coffee Hour in Parish Hall

Scroll Editor: Janice Furman

Please submit articles by the 20th of
the month by e-mail to:

admin@saintbart.org

Any suggestions? Submit to same.

EASTER AT ST. BART'S



Centering Prayer with Kevin Sharpe

“Disrupt!”

Friday, May 8 • 10:00 a.m. • Church Nave

We are pleased to welcome Kevin Sharpe back to St. Bart's for a thought-provoking workshop titled “*Disrupt!*”

Kevin will explore how our desire for certainty and control often shapes our spiritual lives—and how encountering God's truth can instead disrupt, challenge, and transform us in unexpected ways.

This gathering will include teaching and contemplative prayer, offering space to reflect on how God meets us in moments of uncertainty.

All are welcome.

Contact: admin@saintbart.org | (803) 279-4622

A Question Worth Asking

A few weeks ago, I was away on a Sunday, and something unexpected happened. Due to a last-minute change, the service that morning was spoken — no music, no instruments, simply the ancient words of the liturgy carried by human voices. When I returned, I heard from person after person that while they love the music in our service, they were surprised how much they also loved the spoken service.

I was not surprised, exactly. Since coming to St. Bart's six years ago, I have heard from a number of you how much you valued the quiet, contemplative spoken service that used to be part of our Sunday morning. You have been patient, and I have not forgotten what you told me.

So I want to ask a question — not make a decision, just ask a question. Could St. Bart's be ready to consider adding a spoken Eucharist to our Sunday morning? This fall, perhaps?

In the coming weeks, we will be sharing a short survey with the congregation to help us think this through together. Your voice matters in this conversation. We are genuinely curious what you will say.

— Joseph+

Brotherhood of St. Andrew — Coming to St. Bart's

Following the Men's Ministry Breakfast in December and a period of prayer and discernment, St. Bartholomew's will be moving forward with the formation of a chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. The Brotherhood is the oldest lay ministry in the Episcopal Church, rooted in prayer, study, and service, and open to all Christian men. We are working to confirm a date for the official chapter installation, which will take place during a Sunday service later this spring or summer. More details will follow in the weeks ahead. If you are a man of the parish — or know one — who is interested in being part of this from the beginning, please stay tuned.

Naming Your Call: A Lay Ministry Retreat

The Diocese of Upper South Carolina is hosting a half-day retreat, Naming Your Call, on Saturday, May 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at All Saints' Episcopal Church, 505 Calvert Avenue, Clinton, Sc. This retreat is designed for anyone who senses a pull toward ministry but is not yet sure where that calling leads.

Participants will have the opportunity to discover their gifts for ministry, discern where they feel called to lead, and develop practical action plans to move from a sense of calling into active service. Lay ministry is broader than most of us imagine - it encompasses everything from serving at a soup kitchen or beautifying a worship space with the altar guild, to teaching Sunday School, leading a Bible study, or providing grief counseling through Community of Hope. If you do it to glorify God and help others live the reign of Christ on Earth, it is lay ministry.

This retreat offers tools, clarity, and confidence for those ready to step more fully into their calling. Members of St. Bart's who are interested in attending are encouraged to speak with Fr. Joseph or contact the church office. Registration is available at: <https://www.edusc.org>

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Location: All Saints' Episcopal Church, 505 Calvert Avenue, Clinton, SC

Questions: admin@saintbart.org | (803) 279-4622



The Spirit Has Impeccable Timing

Sometimes an opportunity arrives at exactly the right moment.

Last Sunday morning, our Vestry spent part of their meeting discussing how St. Bart's might deepen our parish culture of invitation, welcome, and connection — the three movements at the heart of the Episcopal Church's *Invite Welcome Connect* initiative. That same afternoon, former parishioners Meredith and Tom Holodak — now living in the mountains but still very much part of our extended family — reached out with exactly the right news.

Mary Foster Parker, the founder of *Invite Welcome Connect*, will be leading a full-day seminar on Saturday, May 23. Meredith and Tom have graciously offered to host anyone from St. Bart's who would like to attend — overnight hospitality included — with the only cost being \$10 for lunch.

Details are still being confirmed, and we want to be honest that this may be a stretch for many given the busy season we are in. But we do not want this opportunity to pass without offering it to the parish. If you feel a pull toward this kind of formation work — this may be exactly the right day for you.

If you are interested, please contact the church office at admin@saintbart.org or (803) 279-4622, and we will get you the details as they are confirmed.