



# ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH



2026 GIVING CAMPAIGN

*Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. John 21:12*

Recently, it was suggested to me that we change our church slogan from "All are welcome, no exceptions" to "All are invited, no exceptions!" This appealed to me because it says more than we will hold the door open for you. It says we have set a place at our table for you. Which is exactly what Jesus does for all of us.

At St. Bart's, our "table" is the altar but it extends to all the ways we create space for our people to connect with God and with others. Currently, we have much good news to point to:

- Increased attendance to over 220 per weekend and 35 new member households
- Premiered community summer music camp for children and youth
- Grew our children's ministry connections to our congregation
- Maintained and expanded clergy and staff; added curate and Sunday-only priest intern, office administrator, and Sunday-only children's program administrator
- Developed 3-5 year Strategic Plan open for all to energize with ideas and actions

But even with all this good news to celebrate, every year we still face financial demands on our operations. Currently, we are challenged by:

- Rising utility and maintenance costs for our large campus
- Adding security measures in response to the realities of our society
- Supporting our clergy and staff with cost-of-living pay increases and benefits

To respond to these challenges, we launch our 2026 stewardship campaign "Tell Out my Soul" with a goal of \$980,000. For a large church that accomplishes as much as ours in a year, this goal is realistic and necessary. We are grateful for our hard-working, devoted parishioners, staff and clergy, and for our safe and well-maintained campus that welcomes everyone to the table at St. Bart's.

**Now, we look to 2026 with hope and commitment. Reaching our Giving Campaign goal of \$980,000 will enable our church to have a balanced 2026 budget and continue the good news of 2025 along with enhanced security and environmental sustainability, expanded worship and formation for adults and children, and a presence on local college campuses.**

Know that by receiving this letter, I consider you to be a vital member of St. Bart's. After some rocky years due to the pandemic and leadership turnover, we have now entered a period where we can build into our full potential as a church. This makes for exciting times, and for that reason, I'm a pledger - just like you. With whatever amount you can, join me in strengthening the story of invitation at St. Bart's. Your pledge is your way of showing that you believe in St. Bart's, and that you want the invitation to grow and expand. I'm glad we are side by side on this. With God's help, together is the only way forward.

Faithfully Yours,

The Rev. Mother Nina Bacas  
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church