



## 2025 GIVING CAMPAIGN

*Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!"  
And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Samuel 3:10)*

Dear St. Bart's Family,

Last year at this time, I was your newly installed rector. In that stewardship letter, I wrote to you about the new current flowing through the church. There was excitement over new leadership and the return of so many faces to St. Bart's after a time apart. This year, the current flows on as parishioners continue to return, joined by many newcomers. In 2025, I sense that this current is turning into a crossroads.

I'm reminded of the prophet Samuel. In 1 Samuel, he tells the story of the crossroads moment in his life, when he was a young boy living in the temple and helping the priests. One night, as he lay sleeping, he heard a voice calling him over and over. He thought it was Eli, so Samuel woke him up, but it wasn't him. With Eli's counsel, Samuel realized that God was calling him, and he responded, "Your servant is listening." He grew into a trustworthy prophet of the Lord.

**While many of our hopes for 2024 have been achieved, every year requires that we discern and recommit to our mission - both collectively and individually. As we plan for St. Bart's in 2025, I ask you to join in prayerfully asking God: *How do I fit into your plan for your church, with my time, treasure, and talent?***

In this crossroads year, we can continue on as we have been, or we can look to the upcoming year as a time to grow further into our potential as a church. As your rector, I am committed to maintaining the strengths of our church. In addition, your support will help St. Bart's reach forward in the following ways:

- Live into St. Bart's renewed strategic plan goals for church growth, resource management, and deeper connections with our community. Design all programs to accommodate the anticipated growth.
- Utilize strong stewardship practices for all resources including our members, lay ministers, staff, clergy, campus facilities, and financial support to reach financial sustainability.
- Grow the church staff to include an additional clergy person and part-time children's ministry staff person, supporting expanded programs for all ages that support current needs and can grow with our congregation.

St. Bart's is a church family, and nothing can happen without you. As we enter a new year, everyone is needed to help shape this church for what is coming next. However you can, please join me in prayerful listening, discernment, and commitment. Together, we will "Walk in Love" through God's unfolding story at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church!

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nina +".

The Rev. Mother Nina Bacas  
7th Rector, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church