

# The *Bridge*



**ST. BRIDGET**  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

## A Message from Monsignor Carr

Jesus' love comes into our hearts all year – but Advent is a special time – a time to make extra room for His love. Christmas fills us with so many emotions. Excitement about the season, worry about how we will get it all done, maybe sadness for a lost loved one, joy at how beautiful the season can be and best of all love.

Love for our families, our friends and for Jesus. Make room for Jesus' love this Advent season – His love will fill your heart and help with all the emotions Christmas brings. And His love keeps us where we need to be, focused on the people in our lives. The one who needs us, the one we lean on and the stranger who needs our help and compassion.

Pray this Advent, take time to reflect on the season and make room for Jesus' love.

Father George and I send you our prayers and blessings and we thank God for each of you.



## Our schedule as we welcome all to our Christmas Masses

### **December 24, Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Eve**

**6:00 pm in the Church**

One-hour Prelude by Loretta McCray String Studio.

**6:00 pm in Mother Presentation Hall**

**8:00 pm in the Church**

**10:30 pm in the Church**

A 30-minute Prelude will include Christmas Carols to be sung by all at the above Masses 6 pm, 8 pm and 10:30 pm.

### **December 25, Nativity of the Lord, Christmas Day**

**7:30 am, 9:00 am and 11:00 am in the Church**

A 30-minute Carol Sing will precede each Mass.

**Please Note:** No 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Day.

**December 31, Vigil Mass for Holy Mary, Mother of God: 5:30 pm**

**January 1, Mass for Holy Mary, Mother of God: 9:00 am**

## At A Glance

### Human Concerns:

Haiti Update ..... pg 2

Future Altar Servers ..... pg 3

New Parishioners ..... pg 3

Advent Holy Hour and  
Confessions ..... pg 3

Concert Series ..... pg 4

Stewardship ..... pg 4

Financial Update ..... pg 5

Parish Announcements .... pg 6

Sacraments ..... pg 7

The New Middle School! .... pg 8



### **Saint Bridget**

(Saint Brigid of  
Ireland, the Abbess  
of Kildare)

## Human Concerns: Spotlight on Haiti

In going through old meeting minutes for this ministry I noted they date back to 1991. That is 25 years of ministry to our brothers and sisters in Carissade. We have accomplished a great deal: a new chapel, school, cafeteria and a clinic for basic medical needs. We began educating children in an area where no one had received an education before. The value of an education cannot be underestimated. When you cannot read and write you are closed off from the world and myth is your explanation of the world. We have worked to educate the teachers so they can do a better job of educating the students. Over the years test scores have gone up. We have taken select students and sent them to further their education in a middle school in Hinche. It has been a slow process and the parishioners of St. Bridget and Cathedral have been faithful throughout in donating and making it all possible.



The earthquake in Haiti in January of 2010 has made Haiti's lack of progress obvious and sent many in the development community

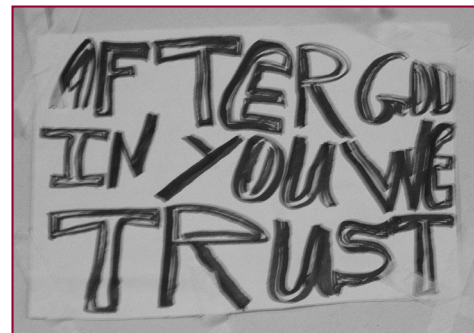
to reexamine what had been done and what needs to be done. A couple of years ago the Bishops of Haiti came together to respond to what needs to be done and set it down in a document. They set up a review process for themselves to make sure buildings constructed for the church in the future would be safer during earthquakes and they asked the donor community to go about their business in a different way. One sentence from the document they wrote speaks of this new direction, "The goal of any partnership should lead to sustainable development, according to the needs of the local church, and should be designed to reduce the need of outside help." Our own bishops made this the goal of the Campaign for Human Development when it was created in the 1970's to give those in poverty a hand up rather than a hand out. The CHD does this by funding projects that attack the structural roots of poverty. If we do this right in the true sense of solidarity the people of Carissade may one day shed the shackles of dependency and stand on their own feet.

For our Haiti ministry it means carrying on the commitments we have made and in particular; to step up our efforts of building solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Carissade, helping

them to develop in an economically sustainable fashion. This is not the work of one individual but of a community. This will not happen without the will of St. Bridget and Cathedral parishioners. Solidarity calls for relationship between people of our community and that of St. Paul in Carissade. In 1987 Saint Pope John Paul II wrote, "Solidarity is not a feeling of vague compassion...but rather a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good." In the same document he called solidarity the virtue for the modern world. It is what is needed to overcome our selfishness and work together for the common good. What we see in our nation and in the world today may be the result of the failure to heed his words.

What we need are parishioners willing to build relationships with our brothers and sisters of Carissade, which means taking up the pilgrimage. Those who say yes to this calling will find their lives transformed by the spirit of God, as you will come face to face with those who are radically dependent on God's providence; something we all share but us wealthy folks are fooled into forgetting. Through the trust built by solidarity, the Holy Spirit will give the people of Carissade the grace and courage they need to build new lives, where freedom from "want" can be envisioned. The journey waits for you to take it up.

We are in the process of formation for what the parishioners of St. Bridget/ Cathedral will have this ministry become. Join us at our next formation session January 25 at 7 p.m. in the Murphy Conference Room. **Our next pilgrimage to Haiti is February 19-24.** For questions or more information contact Paul Amrhein: paul@saintbridgetchurch.org or 525-7902.



## Subscribe to our website

### St. Bridget Weekly Email Update

Would you like St. Bridget events and news delivered right to your inbox? Go to [sainbridgetchurch.org](http://sainbridgetchurch.org) and click the "Subscribe" button in the upper right hand corner, fill out a short form and you will receive news and events once a week!



## Future Altar Servers of St. Bridget, Mark Your Calendars!

If you are a St. Bridget parishioner in the 5th grade or above and would like to become a member of our outstanding group of altar servers, mark your calendar with the following training dates:

Friday, January 15, 2016..... 3:45 – 5:45  
Friday, January 22, 2016..... 3:45 – 5:45  
Sunday, January 31, 2016..... 12:30 – 2:30  
Friday, February 5, 2016..... 3:45 – 5:45  
Saturday, February 6, 2016..... 1:00 – 3:00

### Sunday, February 21, 2016 Tentative Commissioning 11:00 am Mass

If interested, you must attend 3 COMPLETE SESSIONS (no late arrivals or early dismissals) of your choice from the above dates. Tack on ½ hour to your 3rd session for evaluation.

Snow make-up dates:

Sunday, February 7, 2016 .....12:30–2:30  
Saturday, February 13, 2016.....1:00 – 3:00

**Questions?** There will be a parent/child information sessions to address training, scheduling, commitment, and more. Sunday, January 10, 2016 noon to 1pm in the Parish Center Meeting Room or call Denise McMenamin 740-2744.



## A Warm Welcome to Our New Parishioners

Dallas & Sharon Benedict  
Rick & Elizabeth Bodenheimer

Children: Lucy, Zoe

James & Caroline Caudill

Child: Matthew

Dr. Christopher Chipko & Ms. Julia  
Wonch

Thisault & Ksenia Collette

Jason & Catherine DiGregorio

Child: Caroline

Ray & Liz Esparolini

Daniela Esteve

Rosa Foster

Tom & Erin Garnett

Children: Emily, Cecilia

Francis & Kathleen Lackman

Children: Francis, McCreagh,  
William

Joseph & Penny Ladnier

Child: Katherine

Thomas & Caitlin Lavery

Child: Desmond

Paul & Marian Loehr

Dr. Daniel Lupens &  
Mrs. Alejandra Luppens

Child: Estella

Christopher Martin

Thomas & Denise Maurer

Matt & Jessica McClain

Children: Pearl, Viven

Carol McKnight

Barbara Mescall

Charlie & Eileen Mitchell

Pierre & Vanessa Morel

Children: Caroline, Lily

David & Jennifer Owings

Children: Winston, Brooks,

Anne Douglas

Christine & Anna Rigby

Mrs. Beverly Burke Shepherd

Andrew & Naomi Siwko

Children: Noah, Mary-Grace,

Lucy, Isabella, John

Dr. Barbara J. Steele

Rolf & Polly Swainston

Children: Zane, Madelyn, Julia

## Advent Holy Hours and Confessions

Confessions will be heard during Holy Hours on December 15 from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm and on December 19 from 8:30 am until 9:30 am.

**This opportunity will replace the annual Advent Reconciliation Service.**

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

These Holy Hours will open with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will remain on the altar for adoration and private prayer until the end of the Holy Hour.

Confessions will be heard during the hour.

Of course you may remain in church for some or all of the hour.

**Do you have to go to Confession if you come to this?** No.

If you wish to spend quiet time with Lord, just come and pray. Going to confession and enjoying the luxury of some quiet time with Jesus are very good ways to prepare for Christmas.



## Saint Bridget Friends of Music 2015 – 2016 Concert Series

*A Gift of Music to the Richmond Community, all concerts are free, though donations are gratefully accepted.*

**Friday, January 29, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.:** Daniel Stipe, Organist. Richmond's own virtuoso organist gives a concert in support of the LPM program of Virginia. He is a prizewinner in the William Hall Pipe Organ Competition in San Antonio (where he also garnered the Hymn-playing Prize), the Tulsa Crescendo Music Awards, the Fort Wayne National Organ Playing Competition, and the AGO/Quimby Region VII Competition for Young Organists. He maintains an active concert schedule, with recent performances in Richmond, Nashville, Chattanooga, Princeton, and New York City.

**Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.:**

Daniel Roth, Organist of St. Sulpice, Paris, and International Organ Concert Artist. This will be the first concert given on the Buzard, Opus 42 organ by a European organist. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to hear this great concert.

**Friday, March 18, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.:**

VCU Artistic Ambassadors to Colombia, VCU's Brass Quintet that will visit Cartagena in the spring. This concert will feature a quintet of VCU brass students who will visit Colombia at the end of this academic year.

**Saturday, April 9, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.:**

Hymn Festival led by The Saint Bridget Choirs. Find inspiration through singing along with, and hearing our Adult and Girl & Boy Choirs.

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:30 P.M.:**

Russell Weismann, Organist. Russell is currently the Director of Music at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish in Bethesda, Maryland. His previous professional experience includes serving as Associate Director of Music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Director of Music and Liturgy and Adjunct Professor of Sacred Music at Georgetown University, University Chapel Organist and Teaching Fellow at Yale University and Associate Music Director at Saint Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh, PA.

## Serve One Another

### Annual Financial Stewardship Campaign for 2016

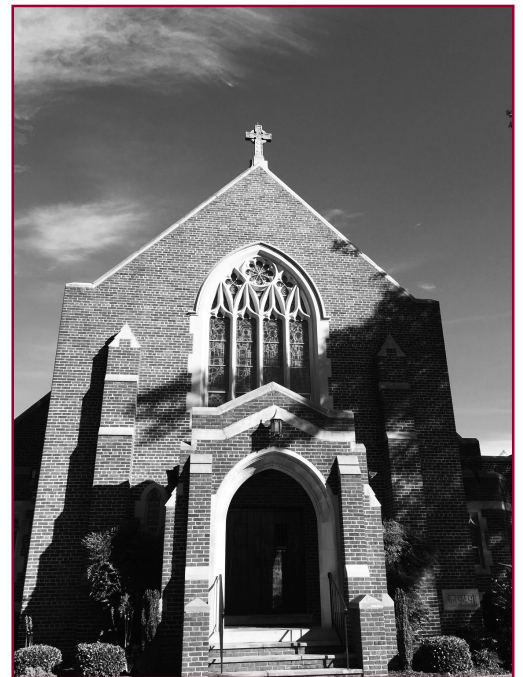


Thank you to our many parish families who generously support the mission of St. Bridget Catholic Church through service and offertory contributions! Our annual Stewardship Appeal begins with the new year and our theme this year is "Serve One Another". We want to recognize everyone who contributes to St. Bridget and serves the parish with their time volunteering. We also need everyone who is able to contribute through the annual offertory pledge. Please thoughtfully and prayerfully decide upon a financial commitment and fill out a pledge card when they are mailed to your home in January. **Thank you...**

### E-Giving and Your Stewardship Pledge

Please consider E-Giving to make donations to the parish. To make a contribution on-line, go to [saintbridgetchurch.org](http://saintbridgetchurch.org) and click on the E-Giving link. You may use debit cards, credit cards or electronic funds transfer for your contributions. E-Giving provides a secure and convenient option to fulfill your stewardship pledge and make donations to the various funds and special collections.

E-Giving provides a cost savings to the parish since processing time is quick and easy and we send fewer Envelope Packets. Contact Kimberly Lapkin at 525-7888 or [kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org) with any questions regarding E-Giving. Thank you for your contributions to support God's work here at Saint Bridget Church!



# Summary Church Operating Fund Report: July 31, 2015 through September 30, 2015

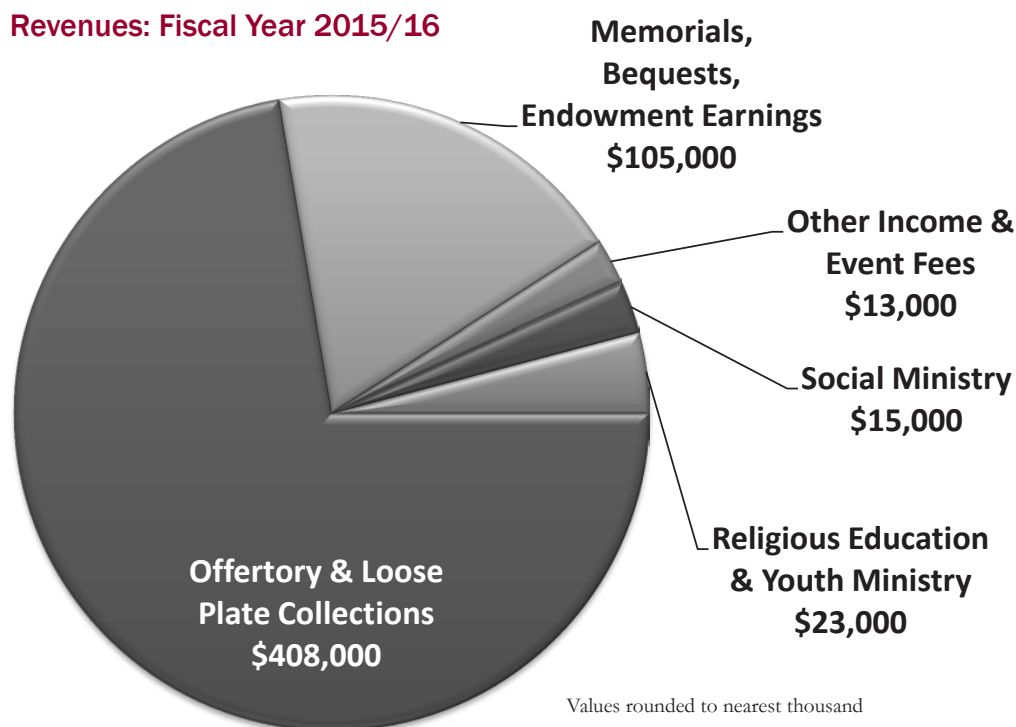
## Please Remember Our Parish Family When Considering A Year-end Gift

Thank you! Your generosity has been a blessing to St. Bridget Church throughout this past year. Your continued support allows us to help our church family and spread God's Word throughout the world.

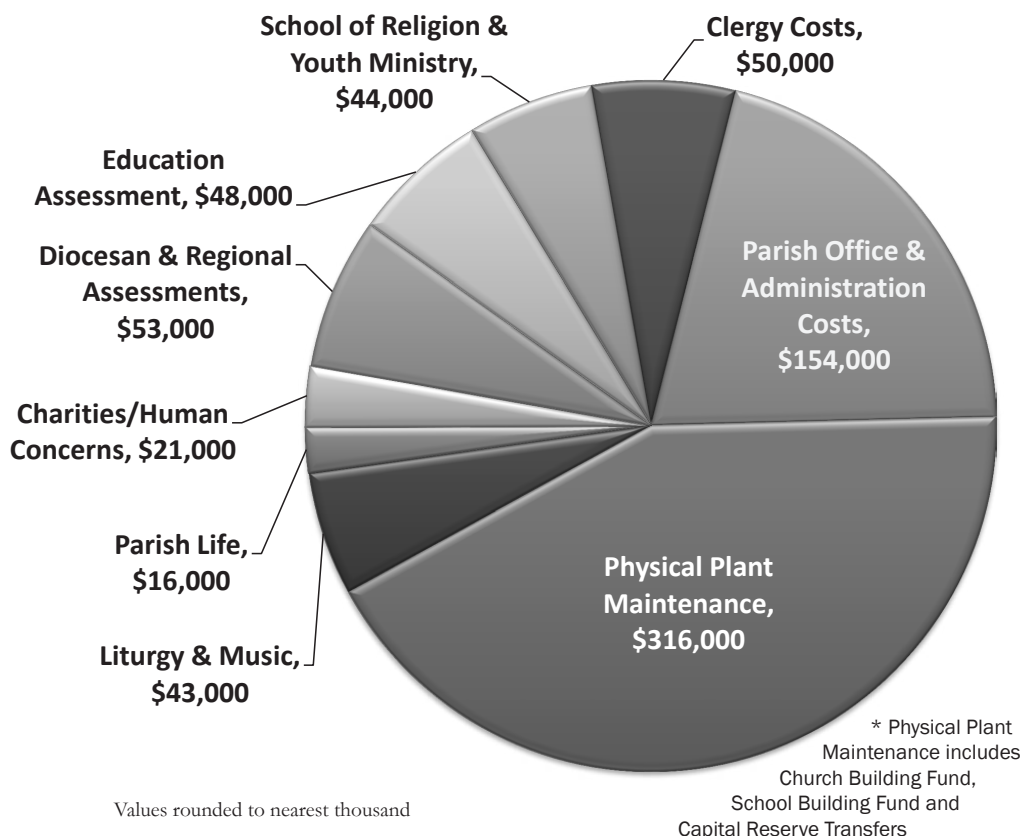
As you begin year-end tax planning, take advantage of the charitable tax deduction for gifts made before December 31 and consider the variety of gift options available to you. Your gift to our parish can make a great difference to us and help you as well. E-Giving is a convenient way to make your gift to Saint Bridget parish. As always, work closely with your tax and legal advisors to determine how any particular strategy will affect your overall tax situation.

Please contact Kimberly Lapkin at the Parish Office (525-7888 or [kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org](mailto:kimberly@saintbridgetchurch.org)) by December 31 to advise the parish of your gift of stock so that it will qualify as a donation in 2015. The Parish Office will coordinate with your financial advisor or broker to ensure the gift is properly received. If you choose to make a cash donation, please prepare your check and mail it so that your envelope is postmarked or received by the Church Office by December 31 to qualify as a gift in the year 2015. Contributions received in the offertory plate at Masses on the weekend of January 2-3 will be treated as 2016 gifts. Thank you for financially supporting the many ministries of Saint Bridget parish!

### Revenues: Fiscal Year 2015/16



### Expenses: Fiscal Year 2015/16



## Contact Us

Dial 282.9511,  
then use 3-digit extensions or the  
direct line when provided

### Clergy

Rev. Msgr. William H. Carr:  
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### Pastoral Staff

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### Councils & Committees

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Parish Pastoral Council: Kerri Inge,  
kerible@verizon.net, 353.3140

## Parish Announcements

### Saints and Sinners Events for the first half of 2016

**Christmas Luncheon and Christmas Music with Tom Fadula** - Thursday, Dec. 17th, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. We will hold our traditional Christmas luncheon (wear your green and red!). Tom Fadula, accordionist with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra, will thoroughly entertain us! Attendees are invited to bring their favorite homemade Christmas cookies or baked item. Come prepared to sing some Christmas Carols! (Parish Commons).

**Destination Alaska!** – Thursday, January 14th, 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Enjoy a travelogue featuring a visit to beautiful and wild Alaska! Stephanie Goff of Triple AAA will offer a most interesting presentation. Always wanted to go there? Come see and learn about the wonder of Alaska! (Parish Hall).

**Contemporary Catholic Issues with Monsignor Carr** – Thursday, February 11th, 10:30 am – Noon. Our pastor will lead us in an informative discussion about important topics in our Catholic faith. Monsignor always offers something that will make us think, teach us something new, and grow our spirituality. Join in the discussion! (Parish Commons).

**Mass of the Anointing and St. Patrick's Day Luncheon** – Thursday, March 10th, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm. We will come together for the Mass of the Anointing, always a special event, followed by our traditional St. Patrick's Day Luncheon of delicious soups. (Church and Parish Commons).

**Annual Parish Fish Fry** – Friday, March 11th, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Mother Presentation Hall.

**Spring Day Trip to Washington, DC.** – Thursday, April 7th (All Day). We will make our annual sojourn up to the nation's Capital to visit the sights, take in a good meal, and enjoy a fun day together. There is always much to do! Save the date on your calendar!

**BINGO! Do You Bingo?** – Thursday, May 12th (10:30 - Noon). Do you have what it takes to be a WINNER? Come enjoy playing bingo with your fellow Sinners (and Saints) – maybe you'll take home a prize! Bring a coffee cake or Danish to share! (Parish Commons).

**Saints and Sinners "Spring into Summer" Annual Dinner** – Thursday, June 9th, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm. We will have a special meal planned around an interesting theme for our dinner. Stay tuned! (Parish Commons).

**For more information,** contact Gwen Glasser at (804) 364-4920 or Gwen Glasser [gweglasser@swg.net](mailto:gweglasser@swg.net) or John McCulla at (804) 342-1112 or [jkmcculla@comcast.net](mailto:jkmcculla@comcast.net)

### ALPHA begins January 7th!

**What is Alpha?** Alpha is a 10-week course that meets once a week and focuses on your relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. We meet for dinner, watch a video and have small group discussions. Maybe you have a friend or loved one who has been away from the church for a while and would be perfect to get involved with Alpha? Hundreds of St. Bridget's parishioners have been through the program with great success! It is a great way to meet other parishioners or find a smaller faith group! Alpha will begin on Thursday, January 7th, 2016, at 6:00. **Questions?** please contact Michael Siewers at [Michael@Siewers.com](mailto:Michael@Siewers.com) or 804-839-0372.

### Don't forget to pick up Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate Sales just in time for Christmas!

The weekend of December 19/20 we will be offering an assortment of coffee, tea, hot cocoa, chocolate bars and chocolate covered coffee beans (YUMM!) just in time for Christmas – stuff a stocking or bring the relatives some goodies.



## Contact Us

Dial 282.9511,  
then use 3-digit extensions or the  
direct line when provided

### Administration

**Cheryl Peters:**  
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**Michelle Sesny:**  
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## Sacraments

### Baptisms

Mia Antonella Andino-Mora  
Lucas Carl Fleegle  
Cecilia Lynn Garnett  
Michael Thomas Grubbs  
Frances Coates Hackett  
Todd Alexander Hancock, Jr.  
Evan Lawrence Hartle  
John Walter Kopocis  
Sloane Elizabeth Lacy  
Richard Lewis Locke, Jr.  
Molly Linda Lombard  
Shane Warren McKenna  
Everett Paul Miller  
John Paul Moore  
John Curtis Nichols, Jr.

Bella Kayloni Noel  
Zoe Makayla Noel  
John Abel Nygren  
Harvey Jackson Singleton  
Ava Charlotte Stefanski  
Brian Rudolph Swann III  
Anne Grace Waring  
Bryce May Wille

### Marriages

Nichole Deitz and David Sands  
Megan Senske and Nick Capito  
Stefanie Wallace and Jared Mercier  
Annemarie Myers and Stephen Ignatowicz  
Laura Hansen and John Thomas Jones  
Jessica Gessner and Brian O'Laughlin  
Nicole Brenner and Ross Grogg  
Kristan Jacobson and Bill Winters  
Nicole Dieringer and Todd Brengel  
Caroline Sears and Michael Parrish

### Deaths

Helen Boehling  
Mary Conron  
John Robert Levereth  
John Lowndes  
Phil Miserendino  
Violet Porigliano  
William Rozario  
Clifford (Kip) Wyman

## Youth Ministry

At the request of numerous teens, a new ministry began at St. Bridget about a year ago. Many students expressed a desire to connect with members of our community and to share their gifts and time. What has resulted are mornings of cooking chili, stew or cookies and afternoons in conversations with wonderful adults who are more



than willing to share their stories and pearls of wisdom. The get togethers have been enriching for all involved. If you know someone who would enjoy a visit or would like to come along as we deliver goodies and share a few moments together, please contact Dan Harms at sbvayouth@gmail.com or Anne-Marie Condlin at amcondlin@gmail.com.

From left to right: Caroline Bell, Grace Ryan, Emma Morrison and Riley Bell (kneeling)

# St. Bridget Middle School: a gift to the whole parish family

Through the Grace of God and the hard work of many good people, St. Bridget Parish is expanding St. Bridget School to include a new Middle School just a block west of the church. In July the Parish purchased the Westhampton Baptist church, a 100 year old iconic architectural gem with the blessing of our Baptist friends. The congregation of 70 was unable to maintain the building and grounds and hoped to find a buyer who would respect the sacred space as well as make use of the classrooms. With that hope Reverend William Duganne, Pastor of Westhampton, approached Monsignor Carr with the idea of purchasing the church. After consultation with the school Parent Advisory Board, and with Bishop DiLorenzo's encouragement, Monsignor Carr set in motion the parishes' dream of more space for our parish school in the shadow of the church.

This new building will better serve the students who attend St. Bridget School preparing them for the future and providing an enhanced and vibrant educational space. The new Middle School will include a performing arts center, flexible classroom space, state of the art science lab, a collaboration lab and an outdoor classroom. In addition to the new building created especially for middle school learning, seven classrooms will be freed up for the elementary school allowing for a dedicated science lab as well as dedicated classrooms for foreign language study. The school will also add one junior kindergarten class in 2016 and another in 2017.

St. Bridget School is already a great school. Walk in the halls, visit a classroom or watch one of the student created videos – there is excitement for learning and many caring, talented people ensuring that our school offers a Christ centered, rigorous education. But beyond that it is a place that cares about the parishes' children and works every day to give them a loving, nurturing and challenging place to grow and learn. We are blessed to have this school in our parish and blessed to be able to expand and grow our school! Read on - Monsignor Carr answers a few questions and reflects on this next exciting project!



Performing Arts Space and Chapel



The front of Westhampton Baptist Church - now St. Bridget Middle School

## How did the Parish come to own Westhampton Baptist Church?

The Westhampton Baptist pastor reached out to us. It was an email in which he inquired if we would like to buy their church. He explained that their membership had declined and that the church roof was in danger and they could not afford to repair it.

It did not take us long to express our interest (about a nano-second!). This is because we knew of the ample Sunday School building connected to Westhampton Church. They hoped we would be committed to preserving the historic architecture and we will do that.

## How do you feel about the project?

I feel excited and energized about this. We can develop a top notch middle school and refit some of the spaces in our current school building to welcome a junior kindergarten program and refit other areas. I am humble before God for this good gift.

## There will be a performing arts space in the new school – you used to do a bit of directing back in your Parochial Vicar days can we expect to see you directing a play at the new school?

My directing days are long gone! What we really had here was a director's team and we staged three dinner-theaters: Murder In The Cathedral, Oliver and Sound of Music. We were able to attract first rate musicians, dance instructors, vocal coaches, stage crew and others. In the hands of these wonderful people were our parishioners: adults and children who rose to the occasion and presented spectacular performances. It was great for the fellowship of the parish. Some of the performers went on to acting in local theaters. It was a lot of fun and a lot of work.

## How do you see the new school impacting our Parish?

St. Bridget School has provided a couple of generations of Catholics who are leaders in Metropolitan Richmond, the diocese and of course in our parish. Our ability to grow the school and further its excellence while focusing on faith, this is **a gift to the whole parish family**. Children's faith and zeal influence us all because we are all one body in Christ!