

*A welcoming community of faith*

## St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church

# The Parish Pen

October 2009

[www.stbarnabasde.org](http://www.stbarnabasde.org)

### WHAT IN THE WORLD IS "CREATION SUNDAY"?

OK, I confess. I made that up. Not entirely, however. At the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew downtown, they have for several years observed a "Season of Creation" for the last seven Sundays of the Church year in October and November. This new liturgical season is increasingly recognized, not only in the Episcopal Church, but in other denominations as well. It seeks to celebrate God's action in the natural order, the interdependence of all created things, the marvelous diversity in human cultures, and the cosmic reign of Christ. The recent General Convention considered officially adding this observance to our Church calendar. A report on this proposal will be made to the next Convention.

The Season of Creation seeks to awaken us to recognize God's hand in the universe. It reminds us of the responsibility we all have as creation's stewards under God. The environmental and ecological concerns we face in our time are ethical issues as well as scientific ones.

For the past couple of years, St. Barnabas has observed the Feast of St. Francis during the main service on the Sunday nearest to his feast day on the church calendar, October 4. This year, his day falls on the Sunday we are calling "Creation Sunday" We have observed the tradition of "Blessing of the Animals" in an outdoor service on that day. We will repeat that custom during the 10:00 service this year. You are encouraged to bring your pets with you that day. (Live pets only for the blessing--not toys)

The Blessing of the Animals fits well into the Season of Creation theme. We will not observe an entire season in our church, but we will put the Blessing into the larger context of God's creation. The living creatures of God that share our lives and our homes are among the multitude of gifts we receive in our universe. That is worth celebrating. While the animals are only invited at 10:00, we will celebrate Creation Sunday in all three services that weekend.

Psalm 8 sets the tone of the day: "When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth."

Peter Huiner

### Worship Services

#### Saturday

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist

#### Sunday

7:30 am

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist

### Coming Events

#### Tuesdays

9:30 am

Lady Julian's

Lounge

#### Thursdays

6:30 am

Early Risers

Lounge

#### Thursday, Oct 1

1:00pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

#### Saturday, Oct 17

Young Family's Dinner

@ Harvest Fest

#### Sunday, October 4th

Blessing of the Animals

#### Saturday, October 17th

5:30 pm

Harvest Fest

#### Tuesday, October, 27th

5-9pm

Friendly's Halloween Celebration

Lantana Square

#### Saturday, November 21

8:30 am -3:15 pm

Parish Life Day

St Anne's Episcopal School

Blood Pressure Monitoring will be available on every first Sunday after the 9:00 am service during the Parish Breakfast.

## CONTEMPLATIONS FROM A SISTER

While out in California at the ECW Triennial, our theme was "Grow in Grace". So how do we do that? We are bidden by Peter to "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2Peter 3:18). How does this happen? Our spiritual life seems to be very important in this regard, as we have to train our body, mind and spirit by using prayer, **meditation, study, fasting, solitude, service, worship, celebration**, and much more. That sounds like a lot, and it is, but taken over space of a year, it becomes more a tradition than a task. Aren't we a church of tradition? We are asked by Paul in Romans 12.1, to present our bodies as "a living sacrifice" to God. If we take on the above disciplines, perhaps one by one, and adding another over a period of time, we can soon accomplish a great deal more than we ever thought possible. As we undertake the disciplines of the spiritual life that we *can* do, then God gives us the ability to do the things that we *cannot* do on our own. How do we love our enemies? We can only love our enemies with the strength of God. Through these disciplines of prayer, meditation, etc., God can build in us deeply engrained habits of "**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**" (Galatians 5:22b-23a).

We are being told/asked on a regular basis to find balance in our lives, listen to the TV, the movies, the newspapers, magazines, etc., God is asking us to do the same. Balance is important, a necessary part of life, and God tries to show us that part of life. God uses all kinds of pushes, stumbles, inklings, hopes and dreams to guide us and lead us in the right direction. On many occasions, I have thought "...perhaps I should do this or that...". Then a friend, or even a stranger I encounter in my day to day journey, looks at me and says "...you look like ...(this or that)", or "have you tried this...?" Guess what friends, that's the Holy Spirit reminding us, you and me, to pay attention and do, so that we can become. Many times it's through sermons, a testimony or a story that I hear my Triune God calling me. I am a child of God, we are all children of God, sealed in the spirit at our Baptism. We are not left alone after our Baptism, we remain God's own forever. Pay attention, listen and hear.

## STEPHEN MINISTERS

Stephen Leaders will conduct the ministry's annual retreat on October 10, 2009. This meeting is open to Stephen Ministers and those seeking to become Stephen Ministers.

### First Annual Stephen Ministry Retreat

October 10, 2009

9:30am-12:00noon

New Lounge at St. Barnabas

### Agenda

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 9:30-9:45   | Gathering, coffee and tea<br><i>The Heart of Stephen Ministry</i> – video in the lounge                                |
| 9:45        | Invocation   |
| 9:45-10:00  | Stephen Leader presentation – Lynda Harriss  |
| 10:00-10:30 | Featured Speaker<br>The Rev. Bernitta Earle<br>Chaplain, Baylor Women's Prison<br><br>"Ministering in a Hurting World" |
| 10:30-10:45 | Break, Fellowship, Brunchies   |
| 10:45-11:00 | Recognition  |
| 11:00-11:45 | Continuing Education:<br>Providing Spiritual Care<br>Ginny Thogersen & Andy Harriss                                    |
| 11:45       | Benediction and Sending Forth  |

### GUIDELINES FOR SEASON

A reminder to everyone about the winter season, and handling the germs that will be going around. It's a good idea to make sure we wash our hands regularly and cough and sneeze into our elbows. When we do not feel well, and when our children are sick, let's try to stay home to avoid spreading our germs to others, especially those who may be weaker and lower resistance. Those of us who visit the shut-ins and the infirm are very careful about our health when visiting, and perhaps we should all be more aware during this season. It would be good practice if Eucharistic Visitors and Ministers would wash their hands thoroughly prior to serving. Let's keep our germs to ourselves and help keep our friends and loved ones healthy. God Bless us all.

Pastoral Care Committee

**COUPON BOOK SALES TO BENEFIT  
OUTREACH**

**“Enjoy the City” discount coupon books have arrived! The cost of each book is \$20.00. The sale of each book results in \$8.00 for our Outreach Fund. These books will be available for purchase until the end of the year. They make much appreciated Christmas gifts! To purchase or reserve your copy, contact Laura Gracie, 999-1156.**

**Harvest Fest 2009  
Saturday, October 17**

Service 5:30pm  
Dinner 6:30pm

Followed By:  
Entertainment  
Live & Silent Auction

Proceeds Benefit:  
The Food Bank of Delaware  
ERD, Gifts for Life

Thanks to you, last year we raised \$5000 for these charities. Don't miss a fun evening that makes a difference in others' lives.

**Remember October 27th  
at Friendly's— Lantana Square**

Have a family night out at Friendly's, celebrate Halloween and support St. Barnabas outreach program. This event is sponsored by the Christmas Bazaar Committee. Friendly's will donate 10% of their sales to St. Barnabas outreach if we can bring in 75-100 people that night. Costumes are welcome!

On Sept 17, a Friendly's sponsored a similar event to benefit the homeless with several churches participating and the wait for a table was 45 minutes, so it can be a good fund raising event.

**ST BARNABAS CRAFTS for BAZAAR**

There will be a table of items crafted by parishioners of St. Barnabas for sale at the annual bazaar, December 5. We are hoping to have a variety of projects—sewn, crocheted, knitted, stamped, woven, painted, etc. Please make and donate an item or two. Don't forget.... Bazaar projects support our outreach programs! For questions, contact Laura Gracie.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Prayer Shawl monthly get-togethers Thursday, October 1, at 1pm. Please join us in sharing in this special Pastoral Care ministry. For information please contact Charlotte Sheehan or Barbara Connell.

**Can't Be At Harvest Fest 2009?  
Saturday, October 17**

You can bid in advance on 3 fabulous leisure opportunities!

--- 1-week summer vacation in 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom condo in Ocean City, MD.

Condo sleeps 6 people and has kid-friendly equipment. Walk to beach; short walk or drive to restaurants; 15 minutes to boardwalk. Complex includes pool and small fitness center. Winner will work out dates with owner. Major summer holiday weeks are not included.

Minimum Bid: \$500.

--- Winterfest 2009 weekend in 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom condo in Ocean City, MD.

Same condo as above. Weekend includes 4 tickets to Winterfest of Lights (11/19/2009 – 01/02/10). Ride a tram and see over 1 million holiday lights and other decorations. Enjoy hot chocolate, snacks and a visit with Santa at the end of the ride or go back and do it again. Winner will work out dates with owner. Weekend of 12/18/09 is excluded.

Minimum Bid: \$200

--- Chesapeake Bay Weekend (up to 3 nights) in 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom condo in Cambridge, MD

Condo sleeps 4. Weekend includes an optional day of sailing and lunch on a 38-foot sailboat. Complex has outdoor pool. Condo overlooks Cambridge harbor and is within walking distance of historic downtown and restaurants. Within 30 minutes of major Eastern Shore attractions in St. Michaels, Oxford, Easton. Golf, kayaking, bird-watching nearby. Winner will work out dates with owner. Any weekends except major holidays.

Minimum bid: \$200

**Note: Both properties are non-smoking and no pets allowed.**

**Welcome back to St. Barnabas  
Youth Group!**

We had an exciting opening night of activities--- everything from conversing about community to a water balloon fight! We are now in the process of planning how to paint & design our youth room. We are also looking forward to many fun fall events. Please remember on October 10th we are having a hayride/bonfire at Milburn Orchards. We meeting at St. Barnabas at 7:00 p.m. and will return by 10:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. We are limited to 25 people so you must RSVP no later than October 1st. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the Youth Room. Please contact Sarah and/or John Mester at [stbyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:stbyouthgroup@gmail.com) for more information

### Parish Life Day

The theme this year is "For Body and Soul". Workshops will concentrate on health and welfare and cover such topics as nutrition, physical activity, healthy eating cooking, chanting, getting organized to reduce stress and clutter, "Safe Camp" and spirituality.

Date is November 27th at St. Anne's Episcopal School in Middletown. Visit [dioceseofdelaware.net](http://dioceseofdelaware.net) for more information and to register.

### Grocery Store Gift Card Program

Do you grocery shop at Pathmark, Acme or Shoprite? If so, please consider making gift cards part of your shopping habit.

The gift card program is an ongoing fund raiser for the St. Barnabas Youth Group programs. Gift cards are always available for purchase after services in the Sanctuary or in the church office. Please contact Catherine Kaser with questions at 235-7149 or [chkaser@comcast.net](mailto:chkaser@comcast.net).

### EPISCOPAL RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT

Bob & Kay Herzog

We have 2 pieces of information to share from Robert Redtke, president of ERD. The first piece was reported by Sr Cassandra from her 2009 Convention notes when the president addressed their group:

"in 2009 (ERD) have helped (so far) 2.5 million people. 92 Cents of every donated dollar goes to these programs— meaning that only 8 cents is used for administration. Very few charities can make that statement."

The second piece is quoted from the August 2009 issue or ERD NOW. "last year ERD touched the lives of people by: - promoting health and fighting disease; alleviating hunger and improving the food supply; creating economic opportunity, and responding to disasters and rebuilding communities. Your support makes a world of difference—Thank you!"

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Remember our October Harvest Fest shares a good portion of its donation with Episcopal Relief and Development, so.....

COME TO THE HARVEST FEST!!!!

### To my friends at St. Barnabas from Jacoby, your church mouse

May the Lord show his mercy upon you;  
May the light of his presence be your guide.  
May he guard you and uphold you;  
May his spirit be ever by your side.  
When you sleep, may his angels watch over you;  
When you wake, may he fill you with his grace.  
May you love him and serve him all your days,  
Then in heaven may you see his face.  
(A Clare Benediction by John Rutter)



### EFM TRAINING

Education for Ministry (EFM) training will be available at St. Thomas in Newark. Led by Sister Barbara Jean Brown, EFM is an in depth and comprehensive, experiential education in the foundations and message of our Christian faith. This distance learning theological education program has been developed by the School of Theology of the University of the South in Seawane, Tennessee. For more information, contact Sister Barbara Jean at 302-420-7117.

Christiana Care Health System  
Department of Pastoral Services Presents  
Congregational Care Providers Training

Wednesdays – October 14, 21 & 28  
7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

Christiana Hospital – Newark, Delaware

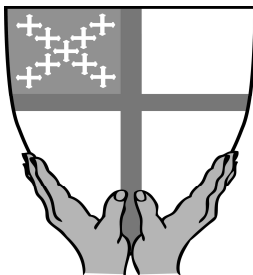
Note: this is excellent training for all  
Care givers, visitors and Stephen Ministers

### TRIP TO NATIONAL CATHEDRAL

On November 4<sup>th</sup> the ECW is sponsoring a trip to the Holocaust Museum, then lunch at Phillips Seafood, and then to the National Cathedral for a full tour. The cost is \$55.00 which includes lunch. The bus will pick up in Wilmington and Dover. More details as to pick up times, etc. will be forthcoming. There are 45 seats on the bus, so it is first come, first serve. If interested, please let Sr. Cassandra know.

**Worship Services**  
Saturday  
5:30pm Holy Eucharist  
Sunday  
7:30 and 10 am  
Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am

**COMING EVENTS**  
**October 4**  
*Creation Sunday & Blessing of the Animals*  
10 am service  
**OCTOBER 17**  
**HARVEST FEST**  
5:30 pm



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