

*A welcoming community of faith*

## St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church

# The Parish Pen

November 2009

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

### THANKSGIVING: A YEAR-ROUND HOLIDAY

***"Always be joyful. Always keep on praying. No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Jesus Christ."***

***1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, The Living Bible***

The Scriptures often call us to give thanks. Gratitude is not connected with any special holiday or season. It is one of the defining characteristics of a Godly life. At the same time, however, the holidays are in themselves a gift for which we offer thanks.

Our American Thanksgiving celebration is a marvelous jumble of elements. It is a harvest festival, in the tradition of such celebrations in almost every culture since ancient times. It is also a reenactment of a somewhat mythological feast held in the Plymouth colony almost four hundred years ago. It has a national connection, since the day has been marked by annual Presidential proclamations. People during the holiday season are moved to share with their neighbors through food collections and special dinners for the needy. It's a day for family reunions and for football games. On Thanksgiving Day, the Christmas season gets its official kickoff with the Macy's parade. And, of course, there is the main event--the traditional "Turkey Day" feast.

All of these elements may not be directly related to religion, but they certainly make for a great holiday. Thanksgiving crosses the barriers of religion and culture and economic levels to create a true national festival, And I love all of it. Thank God for Thanksgiving.

We have already begun our thanksgiving season at St. Barnabas. Harvest Fest weekend combined elements of the seasonal festival, a parish family reunion, and an opportunity to share with others. Our ongoing Stewardship Campaign challenges all of us to remember that all we have really belongs to God. We give back to him a portion of his gifts through our pledge support. During the next weeks, we will be invited to share with our neighbors through various Christmas gift collections. Thanksgiving is more than a day. In fact, every Sunday is a thanksgiving day, since that is the central meaning of the Eucharist. "Always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Jesus Christ."

Peter Huiner

### WALK THE LABYRINTH IN ADVENT

December 12, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Come join us at a quiet day of meditation and walking the Labyrinth at St. Barnabas. We will have a large Labyrinth to walk down in the Parish Hall and will prepare you for your walk with meditations. We will also have hand held Labyrinths and some ideas on how to make them yourself. This is a good way to become centered while awaiting the celebration of the birth of Christ.

The introduction and presentation will be given by Sr. Cassandra Grace and Sr. Kara Aidan.

### 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, Nov 5**

1:00pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

**November 2**

Women's Luncheon

@ Deerfield 12:30

**Thursday, Nov 5**

1:00pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

**November 11**

Men's Luncheon

@ Deerfield 12:30

**Saturday, November 21**

**8:30 am -3:15 pm**

**Parish Life Day**

**St Anne's Episcopal School**

**December 12**

**10 am**

**Walk the Labyrinth in Advent**

## CONTEMPLATIONS FROM A SISTER

My dear friends and members of St. Barnabas:

Working hard on something sometimes throws me into a backward motion. When things do not go as I had planned, I pray that God will keep my heart from getting dirty and bogged down with the negative. I have done a lot of praying lately. Things are not like I want them to be.

This is a time of discernment, as I am struggling to work out a schedule for handling CPE, work at the hospital and visiting our folks here at St. Barnabas, as well as mentoring an EFM group in New Jersey. Sometimes I feel as though it is not going to work, and then, just as I begin to fall apart, I remember to whom I belong. I belong to God, who has sent His Son to be sacrificed for me. I know that my Christ is your Christ also. There are times when I have to remind myself that I am Cassandra, in whom Christ dwells. You are my friends at St. Barnabas, and Christ dwells in you too. We are children of God, and we need to turn our eyes on Jesus. By doing so, we allow ourselves to bring our bodies into the life of Christ. I need the Jesus in you, we need the Jesus in each other. Let us walk together with Christ and each other.

Prayerfully, Sr. Cassandra

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

**While traveling around the churches in the area,  
I came across these signs:**

- 1. REPENTANCE IS BEING SORE FOR  
WHAT YOU'VE QUIT DOING**
- 2. THERE ARE SOME QUESTIONS THAT  
CANNOT BE ANSWERED BY GOOGLE**
- 3. PRAYER - WIRELESS ACCESS TO  
GOD WITH NO ROAMING FEE.**



## ANGEL SIGHTINGS AT ST. BARNABAS



Have you seen them? Not many do. They do their work at odd hours, mostly when no one else is around. But I've seen them in action. One is an energetic pixie who seems never to rest and her helper could be Santa's skinny brother. They scurry around moving furniture and cabinet, cleaning couches and closets, repairing furniture, shopping for all the detritus needed for Sunday School and Choir, readying every classroom. They leave little "light of the world" presents for the teachers, taking care of every detail. Thank you Jesus, we are truly blessed to have angels at St. Barnabas, as are they.

## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday, December 5th 9 am 'til 3pm

Enclosed in this mailing is an insert announcing our forthcoming Christmas Bazaar. Join us for a fun filled day, whittle down your Christmas Gift List, and enjoy a light lunch.

All our usual booths will display lovely items and we'll have a few new ones to tempt you. After you've noted the date on your calendar, pass the insert along to a friend or neighbor and bring them to the fair!

The proceeds from this event go to our Outreach Program. Last year we were able to distribute much needed funds to Meals on Wheels, Boys & Girls Club, Episcopal Relief and Development, Emmanuel Dining Room, Seamen's Center of Wilmington and the Food Bank of Delaware.

## BAZAAR NEWS

Needed—Books, DVD's, CD's, VCR Tapes, etc for the Holiday Bazaar on Dec 5. Donations may be dropped off in the White Elephant Room during the week preceding the bazaar, or on Firiday evening during set up hours on Dec 4.

Thank you for past contributions. Any questions, please call Susan Day, 235-0947, Terry Sloman, 994-9696 or Anne Friel, 998-6303.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Prayer Shawl monthly get-togethers First Thursdays of the month at 1pm. Please join us in sharing in this special Pastoral Care ministry. For information please contact Charlotte Sheehan or Barbara Connell.

## YOUTH CORNER

This fall is already off to a great start in Youth Group. Our Ice Cream Social was a huge success. Thanks to everyone ( especially the parents) for coming out and supporting us! A few weekends ago, we were lucky that the rain stopped and the weather allowed us to take a bike ride in White Clay Creek State Park. We also began painting and designing our youth room. This will be an ongoing project over the next month.

On October 18th we are having a paint party after church in the youth room (11-3:00 pm). Please wear and/or bring clothes to paint in. We will provide lunch and supplies. There will be no evening program that day. We hope to see you there!

Sarah and John Mester

### 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.

### 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.

From Joan and Bob Conly

With our deep and sincere gratitude to all our St. Barnabas friends for your continuous prayers for us. We deeply appreciate them and the lovely flowers that were recently brought to us. We both are doing much better and, with God's help, have adjusted to some “slow down” in our lives.

May our Lord keep you all in his care.

### Thanks to St. Barnabas

Ruth, Hal and Mike Bruner would like to thank our friends and neighbors in St. Barnabas parish for their many prayers, thoughts, kind words, and loving cards of sympathy following the recent death of Ruth's mother, Evelyn Gibson. Your kindness and concern are greatly appreciated.

## BOWLING LEAGUE

Old and young, married and single, tweens and teens, retired and working, amateur and pro, new members and seasoned—we all have a really great time connecting as a community once a month at bowling. Meet and join us at Price's Corner Bowling Lanes on November 14th and December 12th at 7 pm. Cost is \$10.50 for three games and includes rental shoes and ball. Contact Lori Kramer, 302-994-5279 evenings or [kramerlmj@comcast.net](mailto:kramerlmj@comcast.net) for more information and to reserve your spot (Drop-ins are welcome too!!!)

*The Saturday Night Bowling League challenges the Youth Group to a night of bowling. Date to be determined. Contact Lori Kramer*



### Harvest Fest Raffle and Auction

Harvest Fest 2009 was a wonderful evening of worship, food, fellowship and entertainment all in support of two worthy organizations; The Food Bank of Delaware and Episcopal Relief and Development, Gifts for Life. During the evening our live and silent auctions raised \$3800 which will be distributed to these two organizations.

Thanks to everyone who came and contributed ---- and especially to our energetic and fearless auctioneer, Chuck Simmermon and to the people from our parish who donated the items for the auction and raffle.

Ceeanne Brosi  
Susan Fentzloff  
John & Sandy Graper  
Jackie Hall  
Patrick & Catherine Kaser

Tinker Cox  
Laura Gracie  
Libby Green  
Valerie Jackson  
Florence Kvalnes

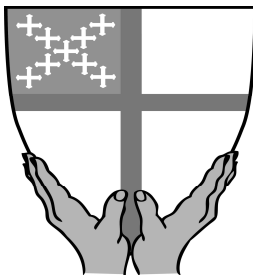
Martie LaRue  
Bobbie Merrill  
Marianne Pena  
Cindy Richards  
Dave & Barbara Taylor  
Sandy Witman  
Sophia

Susan Martin  
JoAnn Michael  
Bill Precht  
Margaret Slocomb  
Sharon Warrington  
Joan Yulduzian  
Carole

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

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

**CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**  
**SATURDAY**  
**DECEMBER 5**  
**9 AM to 3 PM**  
**December 12**  
**10 am**  
**Walk the Labyrinth in Advent**



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