

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church

The Parish Pen

December 2009

www.stbarnabasde.org

A welcoming community of faith



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Among the greeting cards you normally receive in December, you probably also receive "Happy Holidays" cards from your auto mechanic, insurance company, chiropractor and others who are wishing you well, but are also hoping to keep your business in the new year. You may also receive holiday mail from your newspaper deliverer, hair dresser, and trash collector, who are all hoping you will leave them a tip. Along with all of these, you have also received a letter from the Church. Like the others, it offered good wishes from the staff and it invited your continued "patronage" by reminding you of the times of the Christmas services. It even included an envelope which you could use for your special contribution (which, of course, was not a tip). This is to let you know that there is one piece of mail you will not receive this year, your Christmas Letter. This is it! We have even included the offering envelope in the PEN if you wish to make a special contribution.

We look forward to a rich season as we celebrate together at Lessons and Carols on Advent 3, at our Christmas services, and on to the Epiphany pageant. Each of these is an excellent opportunity for you to invite family members, friends, and coworkers to join you at one of the services.

May your holiday season be filled with love, generosity, hope, and great joy. The glory of the Lord will again be revealed, as promised, and we will not want to miss it.

Peter Huiner

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS

- December 5 Christmas Bazaar 9:00-3:00
- December 12 Advent Quiet Day- Walking the Labyrinth 9:30-12:30
- December 13 Advent Lessons & Carols 10:00
- December 17 Christmas Lunch for staff & office volunteers 12:00
- December 20 Youth Group Party 7:00
- December 24 Family Christmas Service 5:00
- December 24 Festival Christmas Services 8:00 & 11:00
(These are identical services preceded by a half hour of music)
- January 3 Epiphany Pageant 10:00

Note: There will be no service Christmas Morning

INVITATION

Anamchara Fellowship is delighted to announce that Bruce Richards will become a Novice on December 21st at 7:00 p.m. This service is also called a clothing, and Bruce will be clothed in his new habit. We will also have a Eucharist. Please come that evening and enjoy this wonderful ceremony and show your support for Bruce. Thank you, Sister Cassandra Grace

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- Thursday, December 24
- 5pm
- Family Service
- 7:30 pm
- Holy Eucharist with Music
- 10:30 pm
- Midnight Mass

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, Dec 3

1:00pm

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Monday, Dec 7

Women's Luncheon
12:30

Wednesday, December 9

Men's Luncheon
@ Deerfield 12:30

Saturday, December 12

10 am

Walk the Labyrinth in Advent

December 13

10 am

Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 31

Youth Group Lock-in

Church Office Closed
December 23, 24, 25, 31
January 1, 2010

CONTEMPLATIONS FROM A SISTER

Thoughts about Thanksgiving and Advent

Here we are, approaching Thanksgiving, and then Advent. As we move into a week of planning, cooking, eating and lots of conversation with family and friends, let us be aware of those who have little to eat. Let's not fill our tables with so very much food that it goes to waste. I know when we had our pot luck dinners at my former parish in Virginia Beach, and our Thanksgiving spread on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving, we would take the left over food and all the goodies to the local Fire Station and the nearby Homeless Shelter. Another thought is to dress and cook two turkeys and take one of them to a needy family.

Just a thought about sharing and giving thanks for all we have. **Thank you God for giving us the ability and power to pray and to help others.**

Now as we move into Advent, I find I am relying more and more on the Holy Spirit to keep me focused and open and loving. All the running around we do to buy presents for our children and grandchildren and others, it sends me into a tailspin. Ever watched a dog chasing its tail? Does that remind you of you?? Yes, I get caught up in that also, and I am trying to stay away from that this year. I may not succeed, but I am trying.

I went to a conference several years ago at the beginning of Advent and the speaker spoke of Mary's grace. Where would we be if Mary had not had the grace to say to the Angel Gabriel "...let it be..". So I remind you of the following: Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

May God Bless us, everyone!



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

Sometimes we are so busy adding up our troubles that we forget to count our blessings

Give God what's right--, not what's left!

Stephen Ministry Training

Training for Stephen Ministry will begin in January. There are currently six persons enrolled. If you have considered becoming part of a lay ministry which allows you to work one-on-one bringing solace and comfort to people who are hurting, consider attending this training. Contact a Stephen Leader for enrollment information, Ginny Thorgersen (302-994-4570), Andy Harriss or Lynda Harriss (302-656-6121).

YOUTH CORNER

The STB-YG is gearing up for an exciting holiday season! Similar to last year, we have adopted a family from the West End Neighborhood House. This year we are spreading holiday cheer by fulfilling gift wish lists for two boys and their mother. On November 15th we went shopping and purchased the gifts as a group. On November 22nd we held a wrapping party to wrap all the gifts. We had a blast playing "Santa's Little Helpers!" December is going to be another great month as our Adopt-A-Family project closes. On December 13th we are holding another wrapping party to wrap gifts going to Connections Community Support Programs. On December 20th we are holding our annual Christmas party, complete with the standard youth group wacky gift exchange. Youth group members need to bring a gift (\$10 or less). Don't miss it! Happy holidays!

John and Sarah Mester

Capital Campaign Update and Reminder . We have collected more than 90% of the original pledges to the campaign. Our goal is to complete the original campaign by year-end, so if you have not completed your pledge, now is the perfect time to help us reach our goal! If you are unsure about your pledge or whether you have completed it, please contact Florence at the Church Office (994-6607). Reminder letters will go out in early December for those who still have remaining balances. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Patrick Kaser at 235-7149 or pkunde-vil@comcast.net. Thank you!

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.

Betty Wadman thanks St. Barnabas for the flower arrangement that she received recently and offers her prayers and Seasons Greetings to all of her friends at St. Barnabas. She reports that she is doing fine.

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.

Notes from the Music Director

On Sunday, December 13 we will enjoy our annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols, as presented by the St. Barnabas Chancel and Renaissance Choirs and guest musicians. This service is a series of 6 Advent scripture lessons, each followed by a choir anthem, a congregational song or hymn and then an appropriate collect. There is additional beautiful liturgy in this service for clergy, choir, and congregation. This year there also will be a Eucharist, so in effect, the Lessons and Carols Service will serve as the service of the word, followed then by the Eucharist.

A Lessons and Carols theme for worship is quite old with roots in the Medieval Period. Although distinctively Anglican in history and nature, the service of Lessons and Carols has become very popular in churches of many denominations. An Advent Lessons and Carols Service is a variation of the traditional Christmas Lessons and Carols Service first presented during the 19th century at Truro Cathedral in England. The service was fashioned by then Archbishop Edward Benson, and later modified by Rev. E. M. Milner-White, Dean of Kings College Chapel, Cambridge, England. The annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Service at Kings College, Cambridge is heard by millions around the world by radio or television.

This particular Sunday, December 13, will be a wonderful Sunday to not only enjoy this service and beautiful music, but also will be a great Sunday to bring along a friend or two. What a great way to introduce someone to our church. Invite them back for our beautiful Christmas Eve services!

Finally, I invite you to take some time out from the busy holiday season and go enjoy a concert by one of the area's many musical organizations. Two in particular that I will be conducting is the Winter Concert at The Music School of Delaware on Sunday, December 13 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Helena's Roman Catholic Church on Philadelphia Pike and the concert presented by my New Ark Chorale on December 19th. "Hodie, Christ Is Born Today" at Newark United Methodist Church in Newark at 7:00. Whether you attend these concerts or not, be certain to make and take time to enjoy the season!

Please accept my wishes for a most meaningful and joyous Advent and Christmas season. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all!"

Michael Larkin
Director of Music Ministry



Blood Pressure Monitoring will be available on every first Sunday after the 10:00 am service during the Parish Breakfast.

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.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT

The 2009 Gifts of Life catalogs have arrived!

Many "gifts of life" --- really "gifts of love" --- are available in the new catalog as we at St Barnabas' continue choosing to support programs that allow individuals and communities to shake off the bonds of poverty and ignorance. These gifts come generously from our church school children, Harvest Fest participants, parish families and individuals.

On a national note, in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, ERD has helped found the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, building homes and restoring pride and hope to the Central City neighborhood in New Orleans. Stronger neighborhoods with involved citizens are building long-term investment in their future.

Please remember those helped by ERD, both at home and abroad, at times of thanksgiving among your families and friends in addition to the holiday season.

The 2009 catalogs are available at the back of the church.

HISTORY OF THE ADVENT ORPHREY

The banners were designed by Ceil Jones several years ago and the chausable was made by Amy Warder for the children's service. The candles on the chausable were fingerpainted by the children. Amy enhanced the candles and made squares for the chausable. We removed the design squares and used them for the lectern and pulpit hangings. The Altar panels used Ceil's design. Lynda Harriss and Anne Dixon suggested that the candle flames be detachable so that the correct number of candles would be shown burning each Sunday. Martha Precht made the burse.

Two new Christmas Angel banners were designed by Libby Green who also painted the faces and hands.

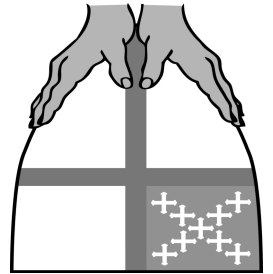
Stitchers for the Angels and Advent set were: Lynda Harriss, Anne Dixon, Ceil Jones, Joan Yulduzian, Susan Fentzloff, Helia Weir, Doris Jones, Young Tyler and Ceeanne Brosi.

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

Saturday, December 5
Annual Christmas Bazaar
9-3
10 am
Sunday, December 12
Walk the Labyrinth in Advent
10am
Lessons & Carols
December 13

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Thursday, December 24
Family Service
7:30 pm
Holy Eucharist with Music
10:30 pm
Midnight Mass

A welcoming community of faith



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MINISTRIES HIGHLIGHTS

In lieu of a Ministries Fair, the PEN will be highlighting the many different ministries in the PEN. Volunteers are always needed, so if you are willing to serve contact the chair person mentioned in each article. This month we are highlighting the Home Meals Ministry.

When I was Hungry, You Fed Me

Isn't it a relief when a friend makes you dinner when you need it most? A ministry of the Pastoral Care Committee, parishioners in need can receive a complete, home-cooked meal. The committee offers meals to new mothers and to parishioners undergoing circumstances that make cooking difficult, such as following a hospital stay, experiencing an extended illness, or suffering the death of a loved one.

The most rewarding thing about leading the Parishioner Meals committee is seeing the gratitude on people's faces when they receive a meal, reflects Carol McDowell. The group may not receive meal requests for a month or two but are sometimes more frequent. Parishioners can call the office to request a meal, or pastoral caregivers will extend an offer to families in need.

The committee needs additional volunteers to make or deliver meals. Entrées need not be fancy and can be completed with store-bought convenience items to make assisting easier. Entrées can also be made ahead and frozen. Those cooking need not be the same people to deliver the meal. While Carol has found chairing this committee fulfilling, she seeks one or two people to assume leadership. Responsibilities are easily divided and involve contacting volunteer cooks, arranging for deliveries, and working with pastoral liaisons to identify and reach out to families in need.

Can you volunteer to cook or deliver a meal? Do you feel called to chair this committee? If so, please contact the church office or Carol McDowell (234-0552 / cagmcdowell@verizon.net).

Stephen Ministry Retreat

October 10, 2009 the Stephen Ministry held its first annual retreat in the Lounge at St. Barnabas. Almost all the current Stephen Ministers/Leaders, as well as six prospective Stephen Ministers attended. Fr. Huiner opened the meeting with an invocation. Ginny Thogersen read the Scripture. Then Lynda Harriss presented the story of her journey and what brought her into this ministry.

Our invited guest speaker was the Rev. Bernitta Earle, Chaplain at Baylor Women's Correctional Institution. Her topic was: "Ministering in a Hurting World". Her words uplifted us and challenged us to love, not by our own will or power, but as servants of our Lord who gives us the command to love even those who seem unlovable.

Andy Harriss and Ginny Thogersen then led a round table discussion about "What works and what hasn't worked" in our Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Ministers then talked about their own experiences.

Sr. Cassandra closed with a benediction.

CONNECTIONS—a Community Support Program

Are you looking for a way to feel connected during the Christmas? Connections is a community support program where people facing adversity and various challenges live in 24 hour supervised housing. Most of the people have very little spendable income and many are not connected to their families.

St. Barnabas is excited to partner with Connections for the second year to bring friendship, presents, and holiday cheer to the residents. We are looking for parishioners to buy a gift, adopt a person, or make a financial donation.

Starting November 8th, we will be providing gift tags with the residents' requests. The tags will be in the back of the sanctuary. If you wish to make a financial donation, please see Mary Angerer. Furthermore, we will have a box located at the back of the church where financial gifts can be dropped off. If you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Ginny Thogersen, Mary Angerer, Catherine Kaser, or Tracey Delaney.



AN OFFERING OF BEAUTY

Sunday, November 22, marked the completion of a remarkable five year love offering at St. Barnabas'. On that day, Father Huiner blessed the new set of church hangings and vestments for the Advent season. These beautiful pieces will be in use by the time you read this.

The Advent set completes a major collection of textiles that reflect every season and major holy day in the Church calendar. They are a unique treasure of our parish, similar in purpose to stained glass windows or icons used in other churches. It is unusual for a church to own such a collection. What is even more remarkable is that these textiles were designed for our specific worship space by our own members. They were also completely crafted by our own members. The "Orphrey Group", as they have been called, has met week after week, year after year. We are deeply indebted to them.

The banners and vestments are, of course, primarily an offering to the glory of God, whom we worship "in the beauty of holiness." They are also, however, an offering of love to all of us, whose hearts are lifted by the work of these talented and dedicated volunteers.

The Chrismon trees are also in place for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. If you are new to our church, you may not know about these special ornaments. Each of them, completely hand made in gold and white, represents a Christian symbol. Like the hangings and vestments, these were also made by our own members. Take a close look at the trees and see how many symbols you can identify. They are a sermon in themselves. A booklet explaining their meaning is available in the back of the church. Thank you to Lynda Harriss, who made four new Chrismons for the collection this year. Can you spot them?