



A welcoming community of faith

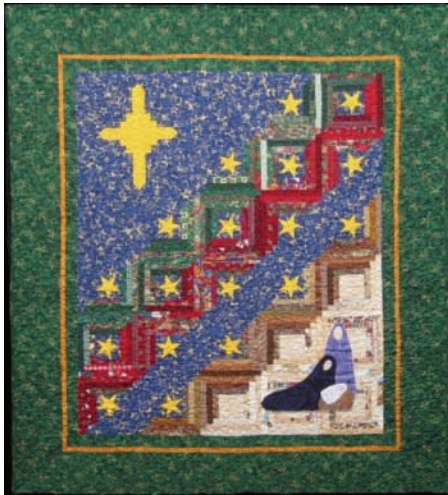
St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church

The Parish Pen

December 2010

www.stbarnabasde.org

CHRISTMAS HUMBUG?



Every good story needs a villain. The stories of Christmas are no exception--from Dr. Seuss' Grinch to Charles Dickens' Scrooge. The mythology we have woven around the holiday condemns anyone who says "Bah, humbug" to Christmas festivities. We have made having a merry Christmas into the eleventh commandment. We almost feel guilt and shame if we fail to get the Christmas spirit.

The truth is that many people who are reading this are at a Christmas "Bah, humbug" time in their lives. Physical illness or disability, financial distress, or loneliness make holiday celebrations impossible this year.

Thank God the message of the season is more than nutcrackers and jolly old elves and gift exchanges. It is, in fact, more than about a baby in a manger. John's Gospel never mentions the birth of Jesus at all. He talks instead about the embodiment of God in Christ. The birth he describes is not that of Jesus, but of us: "To all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12 & 13)

If Christmas merriment eludes you, give yourself permission to wish the season was over. Leave the baby in the manger this year, and experience the eternal presence of the One who promised to be with us always--even in the bleak mid-winter of our lives. May God especially bless you this year.

Peter Huiner

Worship Services

Saturday

5:30 pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday

7:30 am

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist

Sunday School

9:45 am

SERVICES FOR THE SEASON

December 12 @ 10 am

Lessons & Carols with Holy Communion

December 19 @ 10 am

*Children's Christmas Pageant
"Follow the Star"*

With Holy Communion

December 24

@ 5:00PM Family Holy Eucharist

@8:30PM Christmas Music

@9:00PM Festival Holy Eucharist

Coming Events

Thursdays @ 6:30 am

Early Risers

Bible Study

Wednesday, December 8

@ 12:30pm

Men's Luncheon
Deerfield

Thursdays @ 7:00

Chancel Choir Practice

Monday, December 6

12:30 pm

Women's Luncheon
Back Burner

Tuesdays @ 9:30 am

Lady Julian Bible Study

Saturday, December 4

@ 9am- 3pm

Annual Christmas Bazaar

Christmas Holiday

December 23

December 24

Church Office Closed

YOUTH CORNER

The STB-YG is having a fun fall. We recently went apple picking at Milburn Orchards. It was a nice day to catch up and enjoy the fall foliage. We also enjoyed some evenings of friendship and discussion. Perhaps one of the more provoking conversations dealt with "10 Goals We Want to Accomplish in Our Lifetime." Everyone had time to reflect and we came together to share goals. We heard some very insightful aspirations about a group that is ready to serve others and change the world. We continue to work on completing our youth room painting project and are busy creating items to sell at the Bazaar. Please note we are having a Thanksgiving celebration (youth group style) on Sunday, November 21st. Please bring a snack or drink and a canned good (to donate to the Food Bank of Delaware). There will be no youth group Sunday, November 28th. We are helping set up for the Bazaar on Friday, December 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30. Pizza will be provided. We are also supporting the Bazaar and manning our own table on Saturday, December 4th from 9 to 3 (sign up for an hour slot at youth group meetings). Please contact Sarah or John Mester with any concerns: stbyouth-group@gmail.com.

NO SATURDAY SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25 OR JANUARY 1.

GIFTS FOR LIFE

The Episcopal Relief and Development Fund "Gifts for Life" catalogue is available on the information table at the back of the church. If you are looking for a gift for someone who has everything, why not consider giving in their names to someone who has nothing? ERD is one of the primary mission programs of the Episcopal Church, and is highly regarded among all relief agencies.



HARVEST FEST SUCCESS

While we are not yet able to give a final amount, over \$3200 was raised by the auctions, mum sales and raffles. Thanks again to all who participated. We will publish the final results as soon as available.



"FOLLOW THE STAR"

St. Barnabas Annual Christmas Pageant is December 19 at 10 am. The only practice is Saturday, December 18 from 9-12 for narrators and actors; and from 10:30-12 for the rest of the cast. All children will get a part and costumes through Sunday School, Youth Group and Children's Choirs. If your child does not participate in one of these groups and would like to be in the pageant, please contact Sandy Witman at 302-999-7311 or slwitman@comcast.net. If you can help with props, please let Sandy know.



CONNECTIONS CHRISTMAS PROJECT—2010

St. Barnabas is excited for the opportunity to partner with Connections, CSP again this Christmas season to bring our friendship and love of God to their residents. 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.

We are looking for parishioners to buy a gift, adopt a person, or make a financial donation. In the next week or so, 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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP

We have received a very encouraging response to the 2011 Stewardship Appeal. Thank you to all who have pledged their financial support of our St. Barnabas ministries for the new year. If you have not yet responded, we are hoping to hear from you by the end of the year, when the Vestry makes up our budget. Every pledge, of whatever amount, is an important sharing in the work God does through all of us. Every member of the congregation is able to pledge something—even young people. Make stewardship a part of the Christian training in your home.



Notes from the Music Director

On Sunday, December 12 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 12, 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!

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

NOTES FROM THE VESTRY

On behalf of the entire Vestry, we'd like to extend our wishes for a happy, safe and healthy Christmas and New Year. We have appreciated your patience and strength during the Ecclesiastical trial although there has not been a decision announced as yet. We give thanks for Rev. Peter Huiner who will stay on as our priest. Your continuing support of the Vestry, the Diocese, and St. Barnabas has kept us united as a family with Christ.

Lori Kramer, Senior Warden

NO SATURDAY SERVICE ON DECEMBER 25 OR JANUARY 1.

READERS' SCHEDULE 11/20-11/28

Nov 20/21	5:30pm	10am
	Barbara Frye	Dante Pena/ Dave Carpenter
Nov 27/28	Joanna Watson	Nancy Clapp/Bobbie Waterland

NOVEMBER COMMUNION ASSISTANTS SCHEDULE

Nov 21	7:30am	10am
	Br. Bruce	Sr. Cassandra Archie Lord John Martin
Nov 28	Betty Demmler	Ray Lewis Jeff Bowersox Judy Stanard

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

November 21	December 12
David Fink*	Jess Pena*
Caitlyn Naughton	Dante Pena
Erin Roney	Johnny Wills
Kristen Spendio	Michaela Bressi

November 28	December 19
Abi Vanderlek*	Nick Rybinski*
Jake Marshall	Nick Sloman
Maggie Slocomb	Chris Lopez
Tessa Slocomb	

December 5	December 24
Matthew Walker*	Please let Ron Pena
Thomas Walker	know if you can serve at
Jenna Naughton	the 5PM or the 9PM ser-
Maggie Naughton	vice



JACOBY SAYS:

- ◆ Christmas is a season for kindling the heart for hospitality in the hall, the genial flame of charity in the heart. Washington Irving
- ◆ Christmas, children, is not a date. It is a state of mind. *Mary Ellen Chase*
- ◆ It wouldn't be Christmas without family and friends



2010 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR REMINDERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4

- ◆ If you can help set up or clean up, please call Dave Walker (239-9795)
- ◆ Sign up sheets for items to donate to the kitchen are in the back of the church and the Great Hall. (Bud & Cathy Cooling)
- ◆ Place order for plants by November 29. Plants can be picked up at the bazaar. (Sandra Graper 994-5222)
- ◆ Bring Donations for the White Elephant sale the week of the bazaar, contact Pamm Ferris, 983-8732.
- ◆ St. Barnabas craft table is accepting donations, contact Joan Yulduzian, 239-9529.
- ◆ Purchase pecans for your holiday baking.
- ◆ Bring used books, DVDs, CDs, VCR tapes the week of the bazaar. (Anne Friel 998-6302)
- ◆ Bake your best cookies and baked goods (cakes, pies, candies, breads) for the Cookie Walk and bake table and drop them off Friday evening (Dec 3rd) or early Saturday morning. (Anne Dixon 239-3716)
- ◆ Invite friends and neighbors, put flyers on bulletin boards in your neighborhood.
- ◆ Purchase fresh greens for your own wreaths or centerpieces!
- ◆ Go through your costume jewelry and donate items that you no longer wear to the jewelry table. (Carol Strukelj 351-4203)
- ◆ Purchase a St. Barnabas artists calendar.

If you would like to help at one of the tables on the day of the Bazaar, call one of the chairpersons to volunteer.

COME!

SHOP!

ENJOY A DELICIOUS LUNCH!

SUPPORT ST BARNABAS OUTREACH!



MORE MUSINGS FROM YOUR SISTER IN CHRIST

Compassion to me is a feeling that God has taken over my heart and my soul. I am struck by the feeling I get when visiting someone in the hospital. I am there with the sick, perhaps feeling their misery, pain and fear, and feeling God beside me. I am not the only one in that room with the sick. God is there with us, with his loving healing arms around both of us. His presence is so overpowering, giving me the strength and courage to be present to the sick, but also giving the sick the strength, courage and peace they need. God empowers me to be the hands and feet of Christ, to go to, and reach out to others in their time of need.

I used to be afraid to visit the sick, I had a hard time seeing my loved one, or a friend or an acquaintance suffering. I was walking into their space, feeling very uncomfortable and fearful, because I walked alone. I no longer walk in to see the sick without being hand in hand with God.

So, let me pose a question: How far does compassion reach, and into what other areas?

I believe compassion includes kindness, consideration, respect, and just down-right caring for others, whether sick or not. Jesus loves and cares for all of us, regardless. If we are to be true followers of Jesus, that is our commandment, to love and care for one another, regardless. Have compassion on all, humans, animals, and every creature. Our caring, compassion, respect and love for others will show on our faces, and dwells in our hearts and souls.

I will be leaving for a week and I ask and pray that you spend the week of Thanksgiving by giving thanks to God for all your relatives, friends and all those you meet. Focus on love. Loving God, being more loving to others, giving of yourselves, loving neighbors and self. Focus on being Christ to everyone! I will be thinking of and praying for all of you while I am gone.