

The Steeple Bell

of St. Barnabas Parish



August 2007

An Episcopal Community since 1891

Issue # 2007-08/07

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August, 2007***

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We have good news to share! After receiving nineteen applications, three nominations and twenty Church Deployment Office (CDO) computer matches, we decided that we could shorten the process which we described to you previously. We collapsed several steps on our timeline and jumped forward several months by carefully reviewing the first materials we received. We ruled out a number of applicants based on such factors as excessive salary demands, too little experience, erratic employment history, etc. We contacted by phone the few computer matches that seemed promising and encouraged them to look at the parish profile posted on the St. Barnabas website and apply if interested. We gained two additional applications as a result of this strategy.

We had initially planned to send hard copies of our parish profile and letters with specific questions to all applicants, nominees and CDO matches. We were going to review their responses before narrowing the field down to the ten or twelve best prospects. Instead, we were able to select the top twelve candidates based upon their resumes, cover letters and CDO profiles alone. We mailed parish profiles and questions only to these twelve candidates. We notified all other applicants that they had not been selected to continue in the discernment process with us. Simultaneously, we submitted our twelve names to Bishop Rob, giving him plenty of time to confer with his fellow bishops about the candidates before leaving for a month's vacation on August 1.

We are currently waiting to receive the written responses from our candidates. During this waiting period, we have been crafting questions for telephone interviews and practicing interview techniques. After reviewing the written materials which the candidates return to us, we will decide whether to interview some or all of them by phone. We hope to conclude the telephone interviews sometime in September. At that point, we will narrow the field to four to six candidates whom we will visit in person on their home turf.

We members of the Search Committee continue to work well together as a group. We are very encouraged by the caliber of our applicants and their expressed enthusiasm for learning more about our parish. Please keep the Search Committee, the Vestry and each of our candidates in your prayers as we move forward together in this awesome process of discernment.



Theology and Scripture

Rev. Sandy+

When I find it exceedingly frustrating to understand why there is such hostile reaction to and rejection of progressive/liberal interpretations of the Christian gospel, I'm reminded again that the reason goes back centuries – even millennia – to the philosophical and theological roots of the Christian tradition. Contemporary theologian and historian Justo Gonzalez has built a scholarly reputation for his multi-volume history of Christian thought, but in his small book Christian Thought Revisited: Three Types of Theology (rev. ed. 1999. Orbis Books), he provides a framework which I find encouraging as I look at our current situation. Gonzalez compares and contrasts three early Christian theologians, each instrumental in the development of Christianity in ancient cities around the Mediterranean.

The first was Tertullian (c160-c225) who lived and taught in Carthage, near Tunis in North Africa. He approached scripture from a legal perspective, which meant that for him the text was to be interpreted literally. Theological arguments were based on what the text “said”. What we now call the Old Testament described at length and in detail the laws and commandments that were given the people by God and were key to God's covenant with them. For Tertullian, the basic question asked by believers was “what does God require of us?” In the quest for answers to this question, the scripture functioned as law book or guidebook for living in a way that pleased God and permitted believers to reach heaven.

In Alexandria, Egypt at about the same time, Origen (c185-c254) was a Christian philosopher who was devoted to seeking the “truth.” The interpretation of scripture was of central concern for him. While he held that every word was to be cherished, the true sense of the Bible did not always follow from a literal interpretation. One text might have three different but complementary meanings: (1) literal, (2) moral, (3) intellectual or spiritual. While he did not always make clear the distinction between these three, he insisted on a spiritual meaning behind the literal sense. Every text was pregnant with profound symbolic meaning, and that was to be discovered through allegory. All of this was in the service of sorting out eternal truths. Gonzalez notes the perils of this approach as depending so heavily on the arbitrary decision of the interpreter, quoting a 20th century scholar who wrote: “[Origen] transforms the Bible into a divine cross-word puzzle, the solution to whose clues is locked in [his] bosom.”

The third thinker, Irenaeus (c130-c202), grew up in Asia Minor (now Turkey), whose major city was Antioch. With other early Christians he fled from persecution there and lived much his life in Lyons. For Irenaeus, God existed from the beginning and created all things, including humankind. We were created in the image of God but by that he did not mean that God's image was to be found in us. Instead God's image is the direction in which we are intended to grow. This growth is a component of the continuing creation of God. Dismissing the idea that the Fall of humankind was the loss of perfection, Irenaeus held that it was an interruption in our development. God did not and does not abandon us, always desiring to guide us into this new creation. To this end, scripture was the narration of the story of the many and various witnesses to the unfolding of God's purposes through history. The events in the Bible were real but some of the texts are to be interpreted in light of the texts that were plain, not the other way around. Such events are to be read for their deeper meaning, pointing toward the future and God's fulfillment of God's purposes.

It is intriguing that chronologically Irenaeus comes somewhat earlier than Tertullian or Origen. My hope is that we can go full circle, returning to Irenaeus' rich and encouraging notion of how the Scripture guides us into contributing to the fulfillment of God's ultimate purposes.

PEACHES, PEACHES, PEACHES

The peaches from the Family Ministry Fund Raiser are here. The recipes below are simple and VERY good!

HOMEMADE PEACH ICE CREAM

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup chopped fresh peaches
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups whole milk
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 tablespoon Vanilla

2 cups half and half

PREPARATION:

Combine the peaches with 1/4 cup of sugar and chill. Combine 1 cup of sugar with the cornstarch and salt. Blend the milk in gradually. Microwave on high (100%) for about 8 minutes or until thick, stirring two to three times. Slowly whisk the hot milk mixture into the beaten eggs. Microwave, on high (100%), about two minutes or until thick and creamy. Chill thoroughly. Add the vanilla and cream to the mixture. Stir in the peaches. Freeze in an ice cream maker (in batches if necessary) following the manufacturer's directions.

Makes about 1 1/2 to 2 quarts.

Easy Peach Crisp

Heat oven to 375°. Grease bottom & side of 8"x8" pan.

Mix together the following ingredients:

6 peaches peeled and sliced	1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 c. sugar	1/8 tsp nutmeg
2 Tbsp flour	Pinch of salt

Pour mixture in 8"x8" pan.

Topping:

3/4 c. brown sugar	1/3 c. soft margarine or butter
1/2 c. flour	3/4 tsp cinnamon
1/2 c. quick or old fashioned oatmeal	3/4 tsp nutmeg

Mix the above ingredients and sprinkle over peaches. Bake 30 – 40 minutes until golden brown and peaches are tender. Serve warm with cream or ice cream.

Donated by Bobbi Siersma

Peach Bellini's

Mix equal amounts of pureed peaches (peeled & pits removed) with champagne. Delicious!
Donated by Janet Manning

How to Freeze Peaches (the easy way)

Wash and dry peaches. Place peaches on a cookie sheet and put in the freezer. When they are rock-hard, store them in freezer bags. Peaches may be kept for at least a year.

To use: remove peach from bag and place on a microwavable plate. Put in microwave for approx. 30 sec. on high. Turn peach over and microwave for approx. 30 seconds on high. (The amount of time will vary with microwaves as well as personal preference.) The peach should be cool on the outside and almost frozen near the pit. Remove, cut in half, remove pit and skin. Slice and enjoy in cereal, drinks, sauces and smoothies

Nutritional Profile

1cup raw peach slices contains:

Calories: **60**

Fat: **0.39g**

Potassium: **293mg**

Vitamin A: **502 IU**

Vitamin C : **10mg** (USDA)

The House By The Side of the Road

THERE are hermit souls that live withdrawn
 In the place of their self-content;
 There are souls like stars, that dwell apart,
 In a fellowless firmament;
 There are pioneer souls that blaze the paths
 Where highways never ran-
 But let me live by the side of the road
 And be a friend to man.

Let me live in a house by the side of the road
 Where the race of men go by-
 The men who are good and the men who are bad,
 As good and as bad as I.
 I would not sit in the scorner's seat
 Nor hurl the cynic's ban-
 Let me live in a house by the side of the road
 And be a friend to man.

I see from my house by the side of the road
 By the side of the highway of life,
 The men who press with the ardor of hope,
 The men who are faint with the strife,
 But I turn not away from their smiles and tears,
 Both parts of an infinite plan-
 Let me live in a house by the side of the road
 And be a friend to man.

I know there are brook-gladdened meadows ahead,
 And mountains of wearisome height;
 That the road passes on through the long afternoon
 And stretches away to the night.
 And still I rejoice when the travelers rejoice
 And weep with the strangers that moan,
 Nor live in my house by the side of the road
 Like a man who dwells alone.

Let me live in my house by the side of the road,
 Where the race of men go by-
 They are good, they are bad, they are weak, they are
 strong,
 Wise, foolish - so am I.
 Then why should I sit in the scorner's seat,
 Or hurl the cynic's ban?
 Let me live in my house by the side of the road
 And be a friend to man.

A Reflection

Recently, while perusing an old book of my great-grandmother's, I came across this poem which most people have heard at least once. But what struck me is just how much St Barnabas personifies the poem. Sitting on the busy 13th and Vine corner, this old church and it's congregation watches the world go by and opens it's doors to all, no matter who they are, what they've done or what they believe. What a true "friend to man"!

An Anonymous Newcomer

Mid-Year Giving Campaign

Opportunity knocked and we answered so generously! As of August 13, our gifts, new pledges and pledge increases have put the St. Barnabas Mid-Year Giving Campaign well over the top at \$ 23, 865.00! *Thank you to everyone who gave in this Mid-Year campaign.* We have kept our programs intact. This is a generous and committed parish.

We look forward to our every-member stewardship and pledge-building campaign in the fall. This is an *Every Member Campaign* because there will be opportunities for *everyone* to be involved. Help organize the campaign, speak at a worship service, sponsor a stewardship dinner, bring food to a stewardship dinner, speak at a dinner – there are many tasks to divide among all of us. And one of the most important tasks: *make our pledge.*

We'll start the Fall Stewardship Campaign in September. The Stewardship Committee will have the details for you then. In the meantime, have a wonderful end of summer!

Again, thank you.

Roger Mattison, Chair
 St. Barnabas Stewardship Committee

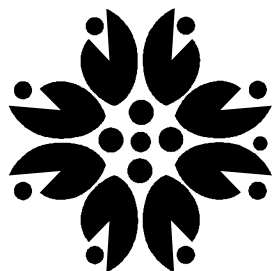


MEET THE VESTRY

Judy Ward

Although I have traveled extensively, I'm a hometown gal—except for a couple of years in Telluride and one in Gunnison, I have always lived in Denver. I joined the Episcopal Church under the beatnik priest Malcolm Boyd at C.S.U.

Later I earned an M.B.A. from CU Denver. Tom and I met skiing at Winter Park and were married 45 years ago at St Barnabas. We have two daughters, Becca and Jennifer, and three spunky granddaughters. We raised our family while attending St. Thomas Episcopal Church where we were introduced to its annual auction. There I served on the Vestry, as Treasurer and as a member of the search committee. I was a partner at the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand and founded two schools—Children's Garden Montessori School in Cherry Creek and Escuela de Guadalupe, a Catholic dual language school serving the Hispanic Community in NW Denver. We returned to St. Barnabas shortly after Father Al and Susan came. To this day, we thank the St. Barnabas community for the way it welcomed us and helped us heal. Because we knew how the St. Thomas auction built community, we brought it with us. During our second year, we started the annual St Barnabas Auction. The first year about four or five couples exchanged auction items earning about \$1000 for the church. By the third year, it caught on, and the rest is history. In the past 20 years, I have served on the Vestry several times, as Treasurer and as Chair of the Finance Committee. Currently I am in the first year of my latest Vestry term. My biggest interest is the Luken's Second Century Endowment and what we do with it.



NOTES FROM BARNABAS TIME :

July 29, 2007

July's session of Barnabas Time focused on an update of the Rector Search process (see page 1); and a report on the Congregational Survey and Rector Evaluation, which was recently distributed to the congregation and the results just compiled. Lynn Hoffman and Melinda Cabell represented the Vestry in this presentation and subsequent discussion.

Lynn Hoffman was responsible for developing the evaluation tool for the Vestry. The evaluation tool is intended to serve as an assessment for our current interim rector, as well as a means to evaluate the future rector.

Lynn said the degree of participation in the evaluation process was remarkable. Parishioners offered quite a few useful comments, in addition to the rating format. A summary of the three most significant areas identified by the Parish was addressed to our interim rector, Lynn reported. Details of the evaluation were not disclosed. The Vestry will be discussing the evaluation results and a plan for implementation.

Discussion followed the presentation. Parishioners asked for more details of what the evaluation indicated, what goals might be suggested by the evaluation, what steps might be taken to respond to issues raised, what conclusions might be reached regarding changes in approach, modifications of staff responsibilities, and Parish committee responsibilities. Questions were raised about what might be considered personnel issues, not open to the Parish, and what might be reasonable areas for response to the congregation based on what the evaluation indicated. The Vestry plans to discuss the evaluation more extensively.

Other concerns raised in Barnabas Time included the tinny font size in the bulletin, which many parishioners, young and old, can't read, and the abandonment of the hymnal and prayer book. Roger Mattison outlined the pledge campaign, took suggestions and accepted volunteers to participate in the annual pledge campaign.

Toni and Tom Potter



ST BARNABAS PEOPLE



Oksana Ross, Ben Fiedler, Kevin Lindahl, Robin Davis



Jackson Shepard, Paige Shepard, Barb



Eileen O'Brien, Mary Kennedy, Isabella Higginson

Thank you for the pictures, Timothy Hepp.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1	Robert Friesen
2	Jessica Kendrick
4	Faith & Gary Gregor
5	Lynette Emery Karl Pigford
6	Teague Bohlen
7	Richard & Margaret Garbe
8	Pat & John Ludwig
9	Ellen Neil Karen & Jim Esten
10	Jack & Mary Fields
12	Mike Erickson Lynn & Karen Hoffman
14	Bud & Marian Hall
16	Pat Ludwig Carol Wier Tom Feldkamp Dennis & Penny Lyon
17	Leigh Odell Tia Sheridan Cheryl & Larry Volmert
20	Jack Unruh Brian Reid
21	Gary Gregor Jen Hutchinson & Karen Burch
22	Melanie Lindahl
24	Anna Lynn David Dawn Wooderson
26	Conor & Barbara Farley
27	Chad Griffin Collin Gorham
28	Jessica Reid
30	Lucia (Lucy) Gartland Greg Crowson Jana Everett Eileen Manville Grant & Heidi Carlson

If you were not listed or have a correction, please let Carol know in the Church office: 303-388-6469

Mark Your Calendar**Adult Forum: August 12, 19 at 11:00 AM**

Engaging the Word: reading the Bible again, differently.

Vestry Meetings: Wednesday, August 8, and 22; Sept. 12 and 26. (Each 2nd and 4th Wednesday).

Meetings start at 6 p.m. at the church. The meetings are open and all are welcome to attend.

Steeple Bell Deadline: the 15th of the month

Deadline for weekly Announcements is the end of the day Tuesday prior to Sunday publication. Send information for the Steeple Bell and Announcements to Carol Anderson, parish administrator, via fax: 303-333-0512;

email: office@stbdenver.org; or snail mail: 1280 Vine St., Denver, CO 80206-2912.

Sunday School Brunch: August 19**Sunday, August 26: Blood Pressure Sunday****ROBIN WILLIAMS
ON BEING AN EPISCOPALIAN**

Robin Williams is an active Episcopalian. Here he gives 12 reasons for being in Episcopalian.

12. Free wine on Sunday!
11. God created them male and female, we ordain them.
10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs
8. You get one free foot-washing per year.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. The Church year is color-coded.
5. All of the pageantry—none of the guilt.
4. Directions are included in the BCP.
3. There are Pew Aerobics.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to be baptized.

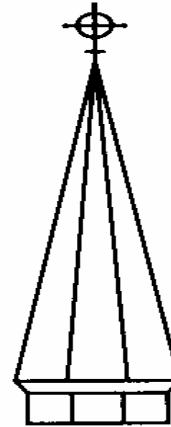
AND, THE NUMBER ONE REASON FOR BEING AN EPISCOPALIAN:

1. No matter what you believe, or don't believe, there is at least one other Episcopalian who feels the same way!

The Steeple Bell of St. Barnabas is our monthly newsletter. We hope you enjoy it. The Steeple Bell is brought to you every month via email or US mail. If you would like to contribute or change how you receive it, please contact the church.

Interim Rector	Rev. Sandra Boyd
Assisting Priests	Rev. Debra Angell Rev. Dr. Bill Miles Rev. Kent Mueller (ELCA)
Senior Warden	Mary Lou Fenili
Junior Warden	Mary Erickson
Steeple Bell Editor	open
Parish Administrator	Carol Anderson
Family Ministry	Jane Schmitz
Music Ministry	David Bell Janet Frazier Carole Tillotson
Sunday Evening Ministry	Ken Phillips
Parish Nurse	Joan Jarboe, RN
Sexton	Sandy Ortiz

- ◆ Sunday 7:45 a.m.
- ⋯ Sunday 9:30 a.m. (music)
- ⋯ Sunday 6:30 p.m. (informal)



DATE CHANGES FOR POYC GATHERINGS

**3 POYC DATES HAVE CHANGED
PLEASE SAVE THESE NEW DATES:**

**AUGUST 19, 2007 SUNDAY SCHOOL
BRUNCH**

**SEPT 9, 2007 SUNDAY SCHOOL
START-UP**

SEPT 16, 2007 POYC AIDS WALK

Photo Show – Ellen Janasko I'd like to invite you to see an exhibit of some of my photographs at a little coffee shop downtown called **Backstage Coffee** on 14th Street at Curtis at the entrance to the DCPA galleria. (303-623-1300).

This collection of photographs is a look at the shapes and reflections of downtown Denver buildings and will be up through August.

I have been taking pictures since I was a kid with a Kodak Brownie camera, but this is my first public exhibit. It's a bit of a leap for an amateur photographer, but I'm trying to get better at taking leaps and not putting things off.

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