

The Steeple Bell

of St. Barnabas Parish



December 2007

An Episcopal Community since 1891

Issue #2007-12

Do Your Christmas Shopping at St. Barnabas, Dec. 9

St Barnabas' Annual Christmas Alternative Market, scheduled Sunday, December 9, is a superb opportunity to ***get some of your Christmas shopping done while at the same time helping less fortunate members of our community.*** The Market will be set up in Marshall House after the 7:45 and 9:30 services and will extend until noon.

Representatives from non-profits will be available to tell you about their causes and how your offering or purchase will help the people they serve. In turn, you will receive a card to write down the agency name, your contribution, and your name. ***At Christmas, the card can be your gift to a friend or family member.*** Some of the agencies that are participating this year are listed below.

Project Angel Heart promotes the health, dignity, and self-sufficiency of people living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses by providing home-delivered meals.

Charg Resource Center at its two Capitol Hill locations provides a mental health clinic, a drop-in center, and two subsidized apartments.

Sewall Child Development Center is dedicated to meeting the needs of, and enhancing opportunities for, young children with special needs by providing in-home services and a diagnostic clinic for children with developmental concerns.

Centus Counseling Center (formerly Samaritan Counseling Center) provides licensed, professional counseling and educational resources to help heal and bring lives together within local communities, their congregations, schools and businesses. Its goal is to help people and organizations grow toward greater health and wholeness.

Family Homestead provides emergency and transitional housing and supportive case management to homeless families with children.

CANA (Caring Association of Native Americans) assists Native Americans who are coming from the reservation to Denver in need of health care with travel, housing and other expenses.

St Francis Center is a daytime refuge for the homeless. Daytime clients are offered an array of services, including showers, storage, phone messaging, mail drop, an employment office, and health clinic.

Urban Peak serves homeless and runaway youth by providing a safe, caring, stable environment to assist them in permanently exiting street life. Services include a 40-bed overnight shelter, nutritious meals, clothing and hygiene products, job skills and job placement, a medical clinic, and financial assistance for higher education.

Earthlinks is a non-profit experiential Earth-education organization that engages economically poor city residents in mutually enhancing relationship with earth and their community.

MetroCareRing is an emergency assistance service for those in need in Metro Denver. Food sacks from MetroCareRing are full of basic, nutritious foods and personal hygiene items that families in crisis desperately need but can't afford to buy. In addition to food, MetroCareRing provides numerous other services.

Center for Spirituality enables individuals' and organizations' perspectives to be broadened as new creative partnerships are formed. Many people from various walks of life contribute to and benefit from the Center's efforts to act as a bridge uniting diverse people for spiritual transformation and social justice.

Virginia Ervin Challenge Grant Committee Members Needed

Two new members from St. Barnabas are needed for the 2008 Virginia Ervin Challenge Grant Committee. A committee of six lay people governs the Virginia Ervin Challenge Grant Fund. Three members, as well as the committee chair, are from St. Barnabas and three additional members represent parishes across Colorado. Committee members serve three-year terms. *The Ervin Fund's mission is to provide matching funds to parishes, missions, special projects and ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado* to further God's kingdom. Please contact Dennis Kennedy, who will be the new chair, following Jim Hill, or the Senior or Junior warden if you are interested in serving.

Congratulations to Bill Lundgren

Congratulations to Bill Lundgren who was honored with the President's Award by the National Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors (NALGAP) at the Association's annual meeting in Nashville on September 6.

Bill was given a large vase inscribed with his name and the following statement: *For leadership in educating health care professionals about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug problems among lesbians, gays, bi-sexuals, and transgender individuals and their community.*

For almost thirty years Bill has been working with GLBT people and training other counselors to do so. He is a man with boundless energy and enthusiasms. Two years ago he completed the four year EFM program; he has served on the St. Barnabas vestry; he initiated a non-profit providing senior group housing; and he has served on numerous city commissions to promote equity for the disability and GLBT communities.

VESTRY MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Vestry agreed to using an Advent Service Booklet on a trial basis during December. The booklet will be placed in the pew and used at both morning services with the hymnal and separate sheets of other hymns and prayers of the people. The vestry's aim is to be more environmentally friendly by reducing paper use. The booklet uses Eucharistic Prayer D. Announcements on a different color paper will not be included in the booklet but left at convenient pick up points. The whole Christmas service will be presented with the usual detailed pew sheet.

At the November 14 Vestry Meeting Judy Ward presented and explained the 2006 Financial Statements she had prepared in compliance with the Auditor's report. Motions to approve the format and to accept the report were proposed, seconded and carried unanimously. The Vestry thanked Judy Ward for all her hard work.

The Vestry unanimously approved a motion to accept the introduction of a new lay pension plan.

Dennis Kennedy agreed to be the new Vestry Representative and Chair of the Virginia Ervin Fund, replacing Jim Hill, whose term is ending.

At the November 28 Vestry Meeting, Roger Mattison reported on the Every Member Pledges Drive, reporting 76 pledges of \$227,842. The drive will continue in December with telephone contacts and appeals the first two Sundays in Advent. Roger volunteered to lead the pledge drive in year 2008.

The soup project will be on hold for the month of December. Mary Erickson will assemble a team to start up the project again in January.

Deb presented a proposed draft brochure for a customary for funerals and is working on a similar customary for weddings. Draft of the funeral customary is on file with the Vestry Minutes in Lukens Wing.

The Vestry has approved a new Building Utilization Policy which Karen Esten has volunteered to implement.

The Vestry approved dates for the Health Fair and blood drive, February 10, 2008, and March 10, 2008, respectively.

Every Member Pledges Campaign 2008

By Roger Mattison

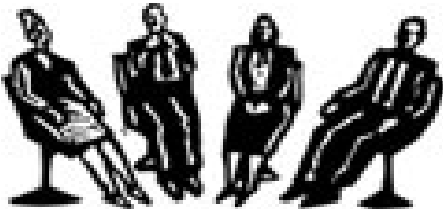
We are *very close* — as of Wednesday, November 21, \$227,842 had been pledged for 2008 placing us at nearly 80% of our financial goal. Still, there are many Saint Barnabas members who have not pledged for next year. At 76 pledges, we are well below the number of pledges on the books in 2007.

Although the most active phase of the 2008 Every Member Pledges Stewardship Campaign is drawing to a close, don't worry! There is still time to send in a pledge for next year. The office will continue to accept pledge cards until we reach a goal of 140 pledges or \$290,000.

The next 5 months are a very exciting time in the life of Saint Barnabas. We will select and call a new rector to lead us into the next phase of our life as a faith community. We will connect our amazing past and our miraculous growth of families and children to our hopeful future.

The engine that will drive this connection is the financial participation of every member bearing witness to our faith and generosity. The best way to really participate in all that is happening is to join with the others in the parish who have made a **financial pledge**. With 60 additional pledges, we will be in a solid financial position. We especially want those who have not pledged before to make this commitment now for 2008.

This is a call to the generous people in our faith community — that's all of us - to live out our spiritual beliefs by pledging support to the people, programs and place where we have chosen to worship. Thank you to all who are heeding this call.



Learning
from the

Best:

November-December Adult Forum

By Brian Price

St. Barnabas is poised on the front of a new wave of change and development. Together with a new Rector, we are all going to determine the direction, power, and impact of that new wave.

The Adult Forum concluded a discussion of church, faith, and works with a fascinating book by Diana Butler Bass, Christianity for the Rest of Us (Harper One, 2006). We concluded our exploration of this subject on Sunday, December 2. We closed with a discussion of the final section, "From Tourists to Pilgrims." This engrossing book stimulated useful as well as interesting discussion of the question "why am I here at St. Barnabas?"

Our Common Spiritual Struggle: January Adult Forum

Did you read about the recent publication of Mother Theresa's letters to her confessor? These letters chronicle a lifetime of search, hope, disappointment, and unflagging persistence by a woman who felt that Jesus had checked out of her life. What was she expecting? How could she go on believing? Why would she carry on with her mission, if the Jesus she once knew had abandoned her? Now—what does it mean to you and me?

In January, we will explore the recent book, Come Be My Light by Mother Theresa and Brian Kolodiejchuk, available from Amazon for \$13.77. We will have further information on ways to get the book. In keeping with our "no guilt" policy, we will make this a valuable time for everyone who comes, whether or not you have started the book!

Adult Forum, January 6, 13, 20.)

At St. Barnabas: LifeSpark Aids Cancer Patients

Jennifer Stevens was diagnosed with advanced ovarian cancer over a Christmas holiday. Certainly not the Christmas present she was looking for! When she began chemotherapy sessions in January, she was very concerned that she would not be able to continue these activities. The chemotherapy made her very tired and she found it difficult to do very much during chemo week. That is when a friend of a friend told Jennifer about LifeSpark, and she began receiving weekly Reiki sessions with LifeSpark, located at St Barnabas Episcopal Church.

After several months of Reiki sessions, her family began to notice an increase in her energy levels, and she was gradually able to do more activities, including attending her Reiki session during chemo week. Jennifer is one of many individuals receiving sessions at St Barnabas Episcopal Church.

LifeSpark Cancer Resources is a non-profit organization that matches volunteer Reiki and Healing Touch providers with individuals with cancer. Each volunteer is matched with one person for three to six months and hands-on sessions are provided each week. Close relationships develop and those receiving services report relief in physical symptoms as well as a feeling of being supported and nurtured. Services are offered to individuals with any stage or any type of cancer.

Reiki and Healing Touch are hands-on energy based therapies that use a gentle light touch. They are known to diminish the harsh side effects of chemotherapy and radiation, and research suggests that they can reduce pain, depression, anxiety, and fatigue.

LifeSpark's Energy Partners program is a grass-roots, volunteer based effort with over 40 volunteer Reiki and Healing Touch providers, and a growing number of other volunteers. Sessions are offered at three hospitals, two churches, and a clinic. LifeSpark is particularly grateful to St Barnabas Episcopal Church for providing space for this important service.

LifeSpark is hosting a "Touching Tomorrow" fundraising breakfast on December 12th in Lakewood. All St Barnabas members and staff are invited to attend and to learn more about this caring and innovative organization. To learn more about LifeSpark, please visit www.LifeSparkNow.org or call 303-425-5670.



The Three/Four Trio performed a very successful concert in Lukens Wing at St. Barnabas November 11, 2007.



PRESENTS

VOICES ON VINE

WITH

Kathy Brady(Of the Denver Center Theatre Company and
Stories On Stage)**In a dramatic reading****January 26, 2008****7:00 pm****The St. Barnabas All Parish Art Show is coming !****Thank You, Thank You, Thank You*****Parish Garden Donations***

Louise Boettcher has generously donated \$100 in memory of her mother Charlotte Rogers and Aunt Frances Teller, both long time parishioners of St. Barnabas. The donation is for the upkeep of the gardens. Louise lives in Clancy, Montana, and helps out with the gardens of St. Peter's Episcopal Cathedral in Helena, Montana. She has commented on the beauty of the gardens at St. Barnabas, and her donation will help with the ongoing maintenance of our parish gardens.

Thank you to all of the individuals who helped out with the planting, cleanup and care of our gardens this spring, summer and fall. And, a special thank you to **Sean Middleswaart** for maintaining the lawn and hedges.

Gifts of Time, Talents and Treasure

Jim Hill's contributions to the parish are unmatched. For many years he served as Music Director, and organist. He is completing a term on the Vestry and as chairman of the Virginia Ervin Fund. He has faithfully cared for our gardens year after year. He and his partner Lanny Dick donated a wonderful commercial dishwasher this year. More recently Jim donated \$650 for a climate control system and piano dolly for the console piano in Lukens Wing that is used by the Sunday evening service. For years Jim delighted us with wonderful piano solos as a prelude to the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service. Thank you, Jim, for sharing your time, talents and treasure for the benefit of St. Barnabas Parish.

Good Bye Rev. Sandy

On Sunday, November 11, the congregation wished the Rev. Sandy Boyd farewell at a breakfast held in her honor between the 7:45 and 9:30 a.m. services. Lynn Hoffman presented Sandy with a "Barney" award in appreciation of her 15 months of service as interim rector. Another reception was held following the 5:30 p.m. service. Ken Phillips presented the Rev. Sandy with a gift and she in turn gave Ken an award for his service to St. Barnabas.



Rev. Sandy leaves us with this thought, "This 'Old Chinese Proverb' describes what I hope and pray is a summary of my 15 months at St Barnabas"

Go to the People,
Live among them,
Learn from them,
Love them,
Serve with them,
Start with what they know,
Build from what they have.
But of the best leaders,
when their task is accomplished,
their work is done.
The people will all remark
WE HAVE DONE IT OURSELVES.

Our Newest Vestry Member:

Mary Duell

[Mary Duell was a runner-up for Vestry at the last Annual Meeting and became the Vestry replacement when Lynn Hoffman became Senior Warden.]

I have been at St. Barnabas since 1998 but my connections go back much further than that. When I was a little girl, my father made a life change from being a cattle rancher to being an Episcopal priest. Ed Ostertag was the rector of the church in Raton, New Mexico and was the priest who mentored my father prior to seminary. When Ed was at St. Barnabas, my father, by then retired, occasionally took services for him; I'm sure some of you would have seen him here. For me, the most significant service at St. Barnabas that my father and Ed jointly held was the memorial service for my daughter, Amy, who died in 1988 from leukemia. So my connections to this parish have been important. I had been a member of St. Mary's when that parish split over the ordination of women; after a few years there, I took a break from regular church attendance (much to my father's dismay) but then realized I wanted to be a part of a parish again. Of course, St. Barnabas came to mind, and the focus on social responsibility, inclusiveness and welcome made it truly appealing.

I have lived in Denver since 1975. I went to Nursing School at Presbyterian Hospital diploma program when I realized I was about to be responsible for raising two little girls. I then worked at St. Luke's, after that in an in-house hospice unit. I went back to Metro State College to get my BSN and my Nurse Practitioner certification; after that I worked in the Student Health Clinic at Metro for a few years in a truly challenging, enjoyable job. But after Amy died I had a hard time treating young healthy adults who were just her age, so I went to work in Occupational Health and I am now at Denver Water. My partner of 12 years, also named Mary, is self-employed doing a variety of administrative services for individuals and small businesses. She attends the First Divine Science Church so, as she says, we are "bi-churchal". My two daughters, Amy and Rachel, attended Dora Moore Elementary, Morey Junior High and East High School. Rachel, now 34, is married to a librarian and the most wonderful son-in-law I could hope for; Rachel is a massage therapist and teaches yoga and soon will be taking a break from that to have a baby in March, yea Grand motherhood!

Advent Prayer

Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

The St. Barnabas family participated in three Celebrations of Life In November.

Carolyn Starbuck

John Foster

Ian Baugh

The Steeple Bell will offer remembrances of their lines in future publication.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, December 2, First Sunday in Advent
Adult Forum 11 p.m.

Monday, December 3
Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 9, Second Sunday in Advent
Alternative Market, 8:45-Noon

Monday, December 10
Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12
Vestry Meeting, 6 p.m.

Saturday, December 15
Pageant Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
9:30-11:00 a.m.

Sunday, December 16
9:30 a.m. The Very Important Christmas Pageant
Followed by the Eucharist
5:30 p.m. Eucharist
Chile Supper and Caroling following

Monday, December 17
Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 23
Christ the King Sunday
A Time for Healing and Renewal

Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve
5 p.m. Early Service
10:30 Choir's Gift of Music
11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with Christmas Music

Sunday, December 30
Blood Pressure Sunday
No Sunday Evening Service

Monday, New Year's Eve
6:00 p.m. Service followed by
New Year's Celebration

Home for the Holidays!
**Make St. Barnabas
 Your Holiday Home**

During the holiday season St. Barnabas welcomes everyone in the community to share in worship, friendship and a celebration of the gifts of life and love.

The first two Sundays of Advent offer us a chance to reflect on our lives and to renew our spirits.

Sunday, Dec. 9, the Alternative Market will follow the morning worship services; you can solve the dilemma of what to give to friends and loved ones who have everything. They will welcome a gift in their name to one of the many worthy causes represented at the Market set up in Marshall House.

Dec. 16 is Gaudete (or “pink candle” Sunday), a time to rejoice and hail with joy “the Lord who is nigh and close at hand.” Come enjoy a festive seasonal interlude with:

“**The VERY Important Christmas Pageant**” starring the children of St. Barnabas at the 9:30 a.m. service. At the 5:30 evening service special music has been arranged, as well as heart and soul warming chili after the service. Following supper you’re invited to go **caroling in the neighborhood and enjoy post-caroling conviviality** after returning to the warmth of St. Barnabas.

Dec. 23 is Christ the King Sunday, a time for healing and renewal. Enjoy the quiet and peace of the sanctuary in communion with Christ and your St. Barnabas family and friends.

On **Christmas Eve**, there will be an early **5 p.m. Eucharist service** to accommodate holiday schedules. **The traditional Midnight Mass service begins at 10:30 p.m. with the 10:30 p.m.** with the Choir’s gift of music. The Eucharist service begins at 11 p.m. Come early to get a seat.

The **Christmas morning service at 10 a.m.** will feature the music by the evening service ensemble. Ken Phillips describes it as a “simple, refreshing, un-manic holiday liturgy.”

New Year’s Eve Service on Monday, Dec. 31, begins at 6 p.m. with a liturgy written especially to prepare you for the challenges and joys to come in 2008. A reception will follow the service. Festive holiday attire is encouraged (but not required.) Ken asks that you please sign up in Lukens Wing to get an idea of numbers in order to plan accommodations and refreshments. Anyone interested in helping with food and set-up would be GREATLY appreciated.

Please contact Ken Phillips at 303 477-8276 or kphillip@regis.edu

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

1280 Vine St., Denver, CO 80206-2912
 Telephone: 303-388-6469 Fax: 303-333-0512
www.stbdenver.org
[email:info@stbdenver.org](mailto:info@stbdenver.org)

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Weekly Announcements’ deadline is the end of the day Tuesday for Sunday publication.

Send information for The Steeple Bell and Announcements to Carol Anderson via fax, email, or snail mail.