



The Steeple Bell

of St. Barnabas Parish



November 2007

An Episcopal Community since 1891

Issue #2007-11

An Update from the Search Committee

By Cheryl Volmert, Search Committee Chair

The month of October has been a busy, exciting time for the Rector Search Committee. Like the early disciples, we have broken into pairs to travel and advance our work. By the time you read this report, we will have visited each of our five semi-finalists on his or her home turf. Each visit has been structured to include a personal interview with the candidate, an informal evening at a restaurant with the candidate and his or her spouse/partner, face-to-face meetings with references, and attendance at the candidate's main Sunday service. We met on Wednesday, October 30 to share our experiences and perceptions and to narrow the field to two or three finalists whose information we will bring to the Vestry on Wednesday, November 7.

We hope to bring each finalist and spouse/partner to Denver to meet with the Vestry and the entire Search Committee in November. This is an ambitious plan, but Vestry members have agreed to clear their calendars as much as possible to try to complete the finalists' visits before the holidays. If all goes as we hope, the Vestry will make a final decision and negotiate a contract with the new Rector before the end of the year.

We will continue to share as much information as possible as we move forward with the search process. We understand how eager you all are to meet and greet our new Rector. We share that eagerness! We have excellent candidates and every expectation that this discernment process will lead to a wonderful outcome. Thank you for your patience -- and your frequent-flier miles! Please continue to keep the Search Committee, the Vestry and our candidates in your prayers.

News from the Every Member Pledges Campaign

By Roger Mattison, Stewardship Chair

This fall the stewardship emphasis has been on increasing the number of members of Saint Barnabas who participate in the life of the church by pledging. Many volunteers have helped start this campaign by making Sunday announcements, volunteering to host information dinners and publicizing the goals of expanding the number of pledges for 2008. *And the pledge cards are coming in!*

Our goal of pledged income for 2008 of \$290,000 is within reach. If we reach this goal with a total of 140 pledges, the financial care of the church will be spread over a majority of the congregation. Every pledge counts no matter what the size. Caring for St. Barnabas will become everyone's generous stewardship.

Imagine being able to tell prospective clergy applicants that we have increased pledge participation by 30% in one year. Imagine the relief for the vestry if pledged

income increases by more than 25%. Imagine going forward into 2008 with solid finances.

All these accomplishments are possible. As of 11/1/07, 57 pledges brought us to over \$154,000 in pledges received, putting us about half of the way toward our goals. In the coming days/weeks we can finish with a flurry. If you have a pledge card, send it in. If you need a pledge card, take one from the pledge display in Lukens wing. If you need information about the importance of pledging, sign up for an informational dinner/brunch or call me at 303/322-4878.

As members of a faith community, we are asked to bear witness to what we have been taught and what we believe. We believe that we are called to be generous. A pledge of support to the people at St. Barnabas, to the outreach and to the place where we have chosen to worship is witness to that calling.

**Every Member Pledges Campaign means:
Every member pledges to support this
community and its outreach.**

Praying our Goodbyes

By Rev. Sandy

Although my parish ministry has been served almost entirely in Interim or short-term placements, I have not found this has made leaving each one any easier. I don't get used to saying goodbye, nor should I. This is especially true of St. Barnabas as the first parish in the diocese I served since my return to Colorado in 1990.

I will miss the PMS staff (it means Program Ministry Staff, not what you think it means!), especially Carol and Jane with whom I've worked most closely. I'll miss my clergy colleagues, Deb, Bill and Kent, who have been splendid support and encouragement. Preparing and leading worship with David, Janet and Carole and Ken has been a special blessing of my time with you.

Your Wardens and Vestry have worked very hard with me in discerning and providing leadership for this community. A particular satisfaction has been watching the Adult Forum Steering Committee take hold of and develop an important educational program. I've been privileged in the special opportunities I've had for deeper relationships with various folks, among them couples whose marriages I've blessed and families whose babies I've baptized.

Indeed, saying good-bye is not an easy thing, nor is it something we do well in our culture. Roman Catholic Sister Joyce Rupp, in her book entitled "Praying our Goodbyes", describes four components of this process. Reflecting on these can help us move on into the next phase in our personal and communal journeys. Her components are: recognition, reflection, ritualization, and reorientation.

This process begins with recognizing and naming the loss we experience in any goodbye. Rupp writes that if we are honest about the painful aspects of what we are experiencing, it helps make it real and allows our hearts to be involved. Accepting what we will be missing and claiming its importance is a meaningful way of acknowledging the significance of our relationships.

Rupp's second step is reflection, which allows us to grieve the loss. The Bible, in its laments, is full of expressions of grief, especially in the Psalms. There,

in passionate and poetic language, is exemplified deep grieving. If we let our pain take us too far from others and too much into ourselves, healing cannot happen. If our goodbye is causing us to be angry or bitter, healing cannot happen. Taking what we will be losing to each other and to God opens our hearts to God's healing.

The third part of praying a goodbye is ritualizing it. We will do that formally with a short liturgy of farewell at the end of all three worship services on Sunday November 11. We will also do it in many less formal ways, over lunch and staff gatherings, symbolic gift-giving, etc. And in such mundane ways as clearing out the Rector's office and handing over keys.

Finally, Rupp identifies reorientation as necessary for our ability to move on into that next phase of our ministries. This will begin to take place almost immediately November 18 when I will no longer be with you and Canon Bill Martin will join you for morning worship services. For me another phase of

**“Goodbye”
in English originally meant
“God be with Ye’ or
“Go with God”**

this reorientation will happen in mid-December as my family and I depart for a very special Christmas together in Paris.

For you a major reorientation will happen (hopefully) shortly after the New Year with the arrival of your new Rector. Mostly, however, this reorientation for all of us will take time, longer than just a few weeks. This will be especially true for you as you continue to adjust from past Rectors and as you welcome and adapt to your new Rector.

It is helpful to remember that “goodbye” in English originally meant “God be with Ye” or “Go with God.” This was a blessing of love, affirming and proclaiming the belief that if God went with you, you would never be alone. That comfort, strength and all the other blessings of God's loving presence would accompany you. And so it is with you and me. We say goodbye in the assurance that God is with us all and will be always.



ARTS ON VINE PRESENTS

An Afternoon of Music

Sunday, November 11, 3:00 pm

The Three/Four Trio (piano, cello and violin) will perform Mozart, Mendelssohn and Piazzola with Shirley Marecak, Michael Marecak, Peggy Lyon and Katherine Thayer. A reception with light refreshments will follow.

AN APPRECIATION OF MARY LOU FENILI

Mary Lou agreed to be Senior Warden at the urging of former Rector, Georgia Humphrey, filling the position when John Paddock resigned. Prior to serving as Sr. Warden she has been an energetic parishioner for many years, always willing to serve wherever needed. She has been a long time member of the Altar Guild and performed duties as server at the Sunday 7:45 a.m. service. Her prior term as a Vestry member was cut short because of health problems.

During her term as Sr. Warden Mary Lou worked tirelessly with Mary Erickson to assure that St. Barnabas continued to thrive, making certain that the Vestry maintained fiscal responsibility during the transition.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Mary Lou's leadership was her study and then education of the Vestry regarding their role in the total responsibility they were required to shoulder during the interim period. She dug deeply into Canon Law and Parish By Laws so that she was informed and could in turn inform the Vestry of their rights, responsibilities and

duties. She kept the Vestry's feet to the fire when difficult financial decisions needed to be made, while inserting her humor to make the point. She also provided the Vestry with several books that helped us to better understand a church in transition.

Included in her many hours of time dedicated to St. Barnabas, she attended countless staff and committee meetings, met individually with each staff member, and oversaw hundreds of details that insured smooth operation.

St. Barnabas is indebted to Mary Lou for the unstinting gifts of her time, talents and treasures. In tendering her resignation she put the progress of St. Barnabas ahead of her passion.

All of us at St. Barnabas are fortunate to have had her as our leader and advocate.

Thank you, Mary Lou.

A few Thoughts on Karen Hansen's Contributions to St. Barnabas

By Faith Gregor

I first met Karen in the late 1980s, when I was fairly new to St. Barnabas and serving on the Vestry. She was studying at the Iliff School of Theology, and as part of that program, several parishioners served on a discernment committee — wherein the degree candidate meets with a group to discuss his or her direction for the ministry. Chairing that committee was none other than the Rev. Sandy Boyd.

Over the next seventeen years, Karen and I became good friends. So I am more fortunate than many at St. Barnabas, because our friendship goes beyond the doors of 1280 Vine Street, and although she has resigned her membership here, I will still get to see her.

As a church member since 1988, I think of St. B's as my family—and like my real family, things aren't perfect. We're in harmony on some issues, and we clash on others. I deeply regret the circumstances surrounding Karen's departure and I respect her decision, but I will miss her, because we have a common thread besides friendship: we both have spent a long time being part of the St. B. family.

When I think of who Karen was in this place, I think of sisterhood. Some traditional denominations use the term brother and sister, and though our church doesn't exactly conform to this stereotype, that term actually fits Karen very well in the context of her presence at St. B.

She was concerned for the community and was a sister to many programs that needed TLC, attention to detail, and spiritual sustenance. Remember Saints at Home? She was instrumental in that. She also worked tirelessly to support diversity and inclusivity here, and on diocesan, state, national and global levels. She was a sister to "walking the walk" of Christianity, always well-informed, concerned and in attendance when important issues were being discussed. When the situation called for it, she was the outspoken sister calling for action.

She was a sister to our community life. She served, read, and supported the liturgical aspects of St. Barnabas, and was a constant presence at the 7:45 service. She chaired the Altar Guild. She attended

countless special events and helped out at most of them.

Karen was a sister to our family members who needed a little help. She cooked and delivered meals for the Share the Care program, She helped with transportation and lay ministry. She was a sister to our growing youth population, taking great delight in each of them. On occasion, that joy would bubble over in her laugh, a big "HAH!" when she'd see one of the older teenagers actually turn up at church once in a while

She was a sister to our priests and assisting priests throughout the years as each of them traveled on their own journeys in this place.

Learning from the Best: November-December Adult Forum

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 continues our discussion of church, faith, and works with a fascinating book by Diana Butler Bass, "Christianity for the Rest of Us" (Harper One, 2006). Butler Bass analyzes 10 home-run hitting congregations to learn what has made them great. One focuses on hospitality, another on justice, another on worship, etc. Will we find St. Barnabas in the company of these successful organizations?

We will explore this theme three Sundays: November 4 and 11, and December 2. On November 4, we will cover chapters 1-4 "What Happened to the Neighborhood Church?", and provide an overview of the 10 themes Butler Bass found in her survey. We will select 3 themes to read about and discuss on the 11th, and will close on the 2d with discussion of the closing section "From Tourists to Pilgrims." This is an engrossing book that should stimulate useful as well as interesting discussion of the question "why am I here at St. Barnabas?"

Copies are available at Forum time Sunday for a donation, suggested at \$10, or from Cokesbury and other bookstores. 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!

WATER FOR PEOPLE SOUP PROJECT

Bobbi Siersma



A more lengthy description of the St. Barnabas Water for People Project has appeared in the weekly bulletin.

Soup 's Up! An enthusiastic community, renowned for its appreciation of good food, has embraced this project. Income for October was nearly \$ 1,300.00!

Every Sunday until the end of April, frozen pint and quart containers of two different soups each week will be available after all three Sunday services. A volunteer will be in Lukens' Wing to take **donations**, give a receipt and then you proceed to the kitchen freezer to collect your soup or soups.

Our goal is to raise \$12,000 to provide a source of safe water, sanitation system and health education for a rural area in southern Malawi, Africa through an international organization called Water for People. If you missed the presentations on September 30, look on the Lukens' North Table for the tri-fold pamphlet on

Our goal is to raise \$12,000 to provide a source of safe water, sanitation system and health education for a rural area in southern Malawi, Africa.

the global water crisis or go to www.waterforpeople.org to find out more about this outstanding non-profit agency

We continue to need volunteers to distribute soup after a service once a month. We also need help with lifting groceries (could be on a weekend or a week-day). In addition, I could use one person skilled in fund-raising to approach 5 or 6 vendors with a request for donations or supplies at cost. This would be a one-time start-up job. And I need one (or more) person(s) to make reminder phone calls. We can do this together!

To volunteer your time and talents to this worthy project, please call Bobbi Siersma at 303-377-1639 or Karen Hoffman at 303-465-1753.

Our New Refrigerator

We are very happy to be able to reveal the name of the refrigerator angel. She is Louise Fenili, mother of Mary Lou Fenili, former Senior Warden. Louis's generous gift of \$3,100 allowed St. Barnabas to purchase a commercial sized, stainless steel, energy efficient refrigerator/freezer.

The new refrigerator is necessary so St. Barnabas can participate in the Water For People Project. Two flavors of soup are made each week in our kitchen. They are sealed in pints or quarts and frozen. On Sunday mornings, parishioners can donate money to Water For People, and take home delicious soup.

Louise Fenili lives in Washington State and her contribution allows people in Denver to enjoy soup, without time-consuming preparation, as they contribute to Water For People who live in Malawi, Africa. The goal of the project is to raise \$12,000 to provide a source of safe water, sanitation system and health education for the people in the rural area in southern Malawi.



THE GREENING OF ST. BARNABAS

By Irene Shepard

In October we participated in the 2007 Colorado "Change a Light, Change the World" Campaign for Congregations. On the last two Sundays of the month 50 free compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) and 50 educational booklets were given to 50 families in the congregation.

By using these light bulbs the St. Barnabas family will reduce their carbon dioxide emissions by 50, 000 lbs. over the life of the bulbs. Improved [phosphor](#) formulations have improved the subjective color of the light emitted by CFLs such that the best soft white CFLs available in 2007 are subjectively similar in color to standard incandescent lamps.

Many families already use these CFLs and a small survey of 22 people showed that 100 bulbs were in use. Join us in this endeavour to reduce our impact on the environment. Replace light bulbs with CFLs whenever possible.

Tom Potter is our expert in this area. Talk to him if you have any questions or concerns about CFLs.

Poems from "Seasons of the Spirit"

class

(grades 1st through 5th)

October 14, 2007

Prayer

Loving words

Talking to God

In God we trust

Bible

James Powers

God

Created earth

We love Him

Makes me feel safe

God

Francesca Sica & Meghann Mayes

Bible

Truthful, everlasting

Spreads the word

My book of truth

Word

Alice Cordova-Potter

God

Merciful, generous

Spreads his peace

I'm glad he's there

Lord

Xiomara Cordova-Potter

Jesus

Is awesome!

He's so cool!

He really loves me!

Jesus!

Jacob Blanc & Luke Bednarek

God

Nice, good

Help us learn

He's good to me

Friend

Collin Meyers & John Bednarek

Angels

Beautiful, nice

Help suffering people

Help me feel comforted

Angels

Caroline Powers

Leprosy

Hideous sores

Causes slow death

Is a disgusting disease

Horrifying

Ruby Lester & Maddy Powers

Leprosy

From gossip?

Banned from city

Being healed by Jesus by

Leprosy

Claire Bednarek

Family Ministry Calendar

Every Sunday in Children's Chapel the children have an offering which, in April, will be donated to Water for People to provide safe water for children and their families in Malawi. We're working to fill a sun tea container.

November 3rd PYOC Parents Pause 5:00 - 7:30 pm

November 18th Sunday School begins to rehearse the Christmas Pageant, "The VERY Important Christmas Pageant"

December 1st Family Advent potluck and workshop 4:45 - 6:45 pm at St. B's

December 15th Pageant Dress Rehearsal in the Sanctuary 9:30 - 11:00 am

December 16th Sunday School presents, "The VERY Important Christmas Pageant"

Meet Joan Jarboe, Parish Nurse



In 1997 Joan Jarboe started the Parish Nurse Program at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, under the guidance of Carol Weir.

Through this program, Share the Care evolved.

Joan (pictured on

the left giving a shot to Jolene Whitney) is actually an employee of Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital. St. B has a contract with the hospital which partially funds the program. Joan's contract specifies that she works for ten hours each for St. B., St. John's Episcopal Church and Warren United Methodist Church. In addition, Joan works ten hours a week at the hospital, among other duties programming a monthly educational meeting for seniors in the community.

Joan grew up in rural North Dakota and attended nursing school in Minot where she obtained a registered nurse diploma. After several years of nursing, Joan attended Loretto Heights to obtain her BSN in public health. Following graduation most of her experience has been in the Intensive Coronary Care Unit at Exempla Saint Joseph Hospital. While there, she responded to an announcement on the hospital bulletin board for the position of parish nurse. "I did not even know what it was," notes Joan, "but it described a position similar to public health, the field for which I had been trained."

Lucky for us, Joan was hired for the position by Exempla St. Joseph. Her role at St. B is to promote health, wellness and healing through education and spiritual support, integrating faith and health. Joan offers blood pressure screenings monthly; organizes flu shots, an annual health fair and blood drive; provides health counseling and referrals to community and health resources; participates in coordinating Share the Care; accompanies parishioners to critical Dr.'s appointments; and serves as a patient advocate, visiting parishioners at home and in the hospital.

Joan has been married to her husband Richard for 29 years. Their daughter, Karen, who just got married in July, lives in Chicago with her husband Adam.

"I have been truly blessed to serve as the Parish Nurse for St. Barnabas Church, Joan says. "Working for the church not only has enhanced our social life, but has helped me to make many wonderful friends." And we at St. Barnabas have been doubly blessed by Joan's dedicated, faithful and expert service delivered with a smile and willing spirit.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, November 4, Sunday after all Saint's Day

Adult Forum 11 p.m.

Evening Service, 5:30 p.m.

All Saints/All Souls Liturgy

Bring photos of your dearly departed.

Monday, November 5

Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 11

Rev. Sandy's Farewell Sunday

Farewell brunch between morning services and reception following the 5:30 p.m. service

Adult Forum 11 p.m.

Three/Four Trio, 3:00 p.m.

Monday, November 12

Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 14

Vestry Meeting, 6 p.m.

Sunday, November 18

Sunday with the Rev. Canon Bill Martin

Canon to the Ordinary, Diocese of Colorado

St. Barnabas Time, 11 a.m.

Monday, November 19

Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 25

Christ the King Sunday

A Time for Healing and Renewal

Blood Pressure Sunday

St. Barnabas Time

Monday, November 26

Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 27

Dances of Miriam, 7 p.m., Lukens Wing

Wednesday, November 28

Vestry Meeting, 6 p.m., Lukens Wing

Worship Services

- ◆ Sunday 7:45 a.m.
- ◆ Sunday 9:30 a.m. (music)
- ◆ Sunday 5:30 p.m. (informal)
- ◆ Wednesday 10:00 a.m.

SHARING OUR JOURNEY November 2007

By Rev. Deb Angell

We praise you O God:

*For all the saints who went before us,
who have spoken to our hearts and
touched us with your fire,*

*For all the saints who live beside us
whose weaknesses and strengths are
woven with our own,*

*For all the saints who live beyond us
who challenge us to change the world with
them.*

*(Janet Morley, from "Soul Weaving: A
Gathering of Women's Prayers")*

November is a month of remembrance and thanksgiving. It is a time to remember the people who influenced and changed our lives. It is also a time to reflect on a year of change, transition and growth. What have we learned about God's love? What have we learned from one another? What are we thankful for and what do we regret?

On November 4th, the Sunday following All Saints Day, we will sing one of my favorite hymns, "*I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.*" This simple hymn captured my imagination when I was young. It continues to speak of a hope that we share. Believers in the early church were called saints. Saints of God are "*patient and brave and true.*" They "*live not only in ages past, there are hundreds of thousands still, the world is bright with the joyous saints, who love to do Jesus' will.*" Remember, "*you can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church or in trains*

or in shops, or at tea, for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too." (Hymnal 1982, #293)

November is a month when we say goodbye and hello. On Sunday, November 11, we will say farewell to the Rev. Sandy Boyd, our interim rector. We are grateful for the many gifts that she brought to the table and for her willingness to *share our journey* during a challenging time of transition. The Rev. Canon Bill Martin, the Canon of the Ordinary for the Diocese of Colorado will be our guest preacher and presider on Sunday, November 18. We appreciate the support that we continue to receive from Bishop O'Neill and from his staff. The last Sunday of the church year is Christ the King Sunday, November 25. We will offer prayers for healing and for growth as we look to our future as a faith community.

Many will gather on Thanksgiving Day to give thanks and to share a wonderful meal with friends and family. Our prayers of thanksgiving might include *A Litany for Thanksgiving* or *A General Thanksgiving* found in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP 836-837). During the holidays remember those who are alone or whose lives have changed during the year. Invite them to join you in celebrating the season.



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

The Steeple Bell is published at the beginning of each month and distributed by email. Co-editors are Timothy Hepp and Mary Kelly O'Donnell, with assistance from Carol Anderson, parish administrator. To request a mailed copy, contact Carol at the above address. The **Steeple Bell deadline is the 15th of each month.**

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.