

In Common

September, 2010 - News & Views from The Church of St. Barnabas

from the Rector

Things Not Seen

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Hebrews 11:1

Mid-August, Catskill, NY

It's not at all easy to be away from St. Barnabas. There are so many things that I wonder about (yes, and worry about) that it is not my first instinct to think about doing vacation-type things. However, I am getting a little better at it. OK, a lot better. I am grateful for this time of refreshment in such a beautiful place in the world. But, I miss you all.

And I miss the church.

As I write this, I am mindful of the large and complex renovation happening in the sanctuary, and I am excited about the "Big Reveal" that we will have on September 12th. I could be worried, but, in fact, I am not. I know that there are people as devoted and particular as I am who are shepherding this project to completion. Andy Merryman, our wardens and the Property Committee are to be lauded and applauded for the oversight of this significant capital project. I am certain you will be amazed and delighted.

It's nice to be able to trust. But it's not easy. This is the message that the author of the Letter to the Hebrews addresses. Faith, if we can have it, is living in a state that trusts God's purposes will be worked out...sometimes even in spite of our efforts, but most often in concert with them. Living faithfully includes not simply the comfort of God's promise, but the call to participate in the fulfillment of God's good purposes for God's creation. I believe that our potential for working towards those purposes is enacted by our participation in the Christian community that we are at St. Barnabas.

I have mentioned to you before that the mission statement of Canterbury Cathedral in England is simply this, "To Show People Jesus". I find that profound and moving and I would like to encourage us to think more about that simple statement. My hope for us this year as we rejoin one another after some time away, is that we put the question always before us, "How will we show people Jesus?"

This is not to say that we simply need to teach people about Jesus, though that is part of it. It is for us to think about ways in which we –as individuals and a community- may help manifest God's reconciling love for the world, and God's hope that we care for one another, particularly the most vulnerable. Showing people Jesus is asking the (regrettably made trite) question, "What would Jesus do?" It will be the work of your clergy, the Sunday school and other Christian education leaders to tell us about what Jesus *did* so that we may better consider the ways in which we may live our own lives more faithfully.

We are all in God's care, but, most importantly, we are in one another's care. The blessing of St. Barnabas is the infectious open-heartedness that we easily find here. This is charity; this is love. As we begin a new program year together I ask you to consider and imagine how we may challenge ourselves to show people Jesus, to widen the embrace of our community beyond Sunday, beyond the liturgy and the Sunday School. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and to encouraging your participation in the realization of God's good purposes for his creation remembering that faithfulness is a form of courage that launches out into the unknown, moving into the future with God, knowing the future is God's

Nora+

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Assistant's Corner

This parish has been a blessing to me before I even started working here. You prayed for me and my family when my dad died earlier this summer. Many of you helped when my family was trying to find a place to live. You have stopped by the office to introduce yourselves. You have lent me bouncy seat and toys so my baby would have a place to nap and play in my office, you have helped me paint my shelves, you have suggested doctors and dentists and good places to shop. You keep reminding me of your names! I am so grateful for your hospitality and for all of the ways you are weaving me and my family into the community of this parish.

I come to St. Barnabas from Providence, RI where I was the Assistant Rector at St. Martin's Church. I am here to assist you and Nora with all of the ministries at St. Barnabas, but I will focus a lot my attention and energy on ministry with children, youth and families.

I moved here with my husband, James McGeeveran, my son Seamus (2 ½), my daughter Margaret (4 months), and dog, Ruby. James is a social worker and psychologist and has been staying home with our son in order to oversee Seamus' therapy. Seamus was recently diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, but this does not prevent him from being a little firecracker who loves dirt and the alphabet. Maggie has been coming to work with me and has started a smiling ministry (because a smile from a baby feels like a blessing).

My husband and I are really happy to be back home in New York. James was born and raised in New York City (Roosevelt Island) and his family now lives in Queens. New York has become my adopted hometown after moving there in 2000 from Seattle. I grew up in Oregon and Washington and still laugh at what northeasterners consider to be mountains.

I am excited about being with all of you on September 12th when we move our worship back into the church with its beautiful new floors, Sunday School begins, and we kick-off our program year.

Lindsay

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Sunday School

Sunday School kicks off a new school year on Sept. 12th. This year we will do registration on the first day of class. Please come at 9:45 to register your child(ren). We have reformatted the We are changing our format for the classes this year. Instead of breaking them down by grade as in the past (Pre K; K-1 etc.) we are simply numbering them (Class 1, Class 2 etc.) so that each child can be in the class that will meet their developmental and social needs.

Our Sunday School teachers are excited and committed to helping each child grow in the knowledge and love of God.

If you have any questions or concerns about Sunday School at St. Barnabas, or if you are interested in teaching or helping with projects, please contact The Rev. Lindsay Lunnum (rev.lindsay.lunnum@gmail.com or 591-8194) or the Sunday School Co-Directors, Sarah LeBuhn and Karen Dring.

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Youth Group

The first youth group event of the year will be September 19th after church. All 8th-12th graders are welcome to join us at the Armstrong's house for a pool party where we will eat, plan our next events, and, of course, swim!

For more information, contact The Rev. Lindsay Lunnum (rev.lindsay.lunnum@gmail.com or 591-8194).

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From the Music Department

THINGS PAST: Glorious music has prevailed for our Sunday summer services in Colwell Hall. I think it has been a good experience in our worship there with its feeling of informality in that room, and it was better temperature-wise, for sure. The music for soloists and congregational singing were helped considerably by the more live acoustic there. We hope that the new floor in the church will provide just a bit more reverberation of the sound in that building. If so, it will enhance our musical experience there for congregational singing, and the organ and choral music.

Of course, I missed the real church, and I thought the piano (It did the basic job but that was it!) was okay for a few Sundays. Then I began to yearn for the organ. Please tell me that you missed the organ!

Our summer musicians were Elvina Schullere, Sandy Summer-Parks, Laura Lee Spence, Parker Scott, The Gentlemen of the Choir (Bob Boothe, Chris Mitchell, Lee Richardson, Hugh Williamson-Noble, Jody Hansen, David Nicholson, and Wayne Olson), Lee Richardson (as soloist), Sandy Miller, and David Snell. It was thoroughly delightful to work with all of you, and I thank you on behalf of the parish for your great work. To perform at that time of day is a challenge, and it is good of you to volunteer and to meet that challenge for us.

THINGS PRESENT: Well, there are death and taxes and the annual appeal for new choir members at this time of the year. Ladies, you are particularly needed! But don't feel slighted men. More of you are needed too. If any of you has ever had the inclination to join the choir, act now on that inclination!

New members of the parish, we would be delighted to welcome you into this group. I can safely say that it is one of the more lively ones here at the church.

Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 8:15 PM, and the choir sings regularly for the Eucharist at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings. Also there are usually two special "performances" during the year of some extended program. Everybody, nothing ventured....

THINGS TO COME: As I write this article at the beginning of August to meet publication deadlines just before my going away, we are talking with an extremely talented organist about doing an organ recital here probably some time in October. Stay tuned!

Our annual REFLECTIONS ON CHRIST'S NATIVITY will again be done on Advent III, December 12. Plan on it!

Donald

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Pilgrim Choir

Pilgrim Choir will begin September 12th in Colwell Hall promptly at 9:00 a.m.

I look forward to seeing returning as well as brand new Pilgrims this year. We will learn and teach through our music and help everyone have a more meaningful worship experience in church in 2010 and 2011 by lifting our hearts in song. We will be actively participating in the services this year with some songs we've done before and some new ones we will learn together. We will have a special offering for All Saints Day and will sing about the colors of the church even before then. Does everyone know what the colors of the church are and what meaning they hold? Well, you'll find out from our Pilgrims soon. And in our rehearsals, it won't be long at all before we will be practicing music for Advent and Christmas!

All your child needs to be able to do is read words and sentences. The rest will come through participation. The St. Barnabas Pilgrims work hard and have fun doing it. Last year's choir was amazing. I pray all of those Pilgrims make time for choir again this year and we have some new Pilgrims join us September 12th at 9:00.

Thank you to all the parents who get their Pilgrims to choir on Sunday mornings! Your efforts to bring your Pilgrim on Sunday mornings becomes a blessing to all of us at St. Barnabas.

Sandy Summer-Parks

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July 30th

A note from Jane Gunnison:

I had lunch today with Andrea and Richard at their wonderful new home. Both are happy and enthusiastic about Westerly [Rhode Island] and their new life there. I hope to see them once again before I return to Sleepy Hollow. In the meantime, I have attached a picture of them on their front porch that I took today.

They send their best to you and their St. Barnabas family.



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My Mission Trip to Malawi

From July 13 to 29 of this year, I traveled with my daughter, Kate Malin, and her partner, John Springer, and two other “pilgrims” on my third trip to Malawi as part of a feeding project called Love’s Harvest.

This project was initiated in 2007 in order to introduce the concept of PERMACULTURE through the Anglican parishes in the southern diocese of Malawi. At present, Malawians are mostly dependent on maize or corn as a dietary staple, and have in large part abandoned the use of indigenous and other more nutritious and healthful foods. Love’s Harvest hired a Malawian permaculture expert to help plan and set up demonstration gardens on church property in order to:

1. Feed parishioners and other villagers outright without chemical intervention.
2. Show Malawians how to plant their own kitchen gardens simply and inexpensively.

After three years of financial support such as tools and training, and with the incredible oversight and support of the “Mothers’ Union” of the Anglican villages, this trip was a thrilling affirmation of a strong beginning, consistent effort in organization and fund raising and good communication by internet with all those involved on both sides of the world.

This year the five travelers together with Pastor Joseph Chiwawa, our itinerant permaculture expert, and our wonderful driver, John Mzuza, visited and celebrated the richly productive gardens begun in 2007 through 2010, and also traveled to the northern dioceses, where new gardens are now established and flourishing—some in very remote outposts. And the most exciting news is that this concept which was unfamiliar to the Malawians is spreading by word of mouth—even to other nearby countries like Mozambique!

The villagers who are involved in the program are eager students of Pastor Joseph and greeted us joyfully with dancing, singing, poetry, and several villages even put on dramas complete with costumes and props. We were served amazing meals from their copious gardens, and showered with gifts: armloads of vegetables, ground nuts, and fruits from their own gardens. Malawians have the advantage of a climate that allows 3-4 growing seasons.

Pastor Joseph has taught the villagers how to keep the soil rich and productive without techniques such as crop rotation, and without insecticides and expensive fertilizers commonly used in the U.S. and most other countries. Several ambitious villages have even set up their own plant nurseries as a microindustry to help support their work.

Phase 2 of this project involves the introduction of animal husbandry—primarily goats, pigs, and chickens, and the villagers have learned to build proper kolas or pens constructed in order to make it easier to collect manure for the gardens.

At the end of our visits, all of us joined hands around the garden and offered a prayer of thanksgiving for God’s generous and ongoing provision of food using their hard work. There were permaculture songs and chants, and a great outpouring of love and appreciation to Pastor Joseph for his devotion to his teaching and his availability to them by phone when problems arise. This man has to travel great distances, often on foot, and is truly an inspiring man of God.

If you are interested in learning more about this project, about permaculture, and about our interface with other feeding projects now underway to further our millennium goals, I would be happy to talk with you in the days ahead and to hear your thoughts and questions about Love’s Harvest.

Cindy Malin

The Book Group will meet on Wednesday, September 8th, at 7:30, in the McCormack lounge. We will be discussing the novel *Little Bee*, by Chris Cleave. All are invited. A lively evening is guaranteed.

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If you are planning to make stock transfers, please be sure to contact the office and let us know which stock, how many shares, and is it credited to pledge or capital campaign? Be sure to pick up transfer instructions in McCormack Lounge.

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A Course in Comparative Religions

This adult Christian education course will study the major world religions seen in historical perspective. This will be a five-week course, meeting at the church on Wednesday mornings, 9/15, 9/22, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/13, at 10:30 a.m., covering Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

A course in comparative religion looks at the essential ideas of the several religions. In Christianity those central ideas would have to do with the Kingdom of God as preached and enacted in and through the ministry of Jesus Christ. We would consider several different topics on issues like Christian ethics, liturgy, the sacraments, mysticism, the centrality of the Scriptures, and the like. Parallel ideas applied to the other religions would give us more than enough to talk about. Our overall purpose is to seek out the central ideas of each religion and to discover clear differences and likenesses among them. I am certainly aware of the hubris implied by this proposal. In the amount of time we can give to reading and discussion, it would be impossible to penetrate very far beneath the surface of even the most mystical religion. But we can make a start. Besides, studying the religions in historical perspective would be a great help in the effort to understand this or that particular faith tradition.

For a text I have selected *The World's Religions*, by Huston Smith, a foremost scholar of comparative religion. If you are interested, put your name on the list posted in the Lounge and obtain a copy of the book.

David Nicholson

Did you know ...

that David Nicholson retired from Riverdale Country Day School last spring after 45 years as a teacher and educational innovator? Many of you did know that, I'm sure, but you may not know about his remarkable career.

I had occasion this summer to read the article celebrating David's work in The Riverdale Review (June 3, 2010). Although he had many titles and projects over his tenure, I was most impressed by his creation of the Introduction to Liberal Studies as part of the school curriculum. His goal was to revitalize Riverdale's approach to reading, writing and thinking. Faculty and students remember particularly his devotion to advancing the work of each individual student. He would use a cassette recorder for commentary on their written work and invite them to resubmit a paper repeatedly for comments and revision. One of his students said that "he granted each student such deep respect as to hold their work to the highest standard. Gradually, I found one day that I had come to hold my own work to the same bar."

We are privileged to have David's leadership for our Christian ed course this month on comparative religions as described in his article above.

Cindy Malin

St. Barnabas Clothing Sale 2010

Quality Fall/Winter Clothing & Accessories

for Women, Men & Children

Christmas Room & Café

Bargains Galore!

ONE WEEK EARLIER THIS YEAR!

New dates for the 2010 St. Barnabas annual Clothing Sale!

Donors Only: Mon., Nov. 8, 10-2pm & 7-9pm

Tues., Nov.9, 10-7pm

Weds., Nov.10, 10-7pm

Thurs., Nov.11, 10-7pm

Fri., Nov.12, 10-7pm

Sat., Nov.13, 10-4pm

Sun., Nov.14, 12-4pm

Proceeds from this sale support the outreach efforts of our parish.

In Common

The Church of St. Barnabas

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The Rev. Lindsay Lunnum, Assistant

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MISSION STATEMENT: The Church of St. Barnabas, Irvington is a Christian community, grounded in the Episcopal tradition, which celebrates the love of Christ through regular worship, fellowship and music. Our goals are to grow in faith, both within ourselves as individuals and by welcoming others from a variety of backgrounds and stages of life, and to reach out and share God's abundant gifts with others.

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