

Hurry Up and Wait

THEOLOGIAN WALTER BRUEGGEMANN WRITES, “Advent and Christmas are seasons for mismatches- between a sense of entitlement and a call to bear fruit, between our sense of abandonment and the reassurance that God is with us, between the claims of the seats of power and the lean claims of the vulnerable.”¹

Advent is a time for us to reflect particularly upon the lean claims of the vulnerable. We have recently spent a wonderful week selling clothing to raise money that will help fund local charities. We have given to buy turkeys for our brothers and sisters of the San Andres parish in Yonkers, so that they may enjoy the blessing and nourishment of a Thanksgiving meal. We continue, in our own personal and corporate ways, to share God’s abundant gifts with others as we acknowledge God’s call for us to reach beyond ourselves.

Advent invites us to linger over the mismatches between the conventional ways of the world and the Good News of God’s kingdom. In our readings for the next few Sundays we will contemplate the kind of kingship that proclaims economic justice for the poor and welcome to the other, we will consider the extraordinary change that the birth of the

From the Rector

Christ child brings to the world.

Advent is always a delicate balance between contemplative preparation and expectation. The chaos and overload of packed calendars and shopping carts can overwhelm us. In the face of impending holiday stress it is easy to think the best defense is passivity. I would like to suggest that it is patience; the kind of patience that begins inside- in the face of great expectation- as we wonder how to best acknowledge, receive and participate in the world changing ministry of Jesus Christ.

The birth of Jesus reminds us of God’s transformative presence in the world. This is the heart of our hope and the center of our call as disciples. As the calendar races towards us, I pray we may be able to slow down just a bit and, as Brueggemann suggests, “ponder the changes set in motion by Christmas” and the mismatches in our own lives and the world that need the grace of God and our whole-hearted participation.

Our King and Savior now draws near.
O Come, let us adore Him!

¹ *Living the Word*, Sojourners, vol. 39, no. 11

Advent to Christmas Special Events

The Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 5th
at 10:00 a.m. service:

This will be a special “Jesse Tree” intergenerational service. Come help decorate our living tree with hand-made ornaments representing the stories of Jesus’ ancestors.

The Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 12th at 5:00 p.m.:

“Reflections on Christ’s Nativity” an annual tradition of music and readings— though hardly traditional! Please come and enjoy a delightful performance and bring friends.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19th
after the 10:00 a.m. service:

Please join in The Greening of the Church and help prepare our sanctuary for the celebration of Our Lord’s birth. There will be special treats and wonderful fellowship.

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th

- Holy Eucharist featuring the Children’s Pageant at 4:00 p.m.
- Carol Singing at 10:30 p.m. followed by The Holy Eucharist at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th

There will be a spoken service of Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m.

Regular schedule of service on Sunday, December 26th.



2010 Clothing Sale

THIS YEAR THE CLOTHING SALE WAS HELD ONE week earlier than in the past, but our enthusiastic customers still came out in droves. Thank you to *everyone* who helped to make the 16th annual Clothing Sale a huge success. Despite the fact that the economy is still in tough shape and people are still careful about spending, we have grossed about \$54,000 to date. Many customers said how much they appreciated the great bargains! If we all pay our IOUs we may even inch up a bit more so please pay your IOU promptly. Once we determine all of our income and expenses we will know the total amount of money that will be available for our outreach grants (see below about the grants process.)

The benefits of the sale

We should all be very proud that our church is able to hold such a tremendous event that benefits so many.

Our parish benefits by being able to provide so much in the way of outreach to community organizations. To date we have been able to give over \$360,000 in grants. We also benefit

from the opportunities for fellowship with parishioners and non-parishioners. We might not otherwise get to know some of these people. The sale also creates a great opportunity for non-parishioners to enter St. Barnabas and experience us in action through our words and deeds.

Our customers benefit from the terrific bargains they receive. To some, the hunt for the perfect piece is a thrill and to others the need for clothing at bargain prices is a necessity.

Local charitable organizations also benefit by the donations of large quantities of clothing and shoes that are left over after the sale. They either sell or distribute the items to help their organization or the people they serve. Below is a summary of the groups that came to take the leftover clothes and how they will be used. There is one woman who must be singled out for her tremendous efforts to get the clothing into the hands of those who are desperately in need. A wonderful woman named Mavis, a member of the Faith Deliverance Tabernacle in Yonkers and the founder of the Medical Outreach Mission (a non-profit organization helping to improve the standard of healthcare in our local communities and the Caribbean) came on Monday after the other organizations had a chance to select items that would fit their needs. She arrived with her grandson and said she'd take everything else that was left. We were very grateful as one of the goals of this sale is to get usable, good quality clothing into the hands of people who need it. As I was helping her bag clothes she said to me, "You would be shocked to see the level of need that's out there." She

added, "You also have no idea what you do by providing all of these clothes for free to the people." Mavis and her church open their doors several times during the winter and give away these clothes to the people in her community who are most in need. Of course, we could not do this without people like Mavis who are called by God to be on the frontlines of helping. In 2008 Medical Outreach Mission honored St. Barnabas at a dinner for what we give to them. Often, it seems to me that it should be the other way around. The next time you're outside the choir room have a look at the plaque on the wall to the right of the door; this is the plaque that St. Barnabas received when we were honored. It makes me think about how what we do impacts those whom we may never see nor meet.

Thank you to all the workers!

None of this great work could happen without all of our dedicated workers. The list of names is too long to include here so we send our sincerest thanks to everyone who helped to set-up, hang posters, haul bags, ticket, price and hang clothes, sort shoes, straighten the racks, bins and tables, empty the dressing room, cashier, pack, greet our customers, help our shoppers, and count the money. Thanks to all who donated clothes and who encouraged their friends to donate. Thank you to the Christmas Crew for bringing seasonal cheer to the sale and to the Café Crew for running our Shopper's Café and keeping the workers and shoppers well fed! Thank you to everyone who helped to keep our Café stocked with delicious homemade soups, bread and baked goods. Thanks to

Where did the unsold clothes go?

On Monday, 11/15 representatives from many organizations came in to take unsold clothing. Clothing went to:

- **IFCA (Interfaith Council for Action), Ossining.** IFCA seeks to sustain community, diversity, and opportunity through affordable/workforce housing and vital social services in the communities it serves. They will distribute clothes to the people they serve as well as sell some items in their thrift shop. Money raised in their shop supports their social services programs.
- **M.O.M. (Medical Outreach Mission) and Faith Deliverance Tabernacle, Yonkers.** (Please read about this above!)
- **Midnight Run, Dobbs Ferry.** Clothes gathered will be distributed on upcoming runs to NYC.
- **"Pathways to Success", the Vive School, Yonkers Public School System.** They provide interview-appropriate clothing to both male and female students so that they are properly dressed for interviews and other employment-related activities.
- **The Nearly New Shop of the Junior League of Westchester-on-Hudson, Tarrytown.** The Nearly New Shop, operated by the Junior League, is a fundraiser for the League and proceeds from the shop support the community projects of the Junior League.
- **Temple Gate Fellowship Church, Guyana.** Pastor Carl Webster Sobers sends large donations of clothing and shoes to his church and other area churches in Guyana where they are distributed to people in need.
- **"Changing Winds", South Dakota Native American Reservations.** A local community member comes to select clothes that are shipped to the Changing Winds organization. Changing Winds then distributes clothes on reservations where some of the most dire poverty exists in our nation.
- **Groundwork Hudson Valley, Yonkers.** New to us this year, Groundwork is an organization that works through area churches and other local organizations to help create healthy communities which can then in turn help to create healthy physical environments in which to live. The churches affiliated with Groundwork are involved with communities in Yonkers and Mt. Vernon that provide many social services.

Sue Stanley once again for all of her support and good cheer amid two crazy work weeks. Last but certainly not least, huge thanks go to Thomas Richardson who is a jack-of-all-trades! This event truly is a team effort.

What's Next?

We will again hold the Annual Clothing Sale Dinner (date to be determined) where we'll review and vote on the slate of grant applications. All are welcome to attend this dinner, so watch for more details to come.

It is so gratifying that we are able to hold this phenomenal outreach event right here in our own parish; an event that helps people and charities in our local communities and beyond. Thank you!

— **Cathy Hansen & Linda Pierpont, Co-Chairs**

Have you paid your IOU?

If you used an IOU for clothing, the Christmas room or the Café, please pay it as soon as possible so we can finalize the numbers. The IOU sheets are in the main office. You can leave your check with Sue Stanley. Please be sure to write "Clothing Sale IOU" in the memo line and mark your IOU as "paid" in the book. Thanks!

The Grants Process

After Thanksgiving grant applications will be available in the church office and anyone is welcome to submit an application. Ideally we seek applications on behalf of local community organizations where there is a connection with one of our parishioners and where our money can make a difference. The deadline for receiving applications will be made public; after that date, a committee of about six parishioners will meet to review the applications and make a proposal for how our money will be distributed most effectively. The official slate of proposed grants is then presented at the Clothing Sale dinner. People in attendance at the dinner may discuss the slate and ask questions, then vote to approve a slate. Applications are not guaranteed to be approved but we do try to reach out to a wide variety of organizations where our money can make an impact. †

Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room

THE SEASON OF ADVENT is a time when we are cleaning our houses for holiday parties and Christmas dinner. More importantly, Advent is a time when we spiritually prepare to meet our Lord. Advent comes from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming." The Gospels that we read during Advent remind us that Jesus is coming: John the Baptist urges us to prepare the way of the Lord; Mary shows us how to cooperate with God's plan to radically change the world; while Jesus himself tells us to keep awake and alert while we await his arrival.

Jesus promises that he will be dropping by like an unexpected houseguest. We know from the Gospels that Jesus made his first appearance in a surprising way: born in a stable to a teenage mother and an average, working-class father. When Jesus says that only God knows the day and the hour that he is coming back, he means for us to expect him when we least expect him.

Unlike houseguests, I trust that Jesus doesn't care if the laundry hamper is overflowing and the sink is full of dishes. He is concerned with the state of our hearts. Since we started planning the events and liturgies for

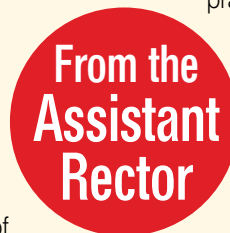
Advent this year, this line from the classic Christmas carol, "Joy to the World" has been running through my head: "Let every heart prepare him room." What do you need to make your life ready for Jesus?

This newsletter is information about the opportunities for reflection, space, prayer, celebration, and preparation for this Advent season.

On December 5th, the 10am service will help us to locate ourselves in a larger and deeper context of the generations of people who have waited in great expectation for the Savior. Our service that day will include a Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots." It is a vehicle to tell the story of God in the Old Testament, and to connect the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across 4,000 years of history. On Wednesday evenings in Advent there will be services of healing and prayer—a great way to carve out some quiet time for yourself to be with God.

As we enter into the busy season of baking, shopping, cleaning and greening, may the work of our hands become the meditation of our hearts as we actively await both the celebration of Christ's first coming and the hopeful expectation of his second advent. †

—**Lindsay**



OUR THANKSGIVING MESSAGE TO OUR CARPENTER'S KIDS:

Greetings to our linked parishes, Kikomo and Wilunze:

Dear Friends,

Life at The Church of St Barnabas is very special in the month of November. Summer is over and now it is cool as winter approaches. Many of our usually leafy green trees turn beautiful, bright colors—red, yellow, and orange—and the leaves are now drying and drifting to the ground. We must begin to prepare for the bitter cold, ice and snow. And soon Advent will begin as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

We have a wonderful national holiday in November called "Thanksgiving". It is a day given to praising God and giving thanks for all His blessings. Loved ones gather to share a meal, worship, sing and pray together. Most people celebrate with a traditional meal of turkey, pumpkin, and sweet potatoes. These are some of the foods eaten by the first settlers of our country centuries ago. In our community, people of different denominations and different faiths worship as a group on Thanksgiving eve. As always, we will be thinking of you and how blessed we are to be in partnership with you in God's loving grace. †

— **Cindy Malin for all of us at The Church of St Barnabas**

■ ■ ■ BRIEFS & BULLETINS ■ ■ ■

A reminder to donors who make distributions from security accounts:

If you are planning to transfer securities or cash, please let the office know what type of stock, how much, and for what year, so we can correctly credit your gift. If you have questions please call the office (591-8194).

Staff Christmas Gifts

If you would like to donate to staff Christmas gifts, please make your check to the Church of St. Barnabas and mark "Staff Gifts" in the memo, and deliver it by **December 20th** to the attention of the Rector.

Memorial Flowers at Christmas

If you would like to give flowers this Christmas in memory of a loved one, please use the envelope enclosed in your "In Common" and deliver it to the St. Barnabas office by **Monday, December 20th**. An envelope is on the office door to collect flower envelopes. Additional envelopes will be available at the ushers' table and outside of the office door.

Pledge Envelopes for 2011 will be available before the end of the year in the ushers' alcove in the Church. Please leave a note on the office door or a message on the answering

machine (591-8194) if you do not find envelopes with your name.

Kids' Outreach Project

Saturday, Dec. 18th at 10 a.m.

We will be making goody bags for senior citizens and delivering them along with carols and Christmas cheer. This is a fun event for everyone involved!

Donations of items to include in the bags (healthy snacks) can be left in the church office, as well as the names of seniors who would appreciate a visit.

Questions? Contact **Linda Pierpont** or **the Rev. Lindsay Lunnum**.

Memorial Service:

**Hazel A. DeMarchis of Irvington
(Apr. 9, 1923–Nov. 16, 2010)**

Hazel's memorial service with eucharist, was Saturday, November 20th, with the Rector officiating.

Congratulations, Peter Coddington!

Juanita Dugdale forwarded the following pronouncement. She says: "This is a wonderful award for a very hardworking civil servant. Peter is our goddaughter's father and longtime friend."

*Good Afternoon,
The New City Bar has announced
the names of the recipients of the 2010*

Thomas E. Dewey Medals. This Award is given annually to a member of each of the 5 New York City District Attorneys' Offices, and the Office of The Special Narcotics Prosecutor, to honor their outstanding work as Assistant District Attorneys. We are happy to tell you that Peter Coddington is this year's winner from the Office of the Bronx District Attorney.

This ceremony, held in the City Bar building at 42 W. 44th Street, is one of the most impressive and enjoyable times you can spend honoring your colleagues. Hundreds of members of the 6 offices will gather on the evening of December 7th. Being in this setting with a room filled with the friendly faces of people who truly appreciate the work we do is a rare pleasure. There is no cost and there will be a reception following the presentations where you can speak with Peter about his appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court, The 2nd Circuit, The New York Court of Appeals, The Appellate Division First Department, The Appellate Term, Judge Cirigliano and so many other Courts.

**New York City Bar
6th Annual Thomas E. Dewey
Medal Presentation
Tuesday, Dec. 7, 2010 at 6 p.m.
At the House of Association
42 West 44th Street, NYC**

From the Music Department

Reflections on Christ's Nativity December 12, At 5:00 pm

THIS SERVICE OF SPECIAL MUSIC AND READINGS is an annual program presented by the Canterbury Choir and the St. Barnabas Players, a group of readers from our parish.

It is based loosely on the King's College, Cambridge, Service of Lessons and Carols that is now presented in many churches throughout the world. Our version employs,

not just some of the usual Biblical readings, but also a wide selection of prose and poetry that comments on the life of Christ and his presence in the world as observed by writers through the ages and today.

The music is equally far-ranging and eclectic as the lessons that we use as we go from an early English carol to a short motet by Arvo Pärt, the contemporary Estonian composer. Pärt is one of the "hot" classical composers of the present day, and he had a rather extensive write-up in the Sunday, October 17, 2010 New York Times Magazine. The little piece that we will do is only a minute and a half in length, but it is quite delightful and charming in its folk-like quality and simplicity -- though it is hardly simple! And it is not at all what you would expect from a composer on the front lines of the avant-garde.

Several carols later we will end the service with the "Nunc Dimittis" from the Service in G by Charles Villiers Stanford. With the solo done by David Snell, this setting is a beauty. David and choir had prepared this piece for our spring Evensong in 2009, but there was a family emergency for David at that time, and we could not perform it then. It is wonderful to be able to sing it now.

Come. Bring family, friends. It should be a treat. And speaking of treats....

Another Christmas approaches. Our Christmas Eve service should be as lovely as ever with our Canterbury choir and organ and with special musicians Ruth Armato playing the harp and Sandy Miller playing the flute for this service. How blessed and lucky we are. †

— Donald Butt

InCommon

The Church of St. Barnabas
15 North Broadway
Irvington, NY 10533-1898

The Rev. Nora Smith, *Rector*
The Rev. Lindsay Lunnum, *Assistant Rector*
Mr. Donald G. Butt, *Music Director*
Ms. Sue Stanley, *Parish Secretary*
Mr. Ron Lillo, *Sexton*



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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.

SAVE THE DATE: **Sunday,** **Jan. 23rd, 2010**

***The Annual Meeting date
has been changed!***

The vestry has amended the by-laws of the parish to make the Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Barnabas the fourth Sunday in January.

We will have one service at 9:00 A.M. on that day and, after The Holy Eucharist, we will adjourn to the parish hall to elect the new slate of vestry members, conduct the business of the parish, and review the achievements and challenges of our common life.

Because we do not wish to end years of traditional fellowship, we are still planning to have an "Annual Eating" to bless the new vestry, thank the old, and join together for some frivolity, food and fellowship. The date of that dinner has yet to be absolutely determined, but we will keep you informed.†

