

Gifts and Treasures

As I am writing this, I am preparing to go on retreat for several days at Holy Cross Monastery (www.holycrossmonastery.com). I began my ministry with you by reminding us all that the Sabbath is holy and we should seek to find rest and restoration as often as we can- weekly, even. Now, I need to take some of my own advice! The past eight months have been exhilarating and rewarding, but I am in need of time away to enter into the beauty of monastic prayer and quietness. I find it incredibly restorative and I commend the experience to you.

But first, I have some exciting news to share! As you may have heard at the annual meeting, we will return to being a two-priest parish this year. The financial setback that we experienced in 2008 necessitated the difficult choice to eliminate the Assistant Rector position. I am excited that the vestry has worked hard and you have given generously to restore this parish to the level of pastoral care it needs and deserves. We can now give our attention and energy to the ideas for ministry, outreach, and Christian Education that I know you were eager to explore with a new rector. We will again be the type of place you have all known and enjoyed for so many years- a church with an Assistant Rector. Amen to that.

The Rev. Lindsay Lunnum has answered the call to St. Barnabas effective July 15th, 2010. Lindsay is presently serving as Assistant Rector at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Providence, Rhode Island and is a colleague from Yale Divinity School. Lindsay's particular gifts and experience are in Youth and Family Ministries, Church Growth and Communications. She is a strong,

From the Rector

creative preacher. A few of you might have met her when she and her husband James were here on an exploratory visit in February. At that time she was quite pregnant. As of this writing, that is still the case but may not be so by the time I get to the end of the paragraph. We look forward to welcoming Lindsay and her husband James McGeeveran (who is pursuing his Masters in Social Work), their son, Seamus (age 2), and the addition to their family they are expecting imminently. Details to follow.

Before Holy Week feels far behind us, I want to offer a word of profound thanks to all the people who made my first Easter with you so glorious. A special thank you to Sue Stanley for her unflagging good nature, irrepressible good humor and the sixty zillion bulletins she created, and to Donald Butt for the same good nature and humor as well as for the music he chose, directed and performed. I could not imagine or hope for more congenial co-workers. Thank you to the Canterbury and Pilgrim's Choirs, the Altar Guild, the Acolytes, the Artist's Group, and all the usual suspects who keep this place going without our even knowing. I am blessed by your ministries, as are we all.

Finally, please do rest a bit yourselves — the Thrift Sale is coming and we'll need your energy and enthusiasm! I have seen some amazing things come in (OK, and some really weird stuff, too) and I can't wait to set up shop. I have a deep and sentimental love for this event. I remember picking up a particularly -um, noticeable-psychedelic raincoat at the sale back in the '70's. What a find! I just know there's a special treasure in there this year...and I'm getting ready to shop. Hope you are, too.

—Nora †

The Baptismal Font

WHEN JOEL DANIELS AND I WERE walking through St. Barnabas last summer we had a conversation about the beautiful old Victorian font. It had, for many years, been mostly out of sight in the usher's alcove and he was pleased that it had been moved to the entrance crossing so that now people could see it and- perhaps- use it!

Now, it's really not so strange that the font would have found itself in the "Usher's Alcove" because that alcove really makes an ideal spot for a baptistry; beautiful stained glass windows, slate floor, and right at the entrance of the church. When St. Barnabas was built



it would have been customary to have private baptisms, and that space would have been physically and "liturgically" suitable.

Baptismal fonts are almost always located at the immediate entrance of a church because one enters the Church through the waters of baptism and becomes fully a member of body of Christ, the Christian community- and the parish- through that sacrament. Locating a font at the door of the church

is traditional design. So, the font was really in the right place- it's we who have changed.

In the 1979 Prayer Book revision, it was a significant shift to state preferentially that Baptism be celebrated in the context of a Sunday Eucharist. That makes spiritual sense, as it is the entire community that welcomes and stands in solidarity with the baptized person. The Renewal of Baptismal Vows and the promises we make as a community are, I agree, an essential acknowledgment of our unity as the Body of Christ. So, baptisms became public events and many small, charming, out of the way baptistries were converted to other uses.

This has led to a conundrum. I want us to use the font, which I am certain was given in the hopes that new Christians coming into St. Barnabas would be baptized in it, and I want us to be liturgically "respectful" of the architecture (if we can't manage to be liturgically correct). But, at the moment, it is not configured so that people can really see what's happening, and that's a disappointment. Even if we enjoined folks to move from their seats for a better view, there's really nowhere to gather 'round.

I am proposing the following solution: this summer when we re-do the church floor and pews, we are going to relocate the font to the front of the church, towards the north transept. We will have to sacrifice at least half of a front pew, but it is my hope that we are going to gain one in the back when we reconfigure the

sound set-up.

If we can do this, the font will be visible from (almost) everywhere, it will be close to the (original) front door of the church, and it won't interfere with the choir's path up to the chancel. Best of all, there will be floor space that permits folks to get closer. I want the experience to be visible and communal, and to honor the lovely and thoughtful gifts that we have. This change should enable us to do so. †

Did You Know?

...That our own Hildie Anderson has been an editor for most of her working life? She has worked for Reader's Digest and Life Books among many projects as a contract editor in both English and German. And she has continued to work well into her "retirement years." Recently, she was an editor on a Obama biography for LIFE, which was on the bestseller list for weeks. Until recently, she also taught English as a second language to Japanese students in Scarsdale, and has been on the altar guild and the global concerns committee at St. Barnabas.

—Cindy Malin

BULLETINS

Baptism: Anthony James Strobl, born May 29, 2009 to parishioners Kenneth and Keri Strobl, was baptized Sunday, April 11th.



Burial: Gus Popiel, beloved husband of Maureen, passed away March 20th. The Rector officiated at a graveside service in the St. Barnabas Memorial Garden on March 26th, A reception followed in the McCormack Lounge.



The next Midnight Run dates are May 21st and June 11th.

Thrift Sale 2010

The Undercroft Committee has been working diligently all year sorting the incoming thrift donations, packing them up by department and stacking them, more or less neatly, in the basement below Colwell Hall. Without referencing a calendar we can always tell the thrift sale is near when we start to run out of room to stack even one more box. Lo and behold, we have once again reached the point of no more space so it must



mean that the 2010 Thrift Sale is near!

Please mark your calendars and plan to help by setting up, carrying, sorting, displaying, pricing, selling, cleaning up... or all of the above! This is a tremendous sale but one that certainly demands a tremendous effort by the parishioners. The schedule is listed below and sign up sheets are on the windows of the nursery at church. If you're not sure where you are most needed there is a "please contact me" sheet posted as well.

This year several new teams of people have stepped up to help distribute the work load of the sale: **Barry Seaman and Thomas Richardson** are leading the charge to set up the space for the sale; **David Dring and Rich LeBuhn** are overseeing the clean-up effort; and Jean Sears will be managing the food for the week. Thank you to all of them.

Keep in mind that this is the first time Nora and Peter will be a part of this sale. Let's make it a great one with lots of support and good cheer!

Thanks!

—Cathy Hansen

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SATURDAY, MAY 1ST: Set-Up Saturday at 9:00am

All hearty parishioners are needed! This is the day when tables and supplies are distributed to all of the departments. Many hands make the work go quickly and we will supply coffee and bagels. Bring work gloves.

SUNDAY, MAY 2ND: Carry-Up Sunday, immediately following the 10:00am service

Wear your work clothes and we'll get right to work after the 10:00 service carrying up all of the rummage out of the basement. We're usually done by 12 and then there's pizza and drinks for all.

MON., MAY 3RD — THURS., MAY 6TH: Set-Up Week

Sorting and set-up are on-going all week, day and night. Every person is needed and important during this busy week.

FRIDAY, MAY 7TH: Sale Opens! 10am – 5pm

SATURDAY, MAY 8TH: Final Day of the Sale, 10am – 3pm

Clean up happens immediately following the sale. It's not the most fun part, but everyone needs to stay and pitch in so we can get the whole church put back together for Sunday services.

NEWS FLASH: Historical Book found in Thrift Donation

Barbara Wright, with her eagle eye, found an important addition to our History Files: **Historical Notes of Saint James Parish, Hyde Park-on-Hudson, New York – 1913**. The compiler was the Rev. E. P. Newton, Rector, and the book was published in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the church. Yes, after appropriate inquiry to the present church, we may keep this copy.

The book is important to St. Barnabas because of all the connections to our founder, the Rev. John McVickar, D.D. He built the first Saint James Church in 1811 on the Bard estate in Hyde Park with the enthusiastic support of his father-in-law, Dr. Samuel Bard, and then built our Church of St. Barnabas in Irvington in 1852.

The book has reproductions of early photographs, many interesting early New York names and a description of the early church "The first building was of brick and stone, stuccoed and painted yellow, with a short square battlemented tower at the west end." In 1843 the original structure was razed and a handsome Gothic Revival church now stands there beside the original cemetery.

See what *you* can find at next Thrift Sale on May 7 & 8, 2010.

—Carolyn G. Stifel

The Way of the Cross:

Creating artwork for Station no. 9, Jesus falls for the third time

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'D EVER considered creating an artwork with a religious context. It was met with a little fear, intimidation, and occasional panic. Susan's words at the request, "no pressure", were visited each time I began to think about the plan. Despite that, the decision to join the group, and to deliver it, came right at the deadline. No pressure.

Almost immediately, the plan was to depict the station through mixed media, collage, paint, and I felt it needed to be somewhat abstract. The complexity of abstraction, and its mystery can lead to a powerful image. Initially, the plan was to keep the images in black and white, with possibly red, to signify Jesus' blood. I wanted the crown of thorns to be a focal point, and the figure of Jesus to appear skeletal, fragile, and broken. While layering paper over the image of Jesus, it emerged as more than I had imagined. The body looked fragile, and the clothing transparent. "I am like water poured out; all my bones are racked. You have brought me down to the dust of death."

Through my research of the stations, many prayers were read, along with viewing depictions of the stations in various mediums. They were powerful. As I began to work, the original concept began to emerge in an unplanned way, as if I was being led! The simple composition (no pressure) initially imagined was evolving into a more detailed piece. I began cutting arms with hands out of bright red paper, wanting to scatter them around the figure of Jesus. No matter how I placed them and reconfigured them, it was never satisfactory. While

moving one of them, an arm was accidentally torn. I took scissors to reshape the tear, and the hand evolved into a spear.

I placed it on the piece, and took away all of the hands. One bold red color, with that form, said more than nearly a dozen arms coming into the center of the piece from all directions. I continued to add figures behind Jesus, stones on the ground, and small pieces of red amidst the stones.

Having Jesus' hand visibly clutching the cross, near His glowing halo and crown of thorns was something that drew me in. fallen, He held on.

"Blinded! a clot detaches, freeing the blood which streams into my half closed eyes. I sprawl across the cutting stones and lie momentarily numb. O darkness, come."

When the project was first announced, the participants chose a station to work on. As I was late to the acceptance of the task, the remaining station was assigned to me. Once it was



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all finished, it was clear as to why station #9 ended up being mine. There was a parallel to my life. "Like water poured out, your strength is gone. You fall as if to the dust of death. By your third fall,

O Lord, give us the courage before our trials and patience to go on. Help us in our need." "O world grown dim, let light flow in once more, to lead where I am crowned for evermore."

As a Catholic girl growing up, Good Friday was one of the longest days of the year. Met with absolute "whoa and dread." Through this art making connection, I was given the gift of experiencing it in an entirely new way. It left me in awe. Humbled. And wanting to get on with exploring the next 13. Who's idea was this? Thank you.

—Diane Lieux

The Way of the Cross

In 2010 The Artist's Group of Saint Barnabas was invited to create or locate individual representations for the fourteen traditional "Stations of the Cross", taken from the scriptural stories and other recollections of Jesus' passion and death.

Susan Ordahl organized and encouraged this remarkable endeavor and the community was invited to experience the visual liturgy of The Way of the Cross on Good Friday evening.

The Saint Barnabas community is grateful for the generosity and spiritual gifts of the following artists:

Barbara Wright
Linda E. Jones (from the collection of Nora Smith)
Marguerite Peyser
Holly Harty

Betsy Leitzes
Susan Ordahl
Juanita Dugdale
Janine Thompson
Ruth Berelson (from the collection of Cindy Malin)
William Stifel
Dianne Lieux
Lea Carmichael Richardson
Nicola Coddington
Alfonso Ossorio (from the collection of Barbara Waesche)
Stafford Ordahl (from the collection of Elsa Ordahl)
Barbara McNear

Photographs of the works may be seen on the Saint Barnabas website: www.stbarnabaschurch.org. Please note that the artists retain all copyrights to their works. Therefore, these images may not be reproduced.

InCommon

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Mr. Donald G. Butt, *Music Director*
Ms. Sue Stanley, *Parish Secretary*
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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.

The 2010 Thrift Sale is here!

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