



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

December 2016 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

In Luke, Jesus began his public ministry by reading from the Prophet Isaiah. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." He seemed to be claiming this as his mission, as his purpose. If we are to be "like him", to "take up our cross", or "to love as he loved", we must claim his work as our own.

Our Christian year is just beginning. In Advent, we do our best to prepare ourselves for the world-changing event of the Incarnation. After Christmas, we begin to tell the story of Christ's work in the world. To be truthful, most of us listen to this story the same way we might listen to one of the great novels. There are those eureka moments when something we hear might break through the noise of our lives and touch something deep within us. Occasionally, we feel compelled to do something new. We might suddenly feel as if we understand something that had confused us before. We might have one of those days when the colors seem more vibrant or the suffering of another seems more personal. For most of us though, these moments are out of the ordinary. I would like to suggest, however, that these days are gifts. They are windows into a life in God. They are lessons. You see, God has claimed the world, and God has claimed us. What we do matters. How we live out the mission that Christ claimed for himself is at the heart of our faith.

I believe that 2017 will require something different or something more from us. It will require that we recommit ourselves to the care for "the poor", "the release of the captives", "the recovery of sight to the blind", and "the liberty of those who are oppressed". These commitments will call us beyond nationalism, religion, classism, social

standing, ideology, or any other distinction we might create. The consequences of our inattention, detachment, or distraction could be severe. The love of the poor, the health of God's children, commitment to an active stewardship of God's Creation, deliverance from the oppression, a cessation of war, and the humble acceptance of those who might appear different from ourselves, will be critical to our work as those who claim to follow the mission and life of Christ.

Like Mary, we must ponder the Incarnation of God in Christ. The Church's best notions of that through the centuries are that nothing is profane anymore. As a result, we cannot be unconcerned about Climate Change and its effects. We cannot allow that any ideology or national interest convince us that some lives matter more than others. We cannot turn a blind eye as the wealthy take more from the poor. We must not forget that much of Christ's work centered on health care and healing. We cannot become convinced that what we do doesn't matter.

As we celebrate the Incarnation of God, let's recommit ourselves to its consequences and its call. Engage, engage, and engage. Be vigilant. Be bold. Be compassionate. With the profound will of Gandhi, "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Yours in Christ,

Randall+

Deacon's Corner

I don't know about you, but December always seems to me to be full of the hype and commercialism of Christmas and it even starts early, even before Thanksgiving. It seems that the year has really flown by and here we are suddenly in December with the Christmas rush upon us!

I'd like to suggest something, so that we don't miss the expectancy of Advent! I'm well aware that Christmas gifts and shopping cannot always wait until the last minute, but I am suggesting that we all take some time to think of our family, our friends, this community of faith, and our significant others in a Special way. Take time to think of what would be most meaningful to give to all your Special people, and ponder that with great care, but with love in your hearts about ways they have touched you in the past year and how you can return that love in Giving! Pray over it and then respond in a relaxed way.

Now on to Advent. Last Sunday the Scriptures in Isaiah said, "O house of Jacob, come let us walk in the light of the Lord." and the Gospel of Matthew told us to be awake and watchful since we do not know when the Son of Man will come to us. This involves waiting. Waiting can be a very boring and tedious exercise, but Advent is different. We can wait with great expectation of what is to come in a baby born in a lowly manger bringing Jesus Christ into our midst and into our lives. Since we know already the story of Jesus' birth, we can also Live Into his Life by preparing the way for Him. This requires some preparation on our part, setting some time aside each day for quiet, for prayer, and for reflection as to how we can grow into the Life of Christ in ourselves and renew ourselves for another year. We wait, we pray, and we see the light of Christ in the faces of those around us and seek to return that light and love by thinking of those people who may be sick, who may be grieving, who may be alone, those who may be homeless or hungry. When we do that, we can treasure Scripture such as a passage from the Revelation to John, Chapter 3, verse 20-22: "Listen, I am standing at the door, knocking (Jesus speaking); if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers, I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

So, I wish for all of you a Peaceful and quiet Advent where we can wait with expectation the arrival of the Christ child. A quote from Deitrich Bonhoeffer sums it up well: "It is truly a strange sight when a strong, proud man bends his knee before this child, when with a simple heart He finds and reveres in him his Savior. And our old, clever, experienced, self-assured world must no doubt shake its head,

or perhaps even laugh with contempt, when it hears the cry of salvation from believing Christians. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given."

Peace be always with you!

Leslie +

Community Prayer List – The family of David Merriman, the family of Beverly Whisenhut, the family of Chuck Kasai, Kari Foote, Jennifer Corso, Wayne Hemphill, Tony Lynch, Mel Kreigsman, the family of Sandra Ritter, Herbert Menendez, Allen Rembert, Eugene Finocchi, Kate, Mary Smith, Maria De Jesus, Chip Marble, Ann Fincke, Judy Brown, Mitzi Gray, Frances Foote, James Hoots, Christopher Wolfe, George, Walter, Evelin, & Alex, Bob Donaghy, Debbie Felker, Walt & Dolores Wieselquist, Jennie Johnson, Bonnie Pruit, Linda Lewis, Carolyn McLean, Chris Meacham, Tiffany Patrick, Davilynn & Bill Furlow, Marvin Aycock, Peggy Reeve, Rose Mertz. For those who have died: Beverly Whisenhut, David Merriman, Chuck Kasai, Elinor Elliott, Linda Hemphill.

Wanda & Randall Have a New Grandson

Addison Graham Elms came into the world on November 28 at about 7:00pm. Addison, Erica, and Lane are exhausted (30 hours of labor), but they are all healthy and off to the races. Wanda will be leaving for San Diego on December 3 and returning on December 13. Please refer to her for things like weight, length, APGAR, astrological sign, and political affiliation. Randall doesn't know that, but he does know that Addison will have a baseball glove as soon as is humanly possible.

A Note from Your Stewardship Committee

As of December 1, the 2017 pledge drive is almost over, and we thank you for your great support. Anyone who hasn't turned in a pledge card yet, we'd love to have it as soon as possible!

November Fundraisers

We have had two great fundraisers this month. I want to thank all the people who helped in whatever way they helped. If I have left anyone out I apologize. The election baked goods sale went really well. Randall and Leslie were there at 6am. Others came and went during the day, either bringing goods to sell and/or staying to attend to the coffee table. Some of these people are Marcia

House, Nancy Poulos, Anne Carter, TJ Bland, Ann Long, Karen Meacham, and Mel Cambareri. We raised \$140.00! Our 10,000 Villages fundraiser night also went really well. Thanks to Helen and Jack Alford and to JoEllen McFarland who brought food/ wine to add to what Allen and I brought. It was a really fun evening and thanks to all who shopped. Our portion of the evening's sales was \$270.76. Next month we have our famous Cookie Walk, so if you haven't signed up to bake/ help out please do so. It is a big fundraiser for us. See you then and thanks for all that all of you do for St. Barnabas. Our family is what makes us so great.

Mary Lee Rembert

Friendship Community Partnership

The five churches of the Friendship Community Partnership have been very busy this fall. The October Food Drive was a tremendous success with a total donation of 311 lbs. of food to Greensboro Urban Ministry. St. Barnabas contributed 108 lbs. to that total along with a \$50 donation.

The FCP was also able to donate 556 lbs. of sweet potatoes. This helps GUM provide nutritious food for more than 100 families through their Emergency Assistance Program as well as providing food for Potter's House Community kitchen where meals are served daily.

Thanks to all for making a difference in the lives of those who live with the worry of not having enough food for their families.

Anne Carter

The Cycle of Life

This December is our month for babies. Julian Alvarenga-Ignelzi was born to Elizabeth and Julio Alvarenga-Ignelzi on November 30th at 4:15 a.m. in Greensboro. Addison Graham Elms was born to Erica and Lane November 28th at 7:00 a.m. in San Diego. Please offer you're your thanks and prayers for all of these folks, because none of their lives will ever be the same. Life will have taken on new meaning, new purpose, new joy, and new worries. Julian and Addison will turn their parents' lives upside down. For them, life has changed. They have entered into this world where they will begin to see, hear, smell, touch, and taste the creation of God.

Over the last few weeks, other lives have changed as well. Anne Carter's mother, Juanita; Joee Barbour's mother, Jo; Jane Kasai's husband, Chuck; and Chris Merriman's husband, David, have all passed away. As the burial office reminds us: "For them, life has changed not ended". For Anne, Joee, Jane, and Chris, life's changes come in recalling and holding on to memories that may have slipped away for a bit. Their days will be filled with new things, new experiences, and new tasks. For Juanita, Jo, Chuck, and David, the boundaries of time and space have evaporated. They have been united with all that is past or present or future. They rest in the life of God, which simply "is", without beginning or end.

Change Jug

Somewhere in or around the chapel you will find a 5-gallon water jug with a bit of money in it. We invite all of you to bring in your spare change and help us fill it up. When full, we'll make a decision on what to do with it. In the meantime, clinking noises are joyful noises at St. Barnabas.

Spiritual Resources

If you are looking for something that might support or guide your prayer or quiet time, we have a few things available. In the foyer, you should find copies of "Forward, Day by Day". It is published by Forward Movement Publications and comes out quarterly. It offers daily meditations and prayers. "Gospel Based Discipleship" is published by The Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. It offers schedule of daily Scripture lessons along with suggestions for their consideration and study. The Diocesan Prayer Cycle is also included. Bishop Curry began this endeavor some years ago. "The North Carolina Disciple" is our quarterly diocesan magazine. It is wonderful. All of these are available in the foyer. Do pick one up & share them with others.

Please Check Out the Webpage

Tony Davies has been doing a lot of work on our webpage, and it is looking great! Do make a visit to it and share a link to it with your friends and family. Also, if you have pictures from any of our activities, please do pass them along to Tony.

Support Meetings for Friends at Risk

Our Immigration System could be going through some radical changes over the next few weeks, months, and years. The prospect of it has created and/or exasperated the stress that immigrants experience on a daily basis. There are 2 meetings scheduled by 2 organizations who work with the immigrant community this weekend. Please do consider going to one or both of them.

Serving, Protecting, & Loving our Neighbors

Sponsored by Faith Action International
Sunday, December 4th, at 2:00pm
Guilford Park Presbyterian
2100 Fernwood Dr. 28408

New #SanctuaryNC Campaign

Sponsored by American Friends Service Committee
Monday, December 5th, at 6:00pm
Friendship Friends Meeting
1103 New Garden Rd. 27410



They're Going Fast!

We still have a few 2017 "Attractions" coupon books available. At \$25, they are a great bargain and make a good Christmas gift.

Books are available in the parish hall with a payment envelope. *Checks should be made out to St. Barnabas Church with notation, "Attractions book".*



Saturday, December 10, 2016
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
St. Barnabas Parish Hall

Please invite a friend and join us on Saturday, December 10th for the second annual St. Barnabas Cookie Walk. It is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the Christmas spirit and to purchase delicious cookies to give as gifts for neighbors and friends or for the family to enjoy.

Greening the Church for Christmas

After Eucharist on the 4th Sunday of Advent, December 18, you are all invited to stay afterwards to decorate the church. We'll have some hot spiced cider, cookies and Christmas music to make the transition from Advent to Christmas fun for all.

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve comes on a Saturday this year. At the request of some of our folk, we have scheduled our service for 5:00 pm on December 24. In the craziness that is America's Corporate Christmas, this joyful service allows us the time and space to reclaim and remember the wonder of the Incarnation. Please do come and bring a friend or two.

Because Christmas Day is on a Sunday, we will be having ONE service that day. It will be a quiet, simple service 10:30 in the morning.

Three Kings Day Dinner

January 6, 2017, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

On the Feast of the Epiphany (January 6), we are trying a new tradition. On the Epiphany, we celebrate the Visit of the Magi before the infant Christ. Mel Cambareri will be preparing a Spaghetti Dinner with salad and desert. Over the next few weeks, we will be selling tickets to the dinner. This is both a parish celebration and a fund raiser. Tickets should be available in a week or so. Please do take and sell as many as you can. Adults will eat for \$8. Kids will eat for \$4. And, children 6 and below will be free.



December Birthdays

9th – Leslie Bland
14th – Tony Lynch
17th – Dolores Wieselquist
19th Samantha Taylordean
23rd – Anne Carter



Christmas Poinsettia Contribution Form

Please put this slip and your contribution in the collection plate or mail to the church by **Sunday, December 18th**. Checks may be made out to "St. Barnabas Church," indicating "For Poinsettias." Thank you!

I / We would like to contribute to the Christmas Poinsettias.

(Please Print.)

Name/Names of Donor

Contribution Amount \$ _____

I wish to give my gift in:

Thanksgiving For _____

Honor Of _____

Memory Of
