



# St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

## September 2016 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

On August 17, your vestry and vicar met with Canon Earnest Graham. Many of you may know Earnest. He is the Northwest Regional Canon for our diocese. His work is supporting and empowering congregational life. Earnest came at the invitation of Father Randall and the vestry.

Some of you may know that St. Barnabas' has been operating on a "shoestring" budget for some time now. Recently, our Treasurer, Jack Alford, informed us that our ability to meet our financial obligations could become untenable in 2017. Although we have and will continue to attract new members, we also continue to lose some of our most long-term members due to illness & life transitions. We are a healthy congregation, but we are also an aging congregation. For our continuing vitality, we will need to embrace some new ideas. Please know that your vestry is considering every possibility.

If you will remember, we spent quite a bit of time developing a Vision for St. Barnabas' last year. The statement is printed in your bulletins weekly. With Canon Graham's help and guidance, we are inviting all of you into a process whose purpose is to invite and welcome people into the vision of St. Barnabas. Canon Graham will continue to meet with our vestry over the next few months as we implement our plans and make our decisions.

One of our parishioners once told me (and I could easily understand) that he/she became Episcopalian because the Episcopal Church didn't do evangelism. The "E Word" was scary to them. The thought was that it was a piece of Christianity that polite Anglicans would avoid as vigilantly as they avoided dentist appointments. I suppose I understand that as well. I don't know the number of times the dreaded door knock at my home was followed by the question, "Are you saved?" That is

not and will never be the Episcopal understanding of evangelism. Ultimately, evangelism is about invitation and hospitality.

I couldn't have been prouder of and happier with St. Barnabas and the Vision it held up. Not only do we embrace diversity; we yearn for it. Not only are we willing to be transformed; we count on it. We promise to support one another in our work for a just world, a compassionate and completely accessible community, and sustainable environment. This year, our challenge will be holding up this work before the community, inviting others into it, and welcoming them to come and transform us.

This is our vision of the community we will be inviting folks into:

### Vision Statement

St. Barnabas will be intentionally inclusive; a vibrant, diverse, growing congregation who love, care for, and encourage one another while striving to put the teachings of Jesus Christ into practice every day. The church will be transformed as we grow. We will become a larger, self-sustaining community while preserving the welcoming, accepting culture that makes St. Barnabas a special place.

St. Barnabas will be known and recognized as leading in the areas of compassion, social justice, and accessibility; working cooperatively with other groups to provide direct community service and to effect systemic change. We will preserve the beauty of our campus, promote environmentally sensitive and sustainable practices, and make the campus available to serve the wider community.

In all this, we hope to invite others into a deeper knowledge of God.

*Adopted January 31, 2016*

On September 25, we will introduce these new ideas on evangelism and growth. The program is called "Invite, Welcome, & Connect".

([www.invitewelcomeconnect.com](http://www.invitewelcomeconnect.com))

It presents a very promising, very engaging, and very humble way of looking at evangelism. Mary Palmer, an Episcopalian from the Diocese of Texas, developed it. Mary was the keynote speaker at our last Diocesan Convention. She, it, and we will be unconcerned with dogma, indoctrination, or theological adherence. She, it, and we will be concerned only with inviting people into a hospitable community, welcoming them, listening to them, and becoming something new.

Your vestry and your vicar are inviting you all into this process. Beginning on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am, we will begin meeting in the chapel weekly. Our intention will be to invite and welcome others into what we find so wonderful here at St. Barnabas. Also, we will equip ourselves with the tools that will turn our hope into our reality. It is important that all of us participate in this process. Please do set aside an extra hour or so on Sunday mornings and come be part of St. Barnabas' future.

Peace,

Randall+

Community Prayer List – Allen Rembert, the family of Juanita Irving, Eugene Finocchi, Kate, Mary Smith, Bud Leckie, Maria De Jesus, Laurie Bills, Bishop Marble, Ann Fincke, Judy Brown, Cameron, Carson, Mitzi Gray, Frances Foote, James Hoots, Christopher Wolfe, David Merriman, George, Walter, Evelin, & Alex, Bob Donaghy, Debbie Felker, Dolores Wieselquist & Family, Jennie Johnson, Bonnie Pruitt, Linda Lewis, Carolyn McLean, Chris Meacham, Tiffany Patrick, Davilynn & Bill Furlow, Marvin Aycock, Peggy Reeve, Roger McFarland, Rose Mertz. For those who have died: Juanita Irving, Mary Jane Foote.

### Vacating Vacation-Season Potluck

On September 18, we will celebrate the end of fun and relaxation. All are invited to wear their favorite vacation attire and bring their favorite vacation dishes (or anything else for that matter) for a Church Potluck beginning at 11:45am. Fun will not be allowed!

### Things to Know Before You Go!

On September 18, @ 2pm in New Garden Friends Meeting house, the Funeral Consumer's Alliance of the Piedmont will hold its Annual Meeting. Father Randall has served on this committee for about 3 years. David Bills, retired pastor of New Garden Friends is the President of the group. The purpose of the group is to inform consumers about the "real" rules and laws around death and burial. Much of what we have been taught around these issues is inaccurate. All are invited to come. The program this year will include information from Hospice, Home Burial, Green Burial, Death Café & Café Mortal (informal meetings about death and dying), and personal experiences. Resources and information about support and continuing education will be available.

### A Day of Healing & Hope

September 11, 2016: The Sunday after Labor Day will mark the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the September 11 attacks. During our worship on that day, we will remember our past, hope for our future, and consider what God would have us do in the present.

### Fall Bazaar & Sale

Chris Dickson (Bob Dickson's son) is the owner of Blue Moon Estate Sales. He will be hosting a sale here at St. Barnabas on **October 15 from 8:00am until 3:00pm**. If you remember, we did this about 2 years ago. That's when our resident animal rights activists confiscated and sold our only critter trap for the Community Garden. Please call church office or email us if you would like to bring some things over to sell. This is a wonderful way for us to gather, make a little money, and meet the community around us.

### TRIAD EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY

Celebrate cooler temperatures and enjoy the music of the Triad Early Music Society on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm in the **Living Room at Friends Home West**. For questions, call Nancy Poulos at 299-2769.

## One Step Further Food Pantry and The Servant Center

Even though school has begun, the need for food in our community continues to grow at an alarming rate. The Servant Center also continues to feed up to 21 disabled veterans each day.

Food Pantry needs remain about the same from month to month:

- Protein sources might include canned tuna, salmon, Spam, peanut butter, dried beans and especially soups and stew as the weather gets cooler.
- Canned vegetables such as greens, mixed vegetables, peas, tomatoes, corn, and green beans
- Canned fruit
- Misc. Items such as dry milk, flour, rice, oatmeal, cereal, macaroni & cheese

*Thanks to everyone for your continued support and to those who deliver our food donations each week.*



The 2017 "Attractions" coupon books are available and better than ever. At \$25, they are a great bargain. You get \$10-\$15 coupons to thirty of your favorite restaurants (like Liberty Oak, Positano, Cafe Pasta, Bravo, Mark's, Wolfgang Puck Kitchen & Bar). There are hundreds of fast food "buy one, get one free coupons" to places like Elizabeth's Pizza, Qdoba, PieWorks, Papa John's, Penn Station, Salsarita's, and Burger King. It also offers coupons at stores like hhgregg, Party City, Ace Hardware (which is redeemable at Home Depot and Lowe's), and savings toward a new membership or renewal at Sam's Club.

They make great gifts. Books are available in the parish hall with a payment envelope.

*Checks should be made out to St. Barnabas Church with memo notation, "Attractions book".*



## **Greater Greensboro CROP Hunger Walk Sunday, October 16, 2016 @ 2:30 pm**

Doug Meacham will represent St. Barnabas again this year. Kick-off events were scheduled for this week. Details will follow as available.



### **September Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Helen Alford  
8<sup>th</sup> – David Gardiner  
26<sup>th</sup> – Doug Meacham  
27<sup>th</sup> – Mary Lou Smith



5<sup>th</sup> – The Rev. Dick & Mary Lou Smith

### **Parish Directory Update**

*If you are new to St. Barnabas and would like to be included in future updates, please contact the office at 294-1282 or by email: [stbarnabasgreensboro@gmail.com](mailto:stbarnabasgreensboro@gmail.com) with complete information (address, phone #, email address, birthdays, anniversary, etc.).*

Hopefully you have had time to read **The North Carolina DISCIPLE, Summer 2016**, If not, dig it out and spend a few minutes with it. I found several articles speaking to me and to All Saints.



One particular Galilee where we find God's children is in our schools. In summer 2016, approximately 7,400 Guilford County students in grades 1-3 were invited to attend summer school because they were identified as needing extra help in reading, writing and spelling. Of the 7,400 invited, approximately 2,800 attended. Summer school lasted 12 days. **These children, and those unable to attend for various reasons, need our help.**

**The Augustine Literacy Project/Guilford County, NC (ALP/GCNC)** seeks to support children with free tutoring with a volunteer tutor, trained in systematic reading strategies that directly support the work done in the classrooms. Tutors are provided with appropriate materials to support each child's needs.

**Volunteers work with one child, twice weekly, after school and at the child's school.**

For more information about the program and how to become an ALP tutor, check

our website at [alpguilfordnc.weebly.com](http://alpguilfordnc.weebly.com), contact us at [alpguilfordnc@gmail.com](mailto:alpguilfordnc@gmail.com), or talk with me, Sue Mercier.



There's another way to get to Galilee... If training in the Augustine Literacy Program is not for you, but you would still like to support a struggling reader, you can!

I am available and willing to supply you with books, strategies and will work with a principal in a school area of your choice, at a time convenient to you, the child and the school.

This is such a wonderful way to be **WITH** a person as well as do **FOR** this struggling reader, a way to **tutor one child, but change two lives.**

For more information contact me at [alpguilfordnc@gmail.com](mailto:alpguilfordnc@gmail.com), or talk with me, Sue Mercier by phone at 336-547-0620. Or, contact Nancy Poulos or Joee Barbour at St. Barnabas.