

ST.BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE DEAF

THE MESSENGER

November 2008— March 2009

A congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington



Tom Hattaway displays an award given to St. Barnabas by the Diocese in appreciation of giving ten percent of our annual offerings to the support of the Diocese. (Our church was the only one in our region at this level.) See page 4.

Upcoming Events:

March 1 - 22, 2009 - Lenten Study each Sunday at 9:30 AM followed by Holy Eucharist at 10:15 AM

April 5, 2009 - Sunday of the Passion with Liturgy of the Palms and Passion Narrative

April 9, 2009 - Maundy Thursday - Service of Footwashing - 7:00 PM in St. Mary's Chapel

April 10, 2009 - Good Friday - St. John's with Vicar interpreting - 12:30 - 3:00 PM in the Nave.

April 11, 2009 - Holy Saturday - Easter Vigil with St. John's - Vicar interpreting - 8:00 PM - in the Nave

April 12, 2009 - Easter Sunday - Festive Holy Eucharist



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THE PASTOR'S CORNER:



IT IS IMPORTANT
TO LOOK WITHIN
OURSELVES FOR
OUR SINS BUT I
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"POSITIVES" AS
WELL.

Dear Members and Friends,

It seems like a very long time since my last message. Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, the New Year and Epiphany have gone by. By the time you receive the Messenger we will be well into the season of Lent.

I want to share with you a little different perspective on the Season of Lent. To begin with this season in the early church was a time of self-examination for those who were preparing for baptism. The church offered study or "catechism" to the "catechists", those preparing for baptism. The priests taught these catechists about the history of the church and the meaning of baptism. Baptism was usually done at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday morning. Some churches continue this practice today but most just have baptism classes when there are several to be baptized. That way they can baptize on any Sunday.

We hear a lot about Lent being the season to "give up" something that we really like. We also read and hear much admonishing us to do spiritual self-examination. It is important to look within ourselves for our sins but I believe it is also important to look for the spiritual "positives" as well. I am sorry for my sins but I offer to God my commitment to follow God's commands and spiritual laws.

During the four Sundays of Lent we will meet in the Chapel from 9:30 - 10:00 AM. We will have a 15 minute break and then begin our Eucharist. We will be in a study to talk about what the season should lead us to do for God, our church, our country and ourselves. I hope you will all make a commitment for these four Sundays.

Blessings and a Holy Lent and Easter,
Barbara

POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL DEAF MINISTRIES FOR ST. BARNABAS'

Kiombo Nsumbu Report

After eight long years and much hard work our own, Kiombo Nsumbu has finished two degrees at Gallaudet. The first is a B.A. in Deaf Studies and the most recent is a Master's Degree in International Studies. He finished his academic work in Dec. 2008 but will formally graduate this May. He wants to walk in the formal graduation ceremony! Can't blame him. He said he had worked hard and he wanted people to see what he had done. CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE, KIOMBO!

He has written a proposal for returning to the Congo and starting a school for the Deaf. In his proposal he cites the fact that 90% of deaf children in the Congo are born to hearing parents who never expose their children to sign language. Consequently, the literacy rate for deaf students is very low. No one knows exactly how low since that level has never been assessed.

His plan is to train people in the Congo in Congolese Sign Language so they can become teachers of the language to very young children, ages 3-5 or younger. This plan will be expensive but well worth it. The Vicar has taken the proposal to our Bishop, John Chane, for his review. The hope is that the diocese might offer some finances. St. Barnabas' will be offering financial resources by applying for a Millennium Development grant. The limit for the MDG grants is \$1000.00 which does not seem like much. However, if St. Barnabas' can match that, or perhaps exceed it, that will be a great help for this project.

Deaf Ministry in Jerusalem

Bishop Chane has visited the Diocese of Jerusalem on several occasions recently. He has visited the three schools for the deaf there. One of these schools is the Salt School in Jordan. Your vicar met the Headmaster of that school a few years ago when he visited here in Washington and toured Gallaudet. He had supper with our Supper and Discussion Group at Gallaudet. Our bishop is encouraging your vicar to make a trip with him and a group from the diocese to Jerusalem next October. I will be in touch with Bro. Andrew at the Salt School to work on arrangements for that trip.

Right now I have no Episcopal students signed up at Gallaudet. However, I am proposing that St. Barnabas' participate in this relationship with the Salt School. There is a possibility that one or two members of St. Barnabas' could accompany me on the trip. These plans are all in the "talking" stage right now and I will be reporting more as I learn more.

I ask your fervent prayers for both of these international ministries, the Congo and Jerusalem.

2009 Diocesan Convention



Tom Hattaway and Rayellen Casey share a laugh during lunch at convention

MCLAREN
DESCRIBED THE
CHRISTIAN
FAITH AS
“PREGNANT”
WITH POTENTIAL
AND NEW LIFE.



Libby McKnight interpreting for St. Barnabas' delegation which was seated in the front row of the Cathedral

2009 Diocesan Convention



Jim and Ginny Lindsay standing beside the St. Barnabas' display

St. Barnabas members Tom Hattaway, Jim and Ginny Lindsay, Ed Knight and our vicar Barbara Allen attended the Diocesan Convention held at National Cathedral on January 30-31. The theme was "That we all may be one: Making Disciples".

Prolific author and emergent church leader Brian McLaren gave an inspiring and thought-provoking lecture. McLaren described the Christian faith as "pregnant" with potential and new life. We often think of the church as an old lady ready for a nursing home. He said, however, when you recall the Biblical stories of Sarah and Elizabeth, "if you give the old girl a pregnancy test she may surprise you."

He said the Episcopal Church has certain strengths. Our liturgical practice is "like going to a health club" — we get a spiritual workout from all our kneeling, sitting, standing and other liturgical positioning. We get out of our seats and process forward to receive Holy Communion. We take this for granted but in many churches the congregation is less participatory in this way. He said "the liturgical mindset is a great treasure."

Many people want spirituality, meaning and direction in life but don't know how to find it. It is our duty to share our faith with others, which is something Episcopalians tend to shy away from. We need to spread Jesus's gospel of the Kingdom, a creation saved from sin including greed and self-centeredness. McLaren said that we need a variety of spirits to renew the church which he named as follows: "Bring them in", "Let's experiment", "Begin again" and "Transcend and include". To transcend and include means to find a place above and beyond the liberal and conservative divide and to go to a place where neither has been before. And to do all that we need the Holy Spirit.

OUR LITURGICAL
PRACTICE IS "LIKE
GOING TO A
HEALTH CLUB"

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SNAPSHOTS



Deaf Children's Bible Story Group Advent Wreath Workshop in Hines Hall



Christina Duley and Elaine Laird at St. John's luncheon in Parish Hall

CHRISTMAS SNAPSHOTS



Iris Gomes at National Cathedral on Christmas Eve



Tom Hattaway at National Cathedral on Christmas Eve reading the program. About thirty deaf people attended the interpreted service.

ST.BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE DEAF

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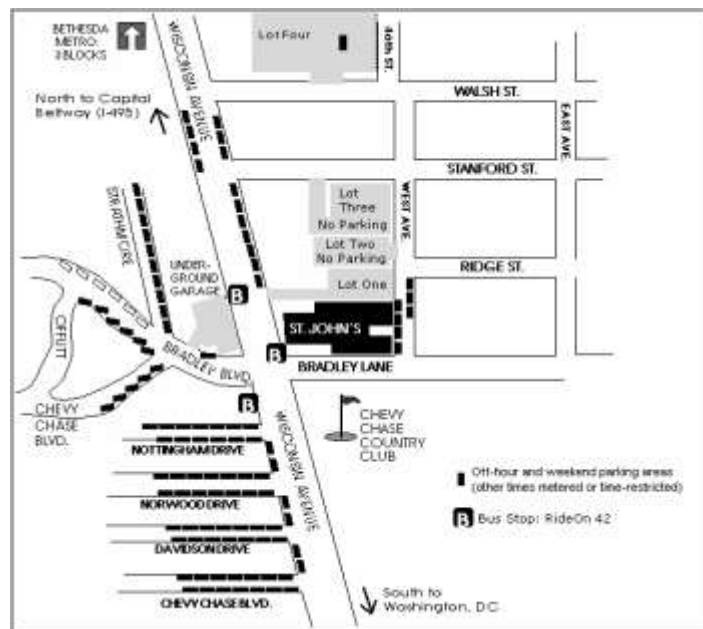
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Unsolicited newsletter items/articles are welcome,
especially your digital photos related to church and

ON THE WEB AT
STBARNABASDEAF.EDOW.ORG

WEEKLY 10 AM HOLY EUCHARIST
SERVICE
WITH HEALING SERVICE 3RD
SUNDAYS
ST. MARY'S CHAPEL AT
ST. JOHN'S, NORWOOD
6701 WISCONSIN AVENUE AT
BRADLEY LANE, CHEVY CHASE, MD.
20815

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY MINISTRY:
ELY CENTER ROOM 114
DURING ACADEMIC YEAR, HOLY
EUCHARIST CELEBRATED THE SECOND
SUN. OF EACH MONTH AT 2:00 PM
IN THE CHAPEL OF THE STUDENT
UNION BUILDING



St. Barnabas' meets in St. Mary's Chapel at St. John's Norwood Church at the corner of Wisconsin Ave and Bradley Lane