

The Messenger

St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf

September 2003

<http://justus.anglican.org/societies/stbarnabasdeaf>



A Mission Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

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Vicar

The Rev Barbara A. Allen
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Vice Chair

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Lay Eucharist Ministers

Thomas Hattaway
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Ed Knight

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10 am Holy Eucharist Services in
St. Mary's Chapel at
St. John's, Norwood
6701 Wisconsin Avenue at Bradley
Lane, Chevy Chase, MD. 20815



Gallaudet University
Ely Center Room 114
Wednesdays 1-5 PM during the Academic
Year

A Light Supper followed by a Discussion
group is held at 6 PM each Wednesday
Holy Eucharist Services are held in the
Gallaudet University Student Academic
Center Chapel the Second Sunday of the
Month at 2 p.m.



L-R: Libby McKnight, Karen Chane, Bishop
John Bryson Chane, The Reverend Barbara
Allen, and Steve Holst

Forthcoming Special Events

**Evensong to install 4 new canons
- 4:00 p.m., Sunday Sept. 14
at the Washington National
Cathedral.**

Bishop John Chane will preach and
preside. See the Vicar; if there is
interest ASL interpreters will be
provided.

**St. Barnabas' Event at College of
Preachers (on grounds of the
National Cathedral) on Saturday
Dec. 6**

Details to be announced in the next
Messenger

A Word From the Vicar

Have you ever been in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in the National Cathedral? It is a tiny little area as you leave the Cathedral by the North Transept. I had never noticed it until last week. As you are on your way out you suddenly see an opening on your right with a sign that says "Chapel of the Good Shepherd". I peered around the archway and was struck forcefully by what I saw. It was like a miniature nave. Little pews with carved ends, a stone altar built into the forward wall and a relief sculpture in the wall just above the altar. I was so moved and attracted by the scene that I stepped inside, moved to the front pew and sat down.

It was the relief sculpture that captured my attention and my spirit. A kind face with eyes almost closed was draped in a head covering, very plain. Strong hands folded around a lamb that appeared completely relaxed and at ease. Little feet and legs dangling beneath the strong arms of the Good Shepherd. A face that showed no fear, only trust. I sat for a long time with tears in my eyes taking in the meaning of that scene for me. I remembered years ago when I was serving as a hospice chaplain in KY. One of my patients was deaf. I visited her one afternoon and we were talking about her illness and the fact that she would die, though we did not know how soon but we knew that her condition was terminal. She did not appear to be afraid. She smiled and then she showed me a card she had received with a picture of the "Good Shepherd" on the front. She said to me, "See that little lamb? That is me".

As I looked upon the "Good Shepherd" last week I realized that it is all of us. Day after day we face the perils and joys of this life. All we need to do is be like the little lamb, relax, and let God take care of us.

So much easier said than done but so very important to learn that lesson. Are you resting in the strong arms of the "Good Shepherd"?
Your pastor and friend.

Barbara+

Sunday July 6 Visitation by Bishop Chane

Thirty-two people attended the ASL-interpreted service where **Bishop John Bryson Chane** presided and consecrated the new altar linen and silver pieces. The Bishop preached on the spread of fear in these modern times of terrorism, the danger of overreacting to fear, and the importance of having faith.

Bishop Chane, his wife **Karen Chane**, and **Judith Greene** of Church House stayed after the service to share fellowship with members of St. Barnabas'. There was a birthday cake decorated in red white and blue in honor of those born in July, including **Jim and Ginny Lindsay**.

New location for Coffee Hour:

Until further notice, the coffee hour / fellowship time which is held at 11:15 AM each Sunday will be held in Hines Hall. This is just around the corner from the conference room where it used to be located.

A Lay Reader Workshop is being planned to be led by the Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering – the date to be announced. If you are interested, see the Vicar for details.

News from among us

Bram Hightman and Stephanie Aronson were married by his pastor, **Rev Don Chevelley**, from Capital Baptist Church at St John's Episcopal Church on Saturday, June 7th. About 70 people attended the ceremony and reception.

The offering from St. Barnabas' Mission to the **ECD Little Red**

Church Fund was \$512. Thank you to all those who contributed.

During the service on August 10, **Nancy Conger** received an acolyte pin with an Episcopal Shield in honor of her long-term ministry of lighting the altar candles before each service.

On August 17, **Michael Martin** brought the news that his friend from Philadelphia, **Dennis Hart**, lost all his belongings in a fire in his apartment building but escaped alive. Michael asks that we pray that Dennis Hart can find a new apartment. If you feel called to send a donation, you can make a donation to St. Barnabas' and we will take up a collection.

Open meeting on disabilities/access/inclusion St. Columba's Episcopal Church

On July 16, the **Rev. Barbara Allen, Rudy and Marlene Hines, Michael Martin, John Ricciardi, Tonya Stremiau, Tracy Dieter and Ed Knight**, along with representatives of 12 other congregations, attended an ASL-interpreted meeting on "Building Accessibility for People with Special Needs." The session was intended to assess needs and resources around the diocese for people with disabilities. **Ginny Thornburgh**, Director of the Religion and Disability Program of the National Organization on Disability (www.nod.org), spoke about the 54 million Americans who have some sort of disability, visible or invisible. She emphasized that people with disabilities have talents to bring to the church. She described various accommodations, many of which do not require a lot of money but rather an imaginative approach and a welcoming attitude. She reminded

us that standing can be a hardship for some people who are not visibly disabled, and suggested instead of asking people to "stand" instead to say "stand or be seated".

She said, "the gift of friendship is the most important accommodation."

Canon to the Ordinary **Paul Cooney** opened the floor to discussion. **Rudy Hines** expressed the concern that although St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf is growing, when there are more than fifteen people it becomes difficult for all to see the service. **Barbara Allen** said her hope is that we don't see people with disabilities as "different" but that we all see each other as children of God. Barbara also mentioned a couple of concerns about the National Cathedral's accessibility for Deaf people. She said that more events there need to be interpreted and that the reserved seating area for Deaf people needs to be relocated to a better sight angle. She mentioned that at the General Convention happening later in July, the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf will be represented and that three deaf people will be sitting in the House of Deputies – an exciting "first". Barbara also mentioned as concerns the lack of closed-captioned videos from the Episcopal Media Center. (Editor's note: the Episcopal Media Center finally did release a new captioned video titled "Living with Money", and last week the Vicar got a copy for our congregation's use.)

Barbara described the difficulty Deaf people who are called to the priesthood experience in gaining access to seminaries due to the cost of interpreters. She explained that

the large majority of Deaf people prefer to attend services that are signed (like St. Barnabas') as opposed to services that simply have an ASL interpreter.

Rudy Hines asked if any effort had been made to give pastors training to prepare them to work with people with disabilities, including Deaf people. **Ginny Thornburgh** described a training program that her organization has started at seminaries of various denominations and faiths to increase awareness about disability issues.

Paul Cooney said, "we are organizing for a serious, consistent, long-term effort" which will start with the creation of a Task Force to advise **Bishop Chane**. He invited those who have accessibility hopes and concerns to put them into an email to the following email address: specialneeds@edow.org.

Sanctuary Design Dream Workshop

Christina Duley, Marlene and Rudy Hines, Ed Knight, Mark Kleberg, Michael Martin, John Ricciardi, Shelley Simms, Phoebe Tharpe, and the Rev. Barbara Allen attended an ASL-interpreted workshop in Parish Hall on July 20 led by **Tracy Dieter**. The aim of the workshop was for participants to dream of the sanctuary that would be perfect for our congregation, big enough for 100 people. Tracy stood behind a table with pieces of felt cut out to represent various objects: chairs, pews, altar, platform, windows, font, banner, etc. She invited participants to decide where to lay out each object. Most people liked the idea of a circular or oval

room shape. The consensus was to have a platform with altar along the long wall of the sanctuary, so that more people could sit along the front row. Another consensus was to have the windows at the back and side of the sanctuary, but not at the front, to reduce glare. **Ed Knight** liked the space of the Great Hall at St. Columbas', where the accessibility meeting had been held the prior Wednesday afternoon.

Barbara Allen said the room had been set up to hold 100 people. Ed said the only problem was the glare from the windows, but that might not be as much of an issue in the morning as it was in the afternoon.

Michael Martin suggested that some deaf-blind people need to sit up close to see the signing of the celebrant, and other deaf-blind people might need a tactile interpreter to sit at an angle to them or opposite them, which requires flexible seating rather than fixed pews.

Michael suggested having double doors in the back of the sanctuary.

Mark Kleberg suggested having additional exits at both sides, as they could be used as fire exits.

Rudy Hines was in favor of having theater-style seating with a sloping floor to increase visibility. Michael, on the other hand, felt it would require people to use steps and this would not be accessible for people in wheelchairs, and even if ramps were used it would be expensive. Tracy said that this was an exercise in dreaming of a perfect sanctuary and so expense was not an issue at this early stage. She said it probably is less expensive to design and to build the sanctuary the way we want than to retrofit an existing space.

Some people liked traditional look of pews and others liked the flexibility of chairs. One suggestion was to have mostly pews but chairs along the front. Tracy suggested if we use pews that we design to leave some space for wheelchairs throughout the sanctuary, not only in the front row. Michael suggested that if we get pews then they should have pew cushions.

There was discussion about whether to have a pulpit and if so where. Some like the existing arrangement with a portable lectern. Next people discussed the location of candles. **Phoebe Tharpe** said that depending on where she sits a candle is in her line of vision and blocks her from seeing the signing of the celebrant. Barbara asked if we are required to have candles, and Tracy said candles are not required, a fact which surprised many of us. Tracy also said we could have more than two candles, and that she has served at churches where it takes 15 minutes to light all the candles. The consensus was that we still want candles, but there was discussion of changing the type of candles to shorter, fatter candles.

Ed Knight asked if people wanted to have space for a screen for overhead projection – for instance, to show slides with the lessons and perhaps the prayer book responses. Rudy pointed out that in the near future there will be advances in technology, so why not consider that in the design. Phoebe did not like the idea of a projector being used during the service, but liked the idea of having a basement or undercroft with a screen where people could gather for movies.

Triennial General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Minneapolis **Report by Rudy Hines**

The General Convention was really from Sunday, July 27th until Friday, August 8th. The first three days were devoted to committees preparing the agenda and other business not open to the general public.

The convention officially began with a Eucharist and Scripture Reflections Wednesday morning. This was followed by legislative sessions. The legislature was composed of two groups, the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops. Since I was neither a bishop nor a deputy I was not permitted to attend either of these meetings. I spent most of my time at the convention helping out at ECD's booth, which was one of several hundred in one large room.

Marlene and Barbara used this opportunity to select a ceramic communion set from those on display at one of the booths. This set was consecrated and used last Sunday.

On Tuesday of the second week the Eucharist was celebrated by American Indians, one being the first indigenous woman bishop in Anglican Communion consecrated in Virginia. Of note is The Rev. John Johnson Enmegahbowh, 1820-1902, was the first ordained Native American priest in the Episcopal Church. This Eucharist impressed me greatly as it strongly reflected Native American culture. So, we are not the only congregation that reflects our culture in our services.

On August 17, during the coffee hour, Kiombo Nsumbu described his recent visit to his hometown of Kinshasa in the Congo. He visited a deaf schools there and talked with

principals and teachers. He explained to them how in America most deaf children have an opportunity nowadays to learn sign language at an early age, and that many hearing parents of deaf children learn sign language. He explained to us that deaf education in the Congo is far behind deaf education here, but he sees signs of progress toward acceptance of Congo Sign Language in deaf schools. When he graduates from Gallaudet University, Kiombo plans to return to the Congo and become administrator of a deaf school there.

When asked about religion back home, Kiombo explained that the Congo is predominantly Roman Catholic. There are three deaf churches in Kinshasa – one Roman Catholic, one Protestant, and one Jehovah's Witness.

What does Stewardship Mean to Me?

By Ed Knight

Stewardship is often thought of as a program that happens each Fall, revolving around money. There is a tendency to focus on numbers: number of pledge units, average weekly pledge, etc. However, there is a deeper way of thinking about stewardship. Stewardship is not just about numbers. Stewardship is a way of life.

God expected Adam and Eve to care for the Garden of Eden. To be a gardener is to be a steward of a garden. What did stewardship mean to Adam and Eve? I don't think Adam and Eve were very reflective people or deep thinkers. If they had pondered the meaning of stewardship, maybe they would have been more responsible stewards of the garden. Maybe they would not have been so easily persuaded by

the serpent to focus on their own consumption instead of focusing on the care of their special corner of creation.

Do we care about our own special corner of creation, or are we focused on our own consumption? In our materialistic society, which do we value more – consumption or caring? Do we really need the latest and greatest of everything we see advertised? Do we care enough about our God-given health not to overeat? (I confess I have not been a good steward of my own waistline lately!) Do we care enough about our mental health to get some rest every week, or do we overwork and stress out seven days a week? Do we care enough about our God-given planet not to waste resources and avoid adding to pollution? Do we care for each other, especially the vulnerable? Do we volunteer our time and share our treasure?

A shepherd is the steward of a flock of sheep. A good shepherd cares for his flock. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, which I think means that Jesus is also the Good Steward. Do we care about each other half as much as Jesus cares about us?

This Fall, ask yourself, 'What does stewardship mean to me?' Yes, it can mean pledging your time, talent and treasure to St. Barnabas (and I hope it does!) But the important thing is to ponder this question. Different people will have different answers. To one person, being a steward may mean 'being a good parent' while to another the answer may be, 'rescuing dogs that are abandoned.' If we all cared about not only our own corner of creation, but also other less fortunate corners of creation, then wouldn't the world be more like a well-tended garden?

I Want to be a Minister

I Corinthians 3:9 “We are partners working together for God, and you are God’s field.” (GNB)

Ministry is not only the responsibility of the priest or pastor. It is the responsibility of everyone who has been baptized into the family of God.

Where does God want you to serve? What gift for service has God given you?

Name: _____

I will minister:

- Lay Eucharistic Minister
- Lay Reader
- Provide refreshments
- Teach a lesson for adults
- Teach a lesson for children
- Sign song for worship
- Be member of sign choir
- Help in Gallaudet Ministry
- Work in the church office
- Pray regularly
- Visit the sick and shut-in
- Teach a workshop about _____
- Be a greeter for Sunday morning
- Help plan worship

Other talents that God has given you?

Please turn in to our Vicar or email to revbaallen@aol.com

Thank you!

Mission Committee

Chair: The Rev. Barbara Allen
Vice Chair - Marlene Hines
Asst. Vice Chair - Shelley Simms
Treasurer - Ed Knight
Secretary - Rudy Hines
Members - at - Large
 Tom Hattaway
 Mark Kleberg
 Jeff Mc Caw
 Tonya Stremlau

Altar Guild

Marlene Hines
Christina Duley
Phoebe Tharpe

Acolyte:

Nancy Conger

September 2003 Readings

Services are 10:00 a.m. in St. Mary's Chapel at St. John's, Norwood Parish

August 31, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 17: Deuteronomy 4:1-9, Ephesians 6:10-20, Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23, Psalm 15

September 7, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18: Isaiah 35:4-7a, James 1:17-27, Mark 7:31-37, Psalm 146 or 146:4-9

September 14, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19: Isaiah 50:4-9, James 2:1-5,8-10,14-18, Mark 8:27-38, or Mark 9:14-29, Psalm 116 or 116:1-8

September 21, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 20: Wisdom 1:16-2:1(6-11)12-22, James 3:16--4:6, Mark 9:30-37, Psalm 54

September 28, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 21: Numbers 11:4-6,10-16,24-29, James 4:7-12(13-5:6), Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48, Psalm 19 or 19:7-14

St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf
6701 Wisconsin Avenue
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Next Deadline for Messenger submissions is September 28. Please submit items to the co-editor, Ed Knight by email, if possible, at knighte@washpost.com.

“The peace of the Lord be always with you”

