

The Messenger

St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf

November 2003

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



A Mission Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

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Vice Chair

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Lay Eucharist Ministers

Thomas Hattaway
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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 2-5 PM
during the Academic Year
A Light Supper followed by a Discussion
group is held at 5 PM each Wednesday
Holy Eucharist Services are held in the
Gallaudet University Atrium Chapel (Student
Union Bldg) the Second Sunday of the
Month at 2 p.m.

Forthcoming Special Events Held at St. Barnabas' Mission except where noted

**The Diocesan Council mtg. on
Nov. 18 at 6:45 PM** at St. Patrick's
Whitehaven will be ASL-interpreted
and St. Barnabas' Mission will have
some time on the agenda

**Sunday November 30
Blessing of the Pledges**
Please turn in your pledges by
November 30

**St. Barnabas' Event at College of
Preachers (on grounds of the
National Cathedral) which was
originally scheduled for Dec 6 has
been postponed until Spring, date
TBA.**

**Signed Eucharist at Ascension
Church in Gaithersburg Sun., Dec
7 at 3:00 PM** (this is a new monthly
service to serve the upper
Montgomery County deaf population)

News from among us

Kary Dyer and Tom Hattaway got
engaged on July 4th in Tallahassee,
Florida then just got the news that
they will be married on July 10, 2004
in St. Stephens Episcopal Church in

Crownsville then have the reception in Annapolis, Maryland.
Best wishes and congratulations!

Our own **Kiombo Nsumbu** was featured in an article in the October issue of Washington Window, the diocesan newsletter. A copy of the article is on the bulletin board next to the mission office.

Tracy Dieter shares this sad news:

I am sorry that I have not been in church as I would have liked, part of this being paid work opportunities and partly, to my sorrow, the unexpected death of my brother, Chris. He died of a heart attack in mid October. Unlike the death of my mother, I had no time to say goodbye and I still feel a little frozen. **Barbara** (and her cats) have been looking after me, as well as the College of Preachers. So I ask your prayers for our family.

I also ask your prayers for the family of **Frances Sow**, a beautiful young woman who was once one of my acolytes. She was killed in a car accident last week. So I am very mindful of how precious life is and our times together. I do not know how people who don't know that God loves them, and that there are communities to share the good and bad times with, manage to get through these things. I always remember St. Barnabas in my prayers for just that reason.

Looking ahead to Christmas – the following National Cathedral events will be ASL-interpreted
(according to the Cathedral website):

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24

6 pm — Lessons and Carols Sign language interpreted. Free passes required.

10 pm — Festival Holy Eucharist.
The Rt. Rev. **John B. Chane**, celebrant; the Rt. Rev. **A. Theodore Eastman**, preacher. Sign language interpreted. Free passes required.

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25

9 am — Festival Holy Eucharist.
The Rt. Rev. A. Theodore Eastman, celebrant; the Rt. Rev. John B. Chane, preacher. Televised. Sign language interpreted.

Metro Washington Association of the Deaf-Blind events

More than a few members of St. Barnabas volunteer with MWADB as SSP (support service provider.) MWADB meets at Gallaudet University in the Student Academic Center Multi-purpose Room. For more information, see **Ed Knight**. The SSP coordinator is **Beth Lucey** and she can be contacted at MeDeafie@aol.com or TTY 301-484-7252.

Thanksgiving Potluck and election night, Saturday November 22 at 4 to 11 p.m. (Bring a side dish.)

A Word From the Vicar

We are on the threshold of one of the four most important liturgical seasons, Advent and Christmas! I remember as child it seemed as if Christmas would never come. I think that I started on January first to count the days until the next Christmas. I loved Christmas!!

My reason for loving Christmas was not tied to its true meaning, the birthday of the Christ Child. No, it was tied to the fact that I always knew that I could ask for anything within reason from Santa Claus and I

would receive it. I also loved the bright lights, the tree and the delicious food that was served only at that time of the year.

Now, I did love the Christmas Story. Listening to it read would always give me goose bumps, but I did not fully understand that this story carried the true meaning of Christmas. I was nine years old when I finally began to connect the birth of our Lord and this season of lights, trees, food and presents called Christmas. I began to have some simple understanding of the impact that this birth had on the world. The older I get the more precious that story becomes. When my boys were little we would read the story from the second chapter of the Gospel according to St. Luke every Christmas Eve. It was all a part of the Christmas tradition that we tried to establish for our family.

Do you practice Christian traditions with your families? What do you do? How do you help your children and yourselves focus on Christ as well as Santa Claus, Christmas trees, gifts and good food?

The purpose of the Season of Advent is to give us a special time to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child, for Christmas. I invite you to make a special commitment this year to establish a tradition of using the Season of Advent in the way it is intended. This year the first Sunday of Advent is November 30th. Begin now to look for ways to prepare your hearts, spirits and minds for the celebration of the coming of Christ.

May God bless and guide you,
Barbara+

A Very Belated, Heartfelt Thank You

A year ago this past August our long time and beloved member, **Phoebe Tharp**, became ill. I, as her pastor, ministered to her through regular visits, taking her Holy Communion. **Rudy and Marlene Hines** opened their home to her for a few days while details for securing some temporary assistance in her home could be worked out. Many members of St. Barnabas ministered through prayer, calls and cards.

By the grace of God Phoebe recovered and has been back with us for about a year now. Shortly after she was able to again attend services regularly she gave a monetary gift of \$500.00 to St. Barnabas in gratitude to God and to all those who had ministered to her. Somehow, in the busyness of life that gift was not acknowledged either in this newsletter or in an individual thank you note. It is never too late to rectify an oversight, I hope. And so, we want to acknowledge Phoebe's generous gift. Thank you, Phoebe, for the gift of money and most of all for the gift of you and your beautiful spirit and dedication.

Sympathy and Request for Prayer

In this newsletter you have read a message from our friend **Tracy Dieter** regarding the sudden death of her brother, Chris. Please keep Tracy and her family in your prayers. May the soul of her brother, Chris, rest in in eternal peace with his Lord.

Rayelenn Sparks Casey lost her mother, **Rachel Sparks**, in death on October 15, 2003. Some of you may remember Rayelenn from the days when the Rev. Jay Croft was your vicar. Rayelenn interpreted for Jay frequently. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. May the soul of Rachel Sparks rest in eternal peace with her Lord.

October 25 Regional Assembly

The **Rev. Barbara Allen and Rudy and Marlene Hines** attended an ASL-interpreted diocesan regional assembly on October 25 at St. Mark's, Fairland, 12621 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring. According to the diocesan newsletter, the Washington Window, **Bishop John Chane**, clergy and delegates assembled. A consultant named **Robert Franken** gave a presentation on demographics to help the diocese grow. Average Sunday attendance declined slightly (1.8 percent) from 1992-2002 although in the same period the population of the diocese grew by 8 percent.

Barbara+ says, "I think the greatest impact was that there are over 800,000 persons in our diocese who do not attend church anywhere. As some of us broke that down we realized that at least 4000 deaf persons are represented in this number. I think that the fields are

indeed 'white unto harvest' but the laborers are few."

Rudy says, "It was very difficult for me to watch the interpreters and at the same time keep track of what was projected on the screen...One thing I did learn was that in addition to Howard U. and the U.of Md. two other universities in the Washington area now have chaplains sponsored, I believe, by local churches and that the Bishop is encouraging more of this."

Deaf Demographic Survey Report by Tracy Dieter

As we finish up the survey and begin putting the pieces together, I want everyone to know a few things:

1) at the regional assemblies this past month we heard a report from **Robert Franken** of the Strataventure Consulting firm, giving demographics of the diocese and relating these demographics to general population. While there was no mention of the



Connor Maxwell and Elisabeth Ann McCaw with their parents, Jeff and Debbie McCaw. and with Marlene Hines and Phoebe Tharp

deaf community among the cultures he spoke about, he cited areas of growth and places where the diocese can be doing more than we have been. These areas, such as Gaithersburg, are areas that we have found growing deaf communities that need ministry. Our demographics are going to mirror what the diocese is learning about the rest of it's population.

2) In the article about this report there is a very important comment from Mr Franken.

"While Franken said the diocese was on the right track in developing its mission strategy, he stressed the importance of continued progress.

'If you change after the fact, you're too late,'he said."

I think this is a very important thought that we need to echo to the diocese.

3) As I piece all the reports I can glean from other denominations, we all seem to be saying the same thing: There is an enormous population of deaf people in our area and we don't seem to be reaching them. What do we need to do?

4) As I met with **Jim Lindsay** to

prepare graphs and art work for our report, I figured out what we needed: Something simple enough for the diocese to understand.

Finally, There is still time to get information to me if you have been to another deaf church and there are things you liked or did not like. We will have a section in the report on deaf community worship. Send info to me or to **Barbara** or **Ginny**.

The flowers on the altar of St. Mary's Chapel are donated by St. Barnabas' Mission the first Sunday of each month. The flowers are available following our service to be taken to the sick and shut-in. Check with Marlene Hines if you desire the flowers for someone.

Refreshments Wanted

Our thanks to the people who have provided the refreshments for the Hospitality Time following worship. Please sign up for taking a turn in this important and appreciated ministry. Consider making this a part of your annual stewardship commitment of time, talent and treasure. Contact **Kary Dyer** for more information.



Barbara+ and Tonya Stremlau share a laugh after the service

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
 Mark Kleberg
 Jeff Mc Caw
 Tonya Stremlau

Altar Guild

Marlene Hines
Christina Duley
Phoebe Tharpe

Webmaster: Derek Braun

Acolyte: Nancy Conger

November 2003 Readings

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

November 9 Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost Proper 27

1 Kings 17:8-16
Hebrews 9 24-28
Mark 12:38-44
Psalm 146 or 146:4-9

November 16 Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost Proper 28

Daniel 12:1-4a(5-13)
Hebrews 10 31-39
Mark 13:14-23
Psalm 16 or 16:5-11

November 23 Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King

Daniel 7:9-14
Revelation 1:1-8
John 18:33-37
or Mark 11:1-11
Psalm 93

November 30 First Sunday of Advent

Zechariah 14:4-9
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Luke 21:25-31
Psalm 50 or 50:1-6

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6701 Wisconsin Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Next Deadline for Messenger submissions is November 23. 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”

