

The Messenger

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf

December 2003

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



A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

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Vicar

The Rev Barbara A. Allen
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Vice Chair

Marlene Hines
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Weekly 10 AM Holy Eucharist Service

St. Mary's Chapel at
St. John's, Norwood
6701 Wisconsin Avenue at Bradley
Lane, Chevy Chase, MD. 20815

Satellite Congregations

*Signed Eucharist at St. George's Glenn
Dale on last Sunday of each month at
1:30 PM at 7010 Glenn Dale Road in
Glenn Dale, MD*

*Signed Eucharist at Ascension Church
on the first Sunday of the month at 3 PM
at 205 S. Summit Ave Gaithersburg, MD*

*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

**Signed Eucharist at Ascension
Church on Sun., Dec 7 at 3:00 PM**
at 205 S. Summit Ave in
Gaithersburg, MD -- this is a new
monthly service to serve the upper
Montgomery County deaf population

**Christmas Eve Service at St.
Barnabas at 7:00 PM** and following
the service some of us will attend the
10:00 PM ASL-interpreted service at
National Cathedral

**Christmas Eve and Christmas
services at National Cathedral:**
see next page for details

**New Year's Day Open House at
Vicar's Home:** 6919 Strathmore St.
Apt C, Bethesda MD
Time: 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Potluck – contact the Vicar

**Lay Reader workshop Jan 11,
2004** from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, ask
the Vicar to reserve you a place in
the workshop

DIOCESAN CONVENTION, 2004

The 109th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington is set for **Jan. 30 and 31** at Washington National Cathedral. The entire convention will be ASL-interpreted. All members and friends of St. Barnabas' are welcome to fill the reserved section for deaf persons. We need all the exposure possible to support our position in the diocese as the Center for Deaf Ministry in the diocese.

News from among us

Our Vicar **Barbara Allen+** attended the burial service of **Mary Balsley's** mother in Arlington National Cemetery. The Vicar signed Psalm 23 at the request of the chaplain who conducted the service. Mary lives in Boston, MA and is a member of St. Andrew's Church of the Deaf there. Some of our members who attended the ECD Convention in Boston in 1995 may remember that Mary played a significant part in the planning and implementation of the convention.

Thank you to **David Perkins** for his generous donation of \$800 to St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf.

Diane and Dave Berg sent Barbara+ a nice note with a donation of \$100 to St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf in memory of David's parents, the Rev. Otto and Mary Ann Berg and brother, Larry, for All Saints Day. They also wish Rudy Hines a happy 80th birthday.

Thank you to David Perkins and to Dave and Diane Berg for their gifts to God's work through St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf!

On November 16 following the service there was a celebration of **Phoebe Tharp's** 88th birthday. **Phoebe Tharp** reports on November 22nd, "My son Bill and his family from Michigan and also my granddaughter from NYC are visiting me today for the weekend. They will have an advanced Thanksgiving dinner with me and my other son Robert."

Long-time member of St. Barnabas' **Babs Stevens** will be moving to a retirement center in Adamstown, MD on Dec. 12th.

The following National Cathedral events will be ASL-interpreted

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

6 pm — Lessons and Carols Sign language interpreted. Free passes required – see Vicar to sign-up.

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; see Vicar to sign-up.

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 and close captioned. Sign language interpreted.

Schedule Change Note: St. Barnabas' Event at College of Preachers (on grounds of the National Cathedral) on Sat. Dec. 6 has been postponed until Spring, date to be announced.

United Thank Offering

Thank you to **Phoebe Tharp** for her many years of service coordinating the parish's United Thank Offering (UTO). Unfortunately Phoebe is no longer able to continue serving in this capacity, and this year we are running a bit behind the UTO schedule. Please remember to give to the UTO and to turn in your UTO offerings by the last Sunday of December.

A Word from the Vicar

We are now St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf. I think that all of us are excited and motivated now that our name reflects who we really are. Other places in this newsletter describe our presentation to Diocesan Council last week.

We stood before some thirty persons from all areas of the diocese who have been elected to carry on the business of the diocese and the church of God. They were all smiling and enthusiastic as they listened to **Rudy Hines** talk about our Holy Family. Hmm! You didn't know we in the Episcopal Deaf world have a Holy Family? I did not either but Rudy helped to clarify that.

We have the Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet who brought sign language to America along with Laurent Clerc, a deaf Frenchman. The two of them opened the first school for the deaf in America, the American School for the Deaf in West Hartford, CT. Thomas H. Gallaudet had two sons, Thomas and Edward. Thomas was hearing. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church and went on to establish ministries with deaf people all across our land. He is the founder of the ministry which became what we are today, St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf. His brother, Edward Miner Gallaudet founded Gallaudet College which is now Gallaudet University, the only liberal arts college for the deaf persons in the world.



Stephanie Hightman greets Tom Hattaway and Barbara+

Mouths dropped open in the library of St. Patrick's Church, Whitehaven, on Tuesday night as Rudy shared this story. We have so much of which to be proud. We remain a mission of the diocese financially but we function as a church. We are establishing missions of our own as we hold signed services at Gallaudet, Ascension, Gaithersburg and St. George's, Glenn Dale. We are hoping to add more signed services to this list. It is our mission to reach the Deaf Community of Washington, DC and the surrounding area with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Have you told someone recently that God loves them? Have you told someone recently that you love them in Christ? Do that today. Your heart and spirit will be lighter. You will feel excited to do it again and again.

Barbara+

**Wardens and Treasurers
Conference on Leadership
November 8, 2003**

Sustainable Leadership: Growing in Wisdom, Knowledge & Strength Report by Rudy Hines

Workshops attended by **Shelley Simms, Rudy and Marlene Hines:**

“How to Make a Difference in Your Leadership Team”

“A Strategic Plan for Vestry Renewal”

Both by The Rev. Stephen McWhorter, Rector, St. David’s Episcopal Church, Ashburn, VA.

Rev. McWhorter spoke on how his church grew from a small rural church to what it is at present with over a thousand members.

The church must sell itself by the retail method. Concentrate on the area around the church within a 15 minute drive. All members of the vestry must attend all services.

The Rector greets parishioners outside the church regardless of foul weather.

No business of any kind, no check writing, on Sunday. The Vestry and the Rector do the planning. Members of the Vestry do not chair committees. The By-Laws are a guide. They need not be followed to the letter.

Rebel. Try something new.

Wardens and Treasurers Conference on Leadership November 8 Report by Ed Knight

Rudy and Marlene Hines, Shelley Simms and I attended the ASL-interpreted leadership conference on November 8 at Epiphany in Forestville. Of 94 parishes in the Diocese, 46 were represented at the conference.

The Rev. Stephen McWhorter, rector of St. David’s Episcopal Church in Ashburn VA gave the keynote address entitled “How to Make a Difference in your Leadership Team”. He helped plant St. David’s as a new church in 1990

and it has since grown to over 900 members.

The Rev. McWhorter said that we are in a “new apostolic age”. He suggested that if you want your church to grow, don’t focus on only attracting people like yourself, and certainly don’t focus on only attracting Episcopalians. The Gospel says to go into the world and make disciples. Worship needs to be like an “hour of power”. McWhorter watched that show to see why it was so appealing to so many people. He urged us not to be too arrogant to learn some things from other churches, even from churches with which we have theological differences. He says don’t simply focus on the problems of the world and the problems of the parish – instead make praising God the focus of Sunday. He even went on to say that there should be no “work” on Sunday – no vestry meetings or even writing of checks.

The Rev. McWhorter said that the church is here to present a transforming message, regardless of whether the parish is evangelical, anglo-Catholic, conservative or liberal.

The Rev. McWhorter’s prescription for growth is to only assign people to a ministry for *two years!*

McWhorter urged us to look at the opportunity that Christ has presented to us in the D.C. area to grow – on both sides of the Potomac.

He suggests to find what your church does well and to celebrate that. He said that it is better for a church to focus on one or two things and do them very well than to attempt many things that are not very successful.

Bishop John Bryson Chane gave a luncheon speech. He described the “20/20” program of the national church (which is to double the size of

the church by the year 2020) and said that the recent General Convention spent a lot of time on "20/20". He said that if a church is to be focused on mission then it needs to grow. We are a diocese that is the entry point for many people from Central and Western Africa, especially Liberia. Our area has a huge influx of Spanish-speaking people from Central and South America and the Caribbean. The Episcopal Church has not done well in this area of mission and ministry and we have to do better. There is also a huge influx to our region of young people in their 20s and 30s who are idealistic and want to do good in the world, but many are not connected to any church.

Bishop Chane said that you can tell a lot about a church from how it spends its money. We in the Diocese need to move our parishes from maintenance mode to mission mode. Bishop Chane said the diocese is discussing plans to have two large new worship centers – one in P.G. County and one in upper Montgomery County. The diocese is also in discussion with Lutherans to plant a church together.

Thanksgiving and Thankful Living **By Ed Knight**

We are lucky in our corner of the world to have so many material blessings. Yet somehow the consumer culture reduces this holiday season from Holy Days into mere shopping days. Sometimes we are just too stressed to feel thankful or get into the holiday spirit.

When I force myself to slow down enough to feel thankful, I recover some of that peace and joy that I want to feel during this season. I think that Thanksgiving should mark the beginning of a season of thankful living, not just a season of stress and spending. Being thankful makes me want to give – not just presents to

put under a tree, but to give thanks to lift up to God. Worship is one way to give God thanks. Another way is stewardship. To me, stewardship is a way of living thankfully. I learned at the November 8 leadership conference that stewardship is about conversion, about how lives change. Stewardship is not just about dollars and cents, it is about giving thanks, and simply the act of giving thanks puts me in the holiday spirit.



Phoebe Tharp and Stephanie Hightman at birthday party for Phoebe's 88th birthday

The Treasurer's Report **By Ed Knight**

Although our name has been changed to St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf, it will take a few weeks for our bank to make this change, so for those of you who write pledge checks (or other) checks, please continue to make them payable to St. Barnabas' Mission until I announce that the bank account name change is finalized. Otherwise there may be a delay in the check processing.

A review of our finances shows how St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church shares its blessings.

In 2003, St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church made the following charitable donations:

\$1000 to Deaf Reach (local deaf charity)

\$500 to Samaritan Ministries (local Episcopal charity)

Offerings from St. Barnabas' went to:
\$512.75 to ECD / Little Red Church
\$410 Atfaluna deaf school (Easter)
\$200 to Diocese (UTO)

The financial report for 3rd Quarter is posted on the bulletin board next to the Church office.

Stewardship Program Status Report **By Ed Knight**

Total pledge amount received for 2004 = \$21,884

Total budgeted = \$25,000

Median weekly pledge = \$25

Number of pledge units received: 10 (note: this includes households, so the number of people pledging is actually 13).

Based on the pledge numbers so far, we have received pledges of about 85% of our budgeted pledges. Please get those pledges in so we can reach or exceed 100%! Thanks to those who have pledged.

I hate to dwell on the subject of money (talking about money seems so un-Episcopalian) but Jesus was not hush-hush about money. Jesus taught a lot about the compassionate uses of money. In 2004, let's say yes to Jesus Christ and say no to the consumer culture.

Thank you again to everyone who pledged in 2003.

Report to Diocesan Council

November 18, 2004

St. Barnabas Mission of the Deaf
Chevy Chase, MD

Rudy Hines served as spokesperson to the Diocesan Council on November 18, and the Council voted unanimously to change the name of our church from St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf to St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf. **Barbara Allen+, Marlene Hines, Tracy Dieter, Kary Dyer, Tom Hattaway, Ed Knight, and Jeff McCaw** also attended the meeting, with **Libby McKnight** who is also a member of St. Barnabas' there as a supporter and interpreter.

The content of the report and resolution follow.

Where We Have Been March 2002 to November 2003

1. Revived the ministry at Gallaudet University – Includes securing ongoing financial support from the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf.
2. Provided pastoral care to deaf congregant within hospice setting offering a learning experience for mission members in caring for the terminally ill.
3. Supervised and maintained a deaf seminarian from Wesley Seminary until her graduation - May 2003.
4. Improved communication and fellowship with St. John's Norwood.
5. Had a successful Mission Committee retreat – November 2003.
6. Renewed monthly signed Eucharist at St. George's Church, Glenn Dale. Average attendance 4-5.
7. Conducted a mail survey of the Gaithersburg/Germantown area and began a signed Eucharist at Ascension Church, Gaithersburg, MD on November 2, 2004. This

service will continue on the first Sunday of each month.

8. Resumed monthly publication of The Messenger, our newsletter, and increased the mailing list. Previously, the mailing list had been decreased and publication was every two months.

9. The demographic study begun in 2002 should be completed by the end of November 2004.

10. Held a successful Sunday morning workshop in which those attending planned a dream church specifically for deaf worship.

11. Average weekly pledge increased to \$36.00 per pledge unit per week.

12. Mission office cleaned, rearranged and increased organization. (A work in progress).

13. Purchased and consecrated new communion service pieces.

14. Record keeping was improved with the installation and implementation of Servant Keeper church management software.

15. Website revived and updated.

Our Vision for the Future

We see St. Barnabas becoming the center for Deaf Ministry for the Diocese of Washington. We plan to maintain our mission at the present location at St. John's Norwood and establish satellite ministries in strategic locations around the diocese.

We have begun to implement that plan with signed Eucharists at St. George's Church, Glenn Dale, MD on the last Sunday of each month and at Ascension Church, Gaithersburg, MD on the first Sunday of each month. We are looking for a church in northeast Washington near Gallaudet University. Although, the Vicar conducts a service at the Atrium Chapel on the Gallaudet campus we believe that a service off campus in an Episcopal church would draw more students. We hope to offer a

Sunday Eucharist at least one Sunday per month. In addition, we hope to secure a weeknight when we can offer activities for the students.

The Rev. Dr. Roger A. Pickering, deaf retired Vicar of All Souls' Church for the Deaf in Philadelphia, has agreed to serve as liaison/mentor to St. Barnabas'. He is available two days, or the equivalent, to assist in growing deaf ministry in the Diocese of Washington. He is available to conduct additional services so that, conceivably he could be celebrating in one church while the vicar of St. Barnabas' celebrated in another.

It is unrealistic to think that all of the Deaf Community in this diocese will attend one church, St. Barnabas'. We believe that offering a variety of locations will increase our scope of ministry.

Resolved, that the name of St. Barnabas Mission of the Deaf be changed to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church of the Deaf.

Rationale

St. Barnabas is among the oldest congregations of the deaf, having been founded as a result of the missionary efforts of Thomas Gallaudet. Regular services began in 1897 for what was then known as the Washington Mission, and in 1909 the congregation took its name from the St. Barnabas Chapel of Trinity Church, where services were held at the time, and was called St. Barnabas Mission for the Congregation of Deaf People until 1985 when it became St. Barnabas Mission of the Deaf.

Today, most congregations of the deaf participate in the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf and use the name "church" rather than "mission" to convey the congregational nature of their work.

St. Barnabas will continue to operate as an organized mission under the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Washington, which will not be altered by a change in name.

2004 ECD Convention August 18-22 – Mark your calendars!

The next issue of *the Deaf Episcopalian* will have an article describing the 2004 ECD Convention, which will be held August 18 – 22 at Bon Secours Spiritual Center, which is located 20 minutes from BWI airport. (August 16 & 17 will be ECD Board Meetings, and the participants arrive August 18.) St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf will be hosting the convention. **Steve Hamerdinger**, the first Deaf person to hold an administrative-level position in the Alabama state government, will be coming to give presentations. The website for the ECD is <http://www.ecdeaf.com>. You can find more about Bon Secours Spiritual Center at their website, www.BonSecours.org/bssc

Vestry

Chair: The Rev. Barbara Allen
Senior Warden - Marlene Hines
Junior Warden - Shelley Simms
Treasurer - Ed Knight
Secretary - Rudy Hines
Members - at – Large
Mark Kleberg
Jeff Mc Caw
Tonya Stremlau

Lay Eucharist Ministers

Thomas Hattaway, Ed Knight

Hospitality Chair: Kary Dyer

Altar Guild

Marlene Hines
Christina Duley
Phoebe Tharpe

Webmaster: Derek Braun

Acolyte: Nancy Conger

December 2003 Readings

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

December 7 Second Sunday of Advent
Baruch 5:1-9, Philippians 1:1-11, Luke 3:1-6, Psalm 126

December 14 Third Sunday of Advent
Zephaniah 3:14-20, Philippians 4:4-7(8-9), Luke 3:7-18, Psalm 85 or 85:7-13
or Canticle 9

December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-49(50-56), Psalm 80 or 80:1-7

December 28 First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7, John 1:1-18, Psalm 147 or 147:13-21

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf
6701 Wisconsin Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Next Deadline for Messenger submissions is December 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”

