

# The Messenger

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf

January 2004

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



## *A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington*

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### **Vicar**

The Rev Barbara A. Allen  
301-907-7855 V/TTY  
[revbaallen@aol.com](mailto:revbaallen@aol.com)

### **Vice Chair**

Marlene Hines  
[RdyMar@aol.com](mailto:RdyMar@aol.com)

### 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.

(Note: the Vicar is off-duty on Mondays)

## **Forthcoming Special Events**

**Lay Reader workshop Feb 7, 2004**  
led by the Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering  
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**

Congratulations to **Kiombo Nsumbu**  
on receiving funding from Gallaudet  
University to complete his  
undergraduate degree there.

Ten people attended the Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>  
signed Holy Eucharist at the white  
chapel of Ascension Church in  
Gaithersburg – **Barbara Allen+,  
Rudy and Marlene Hines, Jim and**

**Ginny Lindsay, Ed Knight, Clifford and Linda Boland, Linda Williams and Barbara Bradley.**

**Rudy Hines** says the chapel reminds him of the little country church he attended as a boy. He believes the stain glass window is the exact same type of window from the same manufacturer, which was popular at the time. Although the chapel has been extensively renovated, the beautiful window dates back to 1880.

On Sunday afternoon, December 21, **Barbara Allen+, Ed Knight and Michael Martin** visited **Leira Wurdemann** at Brook Grove Retirement Village and shared Holy Communion with her. Leira is a bit forgetful but she is still capable of signing and was able to pray with us. The staff knows how to sign "ILY" to Leira but it seems to us that she does not have much opportunity to talk to others in sign language. If you would like to visit Leira, the address is 18100 Slade School Road, Sandy Spring, MD 20860, the phone number is (301) 924-2811 and the website is <http://www.bgf.org/>

We at St. Barnabas' are going to set up a schedule for visiting Leira, including having a PVLEM bring her Holy Communion. (What is a PVLEM? See the article later in the newsletter.)

**The Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> Messiah Concert at the Kennedy Center** was attended by **Jim and Ginny Lindsay** and their sons **Andrew and Gavin, Ron and Agnes Sutcliffe, Tom Hattaway and his daughter Emily, and Kary Dyer.** The concert had captions as well as a signed performance by

**Warren B. Wolf, Jr.,** Sing Signer. Thank you to **Charles Day** for helping with arrangements.

**Ed Knight, Steven Frank and Kari Getzinger** attended the **6:00 PM Christmas Eve service** at National Cathedral, which was ASL-interpreted by **Nancy Conners.** Kari is not deaf but for many years she relied on sign language to communicate because of a serious speech problem caused by a medical condition. When Kari lived in Maryland she was active in Metro Washington Association of the Deaf-Blind. Kari is a professional historian. Now Kari lives in South Dakota and works as a tour guide at the childhood home of Laura Ingalls, author of Little House on the Prairie. Kari was in town for Christmas visiting her family and it was great to see her again. She is an interesting and joyful person.

We had no problem finding parking at Fannie Mae and took a free shuttle bus to the Cathedral. Once we arrived we noticed **Tracy Dieter** was participating in the service as a verger. The early service was mostly songs and carols, ending with a procession of children carrying the figure of the infant Jesus to the Creche.

Then we stopped by St. Barnabas' to join in the fellowship time following the 7 PM service there.

**Bram and Stephanie Hightman, Jim and Ginny Lindsay, Derek Braun, Tonya Stremlau, Phoebe Tharp, Mark Kleberg, Christina Duley, Iris Gomes** and her friend **Drew, Joe Rose and Kay Francis** attended **Christmas Eve Service at St. Barnabas** at 7:00 PM.

**Barbara Allen+**, **Iris Gomes** and **Drew**, and **Kiombo Nsumbu** attended the 10:00 PM ASL-interpreted service at National Cathedral



**Rudy Hines and Jim Lindsay have a conversation in the Ascension Chapel**

On December 27, **Ed Knight** and his mother **Ruth Knight** visited All Saints Sisters of the Poor Anglican Convent, in Catonsville Maryland (outside of Baltimore). There is a retreat house there and Ed's mother used to go to the convent on retreats every year when she was in need of spiritual renewal. Ruth Knight describes the convent as very peaceful. We met one of the nuns who still recognized her after 12 years, and also a puppy dog the convent recently acquired.

If there is enough interest and we can arrange it with the Convent, maybe a group of us from St. Barnabas' can go there for a visit one day.

I don't think this is an official website, but I found a website if you want to learn more about the convent:  
<http://ralphandsue.com/Convent/>

At the December 28 service, **Ginny Lindsay** gave the following gifts on behalf of St. Barnabas' -- \$200 Hechts gift card to **Barbara Allen+** in thanks for her service as our Vicar, and a \$200 gift card to Lord and Taylor to **Ed Knight** in thanks for his service as Treasurer.

During Advent, in thanks for their service during 2003, **Ed Knight** gave out 2004 National Cathedral Calendars on behalf of St. Barnabas' to members of the Altar Guild: **Marlene Hines, Christina Duley, and Phoebe Tharpe**, and Vestry. If you are a member of the Vestry and have not yet received your calendar, please see Ed.

St. Barnabas' has a new Nativity Set which was used for the first time this Advent.

### **A Word from the Vicar**

Blessings for 2004!  
We are on the move! In 2003 we received permission from the diocese to change our name to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church of the Deaf. We also began a new signed service at Ascension Church, Gaithersburg on the first Sunday of each month. At our second service there we had four people from the area and six from St. Barnabas. Our Gallaudet ministry is growing. I have about fifteen names on my e-mail list of Gallaudet students. We also have a new diocesan officer, the **Rev. Preston Hannibal**, who is the Canon for Academic Ministries. He is very concerned that Gallaudet be

included in the Campus Ministries of the diocese.

We renewed contact with **Ruth Phillips** who is in a nursing home in Manassas, VA. We will be making monthly visits to take her Holy Communion and let her know that we have not forgotten her. We will also be making monthly visits to **Leira Wurdemann**, taking her Holy Communion also. The seniors will be working together to update our member list. They will be helping **Ed Knight** and I visit our senior members to let them know we care for them. If you know of anyone in our church who needs home visits please let the Vicar know.

I was so pleased to welcome twenty-four members of St. Barnabas and friends from the Deaf Community in my home on New Year's Day for an Open House. I think that everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship. I enjoyed our time together.

I want to thank all of you for the gift certificate from Hechts. I have already spent some of it. You are a wonderful congregation and I love you all.

May God richly bless each of you individually and all of us collectively as we move forward to do God's will in 2004.

Love in Christ,  
**Barbara+**

### **New Banner, New Banner Design?**

Now that we are no longer a mission and are now a church, our banner needs to be replaced with one with our new name. Do we want to keep the existing design, or make it consistent with our "logo"? (For our

"logo", see front page, to the right of the banner of newsletter.)

Should we order the banner from C.M. Almy or someone else?

Do we need new hardware for the banner? One thing is clear, we need one or two volunteers to do this research, come up with a few options with pricing info and to make a proposal to the vestry regarding a new banner. To volunteer, please



**Ginny Lindsay, Barbara Allen+, Clifford Boland, Marlene Hines and Rudy Hines after service at Ascension**

see our Vicar.

### **Lay Eucharistic Minister(s) needed!**

**Tom Hattaway's** term as LEM has expired and we are in need of more LEM's. Thank you to Tom for his excellent service as LEM.

#### *What is an LEM?*

An LEM assists the priest with the Offertory and with the sacrament of

the Holy Eucharist. An LEM should be reverent and calm. The old term for LEM was “chalice bearer”. Although technically the LEM nowadays can serve both the bread and wine, typically the LEM serves the wine after the priest serves the bread.

The Lay Reader workshop on Saturday Feb 7 will also cover information on being an LEM and a PVLEM.

### **What is a PVLEM?**

**By Ed Knight**

A PVLEM is a Pastoral Visit Lay Eucharistic Minister. PVLEMs attend training at a diocesan workshop and become authorized by the diocese to take the consecrated bread and wine to members of the congregation who are “shut-in”, in other words too sick to come to church. PVLEMs visit sick congregants at home, in a nursing home, a hospice or a hospital.

On December 1, I attended PVLEM training at St. David’s Church in N.W. D.C. I had discussed this with Barbara+ and she encouraged me. Currently we have one member of the congregation who needs PVLEM visits. We have others at St. Barnabas who have served as PVLEMs in the past but their licenses have expired.

To my surprise **Tracy Dieter** was also there, but she was learning how to teach the class. The workshop was led by **Bob Sheavly**, who is a professional psychotherapist and counselor and long-term Lay Eucharistic Minister.

PVLEMs are “sent forth” after the Sunday service and represent the congregation reaching out to members who cannot attend. A PVLEM goes with at least one other adult member of the congregation. The first time someone serves as a PVLEM, it is helpful to go with an experienced PVLEM or clergy member.

The following website gives information about PVLEM training and the schedule for workshops: [http://www.edow.org/diocese/governance/licensing/lay\\_training.html](http://www.edow.org/diocese/governance/licensing/lay_training.html)

The PVLEM license is for up to three years, and when it expires the PVLEM must take off at least one year to prevent burn-out and also to encourage new people to get involved in this ministry.

I learned some tips on how to prepare for a visit as a PVLEM:

- pray for the sick congregant
- read the lessons and collect for the day
- call ahead to make an appointment to visit
- learn about the person’s condition and limitations
- include their name in the Prayers of the People
- vestments are not required
- take the communion kit, the service leaflet (program) and a copy of the Order of Service for the Ministry of the Sick and the Homebound
- enter your visit in the parish register

If your visit is to a hospital:

- stop at the nurse’s station to announce your visit and that you will be having a brief religious ceremony with the person

- ask if the person can receive food by mouth
- ask that you not be disturbed for about 20 minutes
- wash your hands

When you visit the person in their room:

- introduce yourself
- sit on a chair, not on the bed
- ask permission to use the tray table and be sure to return objects to their original place on the tray table afterward
- ask the person if there is anything they want you to pray with them about
- describe the Order of Service so the person knows what to expect

if there is a roommate or other visitors you can ask if they want to join in the Eucharist. If others present are of different religion(s), invite them to join in the service to the extent they feel comfortable

- consider how to best serve the sick person Communion:
- if they have a weak immune system, this might be a situation where intincting the bread is called for rather than sharing the common cup
- if they can't receive alcohol, serve the communion in one kind, the bread
- if they can't receive food by mouth at all, then you can have what is called a spiritual communion (and the workshop describes how to do that)
- Then you follow the Order of Service

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

We got to a late start and had some bad weather for part of December, so unfortunately our United Thank Offering totaled \$45. However, thank you to those who contributed.

Thank you to those who made a Christmas Offering, which totaled \$145.

Thank you to the following people who recently sent donations to our church:

Hortense Aurbach  
Louis and Mildred Balfour  
Louis and Nancy Miller

We are also very grateful for a gift of \$500 from the estate of May Koehn Curtis, of Olathe Kansas.

I will have a summary of our 2003 financial information and 2004 pledges for the next newsletter. Thank you again to everyone who pledged for 2004 and please see me if you haven't received your pledge envelopes or would like a pledge card.

On a personal note, I want to thank St. Barnabas' for the gift card to Lord and Taylor. I was very surprised and I appreciate it very much.

## **Sign-up to bring refreshments for Coffee Hour, please**

Each Sunday at St. Barnabas', we share Fellowship Time immediately following our 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist. We invite our members to serve the Lord by taking their turn in providing light refreshments.

**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 Minister**

Ed Knight

**Hospitality Chair:** Kary Dyer

**Altar Guild**

Marlene Hines  
Christina Duley  
Phoebe Tharpe

**Webmaster:** Derek Braun

**Acolyte:** Nancy Conger

**January 2004 Readings**

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

**4 Second Sunday after Christmas**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a  
Matthew 2:13-15,19-23  
or Luke 2:41-52  
or Matthew 2:1-12  
Psalm 84 or 84:1-8

**11 First Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
Acts 10:34-38  
Luke 3:15-16,21-22  
Psalm 89:1-29 or 89:20-29

**18 Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 62:1-5  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11  
Psalm 96 or 96:1-10

**25 Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Nehemiah 8:2-10  
1 Corinthians 12:12-27  
Luke 4:14-21  
Psalm 113

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

*Next Deadline for Messenger submissions is January 25. Please submit items to the co-editor, Ed Knight by email, if possible, at [knighte@washpost.com](mailto:knighte@washpost.com).*

“The peace of the Lord be always with you”

