

The Messenger

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf

February 2004

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



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

Office 301-907-9740 V/TTY
email: StBarnabasDeaf@aol.com

Vicar

*The Rev Barbara A. Allen
301-907-7855 V/TTY
revbaallen@aol.com*

Vice Chair

Marlene Hines, 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 Gaithersburg** on the first Sunday of the month at 3 PM at 205 S. Summit Ave Gaithersburg, MD*

Gallaudet University Ministry

*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

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. In addition to information on lay reading, there will be information about how to be

a lay eucharistic minister and private visitation lay eucharistic minister.

Annual Parish Meeting on March 21. We will have a potluck lunch and then the meeting.

Mark your calendars for the **Episcopal Conference of the Deaf convention** at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, MD **August 18-22**, with an ECD Board meeting August 16-17.

Deaf-Blind Camp 2004 will be held at West River Methodist Camp outside of Annapolis on June 12 thru June 18, with training for volunteers on the evening of Friday June 11. It is a lot of fun! To request an application as a volunteer or as a camper for all or part of the week, contact RevPink@aol.com. This event is not affiliated with the Episcopal Church, but it is very worthwhile, and a number of our members have participated before in this fun and rewarding event.

News from among us

On an icy-cold January 10, St. Barnabas' members **Michael Martin, Shelley Simms, and Ed Knight** attended the Soup Fest Fundraiser organized by the **Rev. Peggy Johnson** held at St. John's United Church of Christ in Catonsville, MD. We also saw our former seminarian **Elke Betz-**



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tricks. After the show, Steven Frank enthusiastically talked with Rev. Waddell and explained that his father was a member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians. The event raised over \$1,800 for **Deaf and Deaf-Blind Camp** at West River Methodist Camp near Annapolis. The camp theme this year is a 1950's theme: "Deaf-Blind Sock Hop 2004". It will be held on June 12 thru June 18, with training for volunteers on the evening of Friday June 11. To request an application as a volunteer or as a camper, contact RevPink@aol.com.

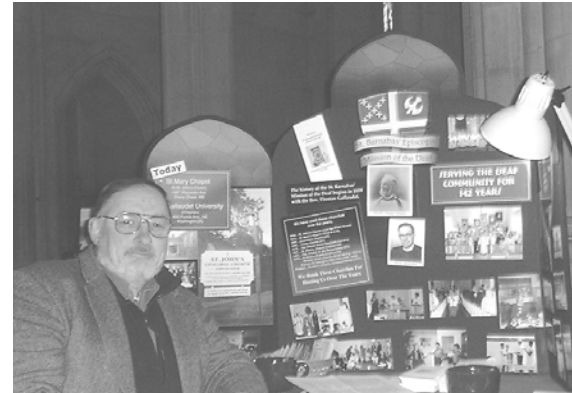
On February 1, **Michael Martin** and **Ed Knight** visited **Leira Wurdemann** at Brook Grove Retirement Village. Leira was smiling and in good spirits. This was Ed's first time acting as PVLEM without supervision. Ed plans to visit her the first Sunday afternoon of each month and each time needs at least one other member of the congregation to join in. If you would like to participate in this ministry or know of any other deaf people who are "shut-in" please let Barbara+ or Ed know.

A Word from the Vicar

Winter is upon us in rare fashion. There is ice on the walk in front of my apartment building (I almost fell yesterday!). Snow is still about four or five inches deep. Brrrr!

But, today the sun was shining which made the cold seem less uncomfortable. Even more than the warmth of the sun was the warmth of Christian love I felt as we gathered for Eucharist this morning and later as we gathered in Hines Hall to share a cup of coffee and some birthday cake to celebrate February birthdays. How blessed we are to have each other!

The Season of Lent is upon us as well. Lent? What does it mean? On Ash Wednesday we will come to church for a traditional service. Ash Wednesday begins the Lenten Season. We will receive ashes on our foreheads in the form of a cross. The priest will say as he/she imposes the ashes, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." We will experience the words of



the Prayer Book as we remember our sins and our need for forgiveness. As we kneel together we will read the words found there in the Litany of Penitence and we will confess our collective and personal sins.

In the early Church the purpose of this season was twofold. It was the time for Christians to prepare for the Easter Season, Holy Week, our Lord's passion and His resurrection. It was also for new Christians who would be baptized,

Jim Lindsay at Diocesan Convention at St. Barnabas' display he created

confirmed or received into the church at the Great Easter Vigil to study and learn about the Church. It was a time to reflect on one's faith.

In more modern times the Season of Lent was a time to give up something that we really felt we needed. Or, it was a time to commit to some discipline such

as prayer or study of Holy Scripture that we did not maintain other times of the year.

I urge us all to consider how we can receive the greatest benefit from this time. I encourage us all to go the Book of Common Prayer, page 264-269 and refresh our memory of the reason and the way of celebrating this season.

We will have Ash Wednesday services at St. Barnabas, Gallaudet, Ascension, Gaithersburg and St. George's Glenn Dale. I will be e-mailing members and friends the times for those services. Also, check our website for times.

Let us all keep a Holy Lent to prepare for the wonderful celebration our Lord's loving suffering for us and His triumph over sin for us in His resurrection on Easter.
God bless each of you.

In Christ's love,
Barbara+

Diocesan Convention at National Cathedral Jan 30/31

Barbara Allen+ and **Rudy Hines** attended as delegates. **Jim Lindsay** and **Ed Knight** also attended. Interpreters were **Libby McKnight**, **Karen Newquist-Gifford** and **Richard Ellis**.



Bishop John Bryson Chane gave an address. You can find the full address at the diocesan website, www.edow.org.

Here is an excerpt of Bishop Chane's address:

"As many have said far more eloquently

Delegate Rudy Hines at Diocesan Convention

than I, Anglicans enter theological reflection from practices rather than doctrine. For those of us who continue to work toward a definition of what makes Anglicans Anglicans, I can only say that our theology holds that our primary responsibility is to help people to know and to love God."

Consultant **Robert Franken** gave a presentation on mission strategy.

Leopold Myasiro chats with Mark Kleberg

United Thank Offering

By Ed Knight

I don't always feel thankful, but my New Year's resolution is to be a more thankful person.

We live in troubled times, to be sure, but in our corner of the world we have so many blessings. Many people who are unhappy have many blessings but lack perspective.

Jesus said that it is harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of Heaven than it is for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. One way to interpret that saying is that wealthy people often lack the perspective to be truly thankful. Compared with much of the world, we in

America are very wealthy and truly blessed. Are we truly thankful?

In the next week or two, we will be giving out the little blue boxes for you to take home from church. The idea is that every time you feel thankful to God for a blessing in your life, you put a coin or bill in the box.

Twice a year (once in the Spring and once in the Fall) we will ask you to bring in your blue box offerings. This is called an Ingathering.



How is the UTO offering used? It is used all over the world, but here are a couple of local examples. \$27,000 was granted to the Church of St. Michael's and All Angels in Adelphi, MD to develop a Latino ministry. \$10,000 was granted to the Capitol Hill Group Ministry to help renovate a day center for homeless families.

The motto of the UTO is "Expand the circle of thankful people". At St. Barnabas' we are a circle of thankful people. This year, let's expand our thankfulness.

Here Comes the ECD 2004 Convention!

(reprinted from ECD website)

Every once in a while movie stars get "makeovers" - a new hair style, makeup, perhaps a face-lift or a tummy tuck. That's what will be happening with next summer's ECD convention!

We're re-designing the convention, to be held at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, Maryland August 18-22, with an ECD Board meeting August 16-17. There will be less emphasis on business meetings and more on creative

learning experiences.

(Editor's note: For information about the conference center, check out the Bon Secours website: www.bonsecours.org)

Three outstanding presenters will be featured at the 2004 convention:

Steve Hamerdinger, will make presentations on Friday evening and Saturday morning. As director of the Office of Deaf Services at the Alabama Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation (DMHMR), Steve is the first Deaf person to hold an administrative-level position in Alabama state government. An exciting and dynamic presenter, he is much in demand all

over the nation. He is well-known for his imaginative and witty Power Point presentations

Steve's two presentations will be on the topics of cultural affirmation and empowerment issues in the Deaf community. As a bonus, Steve will provide our entertainment at the closing cookout on Saturday evening.

Cass Martensen will lead a forum titled "Hot Topics in the Episcopal Church." Cass, a late-deafened woman and a retired nurse, is senior warden of Trinity Church, Escondido, CA. A four-time deputy to General Convention she was chair of the Diocese of San Diego's deputation at the 2003 convention. Cass is also chair of her diocese's Task Force for Ministry with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, and a Board member of the ECD.

We will be fortunate to have Cass' experience and insight on the "inside machinery" of the Episcopal Church. We're also very proud that she was chosen to be chair of her diocese's delegation! This is your opportunity to ask an expert "Whatever You Always Wanted to Know about the Episcopal Church but Were Afraid to Ask."

Chaplain for our convention will be the **Rev'd David Vryhof**, SSJE. Fluent in sign language, he is a brother of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, based in Cambridge, MA. Before coming to monastic life, he was a teacher of Deaf children. He has been a friend of the ECD for many years, and especially to St. Andrew's Mission of the Deaf in Brookline, MA.

David has responsibility for the training and spiritual formation of men who enter the SSJE community. A graduate of General Theological Seminary, he is a

priest and an experienced teacher, retreat leader and spiritual director. In addition to leading several short spiritual workshops, he will be available for private conversations during the convention.

There is much more to tell. The hard-working committee from St. Barnabas' Mission of the Deaf, **Rudy Hines**, **James Lindsay** and **Thomas Hattaway**, are planning an optional Tour Day for Friday, August 20. You can either take the tour with a group, or visit Baltimore or Washington on your own.

More details are coming later. You will not want to miss this outstanding convention. Many people throughout the nation have already expressed interest in coming to this one.

So, get out your shiny new 2004 calendar, turn the pages and reserve August 16-22!

Treasurer's Report

By **Ed Knight**

Correction on Fall 2003 UTO Ingathering – I had reported \$45 but on review I found the correct amount is \$68.

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

Barbara Stevens

Peter and Nancy Kensicki

Comment:

Stewardship Program Notes:

2003 pledge units	13
2003 total yrly pledges	\$27,704
2003 median yrly pledge	\$1,080
2003 median wkly plege	\$21

2004 pledge units	14
2004 total yrly pledges	\$25,212
2004 median yrly pledge	\$1,140
2004 median wkly pledge	\$22

In 2003, we collected \$25,740 in pledge payments, which is 93% of what was pledged.

Thank you to the people who pledged in 2004. We lost one pledge unit (inactive member) and gained two pledge units. I also want to especially thank the four people who increased their pledge amount from 2003 to 2004.

If you want to pledge but haven't gotten around to it, please ask me for a pledge card.

From where did the money come?

In 2003, the total revenue of \$36,610 to fund the programs, missions and functions of St. Barnabas' came from:

70 % from pledges from current parishioners
 30 % from other giving by parishioners, friends and visitors

This does not include the Diocesan support that includes our Vicar's compensation package as well as interpreter services. As Treasurer of St. Barnabas', I am very grateful to the Diocese for paying the Vicar's salary – I certainly don't take it for granted.

Where did the money go? In 2003, expenses totaled \$33,473

- 17% for Publicity and Hospitality (ECD Convention expenses, Verizon book ad, new flyers, refreshments, web page)
- 13% for Diocese (assessment) and National (UTO, Little Red Church, etc)

- 12% for scholarship for Gallaudet student (the student has received funding for 2004 tuition from other sources so this expense will not exist in 2004)
- 12% for Deaf Demographic Survey (funded from the Soper Fund)
- 12% for Admin and Finance such as the Messenger newsletter, annual audit, office equipment, pledge envelopes
- 10% for maintenance and operation (rent to St. John's, insurance)
- 5% for Gallaudet Campus ministry
- 5% for Christian Education program supplies
- 5% for Altar supplies, flowers, Sunday bulletin covers and inserts, vestments
- 5% for charity / outreach
- 2% for clergy utilities and expenses (pager, phone allowance)
- 2% for going away gift for former seminarian

Note: We had budgeted \$1,600 for a laptop for the Vicar in 2003 but did not buy it; we will buy it in 2004 instead.

Vestry

Chair: The Rev. Barbara Allen

April 2003—March 2006

Treasurer - Ed Knight

April 2003—March 2004

Secretary - Rudy Hines

April 2003—March 2005

Vice Chair- Marlene Hines

Asst Vice Chair - Shelley Simms

Members - at – Large

Mark Kleberg

Jeff Mc Caw

Tonya Strelau

Lay Eucharist Minister

Ed Knight (July 2003 – 12/31/06)

Hospitality Chair: Kary Dyer

Altar Guild

Marlene Hines

Christina Duley

Phoebe Tharpe

Acolyte: Nancy Conger

Webmaster: Derek Braun

Note: the vice-chair and the asst. vice-chair and two members-at-large are elected during odd-numbered years and the secretary and treasurer and the other two members-at-large are elected during even-numbered years.

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

Next Deadline for Messenger submissions is February 22. 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"

