

The Messenger

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf

March 2004

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



A Congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Office 301-907-9740 V/TTY
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Rector

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

Senior Warden

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

AtriumChapel(Student Union Bldg) the
Second Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Forthcoming Special Events

Lenten Study 9:15 AM in Chapel every Sunday through Palm Sunday

Stewardship Conference at Grace Church Day School on **March 13** 9-5 PM (Barbara+ and Ed Knight are registered to go; registration deadline is March 2, see Barbara+ to sign up)

Annual Parish Meeting on March 21.

We will have a potluck lunch and then the meeting. Topics of discussion will include the 2004 ECD convention, the 2005 budget, new church signs, new banner, charitable donations, and the type of communion bread.

PVLEM training

The next Pastoral Visiting Lay Eucharistic Minister training is set for 7 to 10 p.m. **March 24** at St. Stephen and the Incarnation, Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Bob Sheavly at 202/232-4900 or bob@DCpsychotherapy.com
Contact **Barbara+** to arrange for ASL interpreter

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. **Bishop John Bryson Chane** will celebrate the Opening Eucharist.

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.

It costs \$480 to send a deaf-blind person to camp. At the March Parish Meeting we will vote on making a \$250 donation to the deaf-blind camp from our charity budget. Also, if you would like to donate to this good cause, we will take up a collection – \$10, \$20 or any amount will help; if you pay by check put “deafblind camp” on the memo line.

A Word from the Rector

Last Wednesday we began the Season of Lent by attending a service where the priest put a cross of ashes on our foreheads and pronounced the words of Imposition, “Remember that you are dust, and unto dust you shall return”. Why?

Why do we have Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent? Actually, the idea of ashes as representing sorrow goes back to the Old Testament. Remember the story of Job? When Job had lost all of his worldly goods, even his family, he refused to deny God. Instead, he believed that somehow his loss was his own fault. Job knew that he had, to the best of his ability, followed all of God’s leading and laws. Still, his faith demanded that he must have done something contrary to God’s will or he would not have met with such disasters. Job even followed the prescribed way of showing remorse for his actions by

going out on the ash heap, sitting there among the garbage, covering his head with a coarse fabric called “sackcloth” and piling ashes on his covered head.

We no longer go out on the garbage dump and sit with sackcloth and ashes on our heads. We do, however, need to acknowledge to ourselves and others our human, sinful ways. Do the ashes have any connection with our receiving forgiveness from God? No, but they are symbolic of our sorrow for our shortcomings and sins and need for God’s forgiveness. When we receive the ashes on our foreheads it helps us to remember that we were indeed created from the dust of the earth and that at our deaths we will finally return to the earth.

In that same service, however, we follow the Imposition of Ashes by celebrating Eucharist, the celebration of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. What an impact this combination of liturgies can have on our lives. How thankful we need to be that God forgives and restores us again and again. God knows that we are not perfect but God loves us anyway.

God bless you as you remember these truths. May God help you to keep a Holy Lent to prepare for the coming of the Resurrection.

Love in Christ,
Barbara+

Correction

*The February newsletter said “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.” We need to*

add that **Kary Dyer** is now also on that hard-working committee.



News from among us

Barbara+, Kary Dyer, Bram & Stephanie Hightman, Rudy & Marlene Hines, Ed Knight, Jim & Ginny Lindsay, and John Ricciardi attended the **Lay Reader workshop on Feb 7, 2004** led by the **Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering**. **Sandra Pickering** also observed and acted, as she titled it, "director of photocopying". **Buffy the hearing ear dog** was also present and trying to be helpful in consuming any of the pizza luncheon leftovers.

Roger+ explained about the various translations that the Bible has gone through, from Hebrew and Greek to Latin to King James English. He described the differences between the Old Testament Canon (which books were considered officially part of the Bible and which were not), between the Hebrew Bible, the Greek Septuagint, the Latin Vulgate and the King James Version. He explained that the word Apocrypha means extra books that were eventually received as Scripture in some traditions but not others. He described the major English versions of the Bible currently used in America. He

discussed some issues about translating the lessons into signs.

Roger+ discussed some of the differences between different parts of the liturgy. When signing the Prayers of the People, you are signing to God, so consider your body language – you may want to look up or perhaps bow your head. He explained when signing Psalms, it is more important to capture the mood of the Psalm with facial expression and body language because Psalms are basically songs. When signing the lessons, on the other hand, it is more important to make the meaning clear and to make eye contact with the congregation. He also reminded us that when a lesson includes dialog between two or more speakers to use certain techniques in sign language for making the identity of each speaker clear.



He taught how to sign the lessons effectively into one's own natural style of signing (as there are different styles just as there are different accents in a spoken language). In particular, he gave pointers on using eye contact, body language and facial expression, and "projecting" by making your signs large -- if you are doing it right, your shoulders should be tired by the end of the lesson.

Then we had a chance to take turns reading from the lessons for Sunday and Roger had constructive criticism as well as compliments.

Roger+ kindly permitted me to reprint one of his handouts below:

Translating the Lessons

Lectors (and Lay Readers) in a deaf congregation are also translators taking the written lesson (or service) in English and giving it to the people in signs. So it is more than just reading the lessons. You have to understand it before you can sign it properly.



You have to study the lesson in advance. It is very helpful to compare the lesson in two or more versions of the Bible because they are themselves translations from the original Hebrew (for the Old Testament) and Greek (for the New Testament). It is recommended that one of them should be a contemporary, common English version like the Good News or the Contemporary English versions.

If after studying the lesson, there are some words which you feel uncertain about signing, take it up with the Rector or another experienced reader. Readers who are not strong in written

English may find a signed paraphrase version of the lesson helpful.

Don't be afraid of practicing in front of someone else.

1. Remember the rules of written English – most commonly, a comma separates a part of a thought from another part and a period finishes the thought. You do the same thing in signs with a pause, or people to follow you (and it is a good rule for any public signer!)
2. Look at the people during your signing – at a different person each time you look up. This connects them to what you are saying.
3. When there is dialogue in the lesson, be sure to use “positioning” – one speaker to one side and the other to the other side.
4. Use body language and facial expression that agrees with the emotion in the lesson – but do not overdo.

Other News

On February 21, St. Barnabas' members **Ed Knight** and **Iris Gomes** attended the Montgomery County Association of the Deaf “dingo game” event in Gaithersburg. They handed out new fliers to advertise St. Barnabas' services, including the new monthly service in Gaithersburg. 130 people attended the event.

On February 24, **Barbara+**, **Rudy Hines**, **Ed Knight**, **Jim Lindsay**, **Michael Martin** and **Shelley Simms** attended the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** hosted by St. John's Norwood.

Our roaming rector **Barbara+** led Ash Wednesday services at Gallaudet, Glenn Dale, Gaithersburg and Chevy Chase. The Gallaudet service was

attended by **Portia Evans** and a hearing graduate student named **Brett**. The St. George's service was attended by **Rudy and Marlene Hines** and **Ted Blake**. **Jim and Ginny Lindsay** and **Barbara Bradley** attended the Gaithersburg Service. **Tom Hattaway, Kary Dyer, Wendy Ikezawa, Ed Knight** and **Michael Martin** attended the Chevy Chase service.

St. Barnabas' has a new volunteer **Shell Kimble** who is helping our rector with office work. Thank you, Shell!

New Parish Administrator – The Diocese has agreed to pay half of the cost for ten hours per week. **Tracy Dieter** accepted. Tracy, who knows much about the diocese, serves as a vergier at the National Cathedral and has been a consultant for us on the deaf demographic survey.

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering is now formally a liaison for deaf work for the Diocese and will be coming to preside at one our services once a month.

In Memorium – Mildred B. Balfour

Mildred. B. Balfour (age 89) passed away Monday, February 23 at a hospice. Mildred is survived by her husband of 65 years, Louis, and their children. They are in our thoughts. According to the death notice in the Post, the funeral took place on February 27 and contributions may be made in her name at the Capital Baptist Church, 3504 Gallows Rd, Annandale, VA 22003.

Status of New Signs

We have received permission from **the Rev. Michael Hopkins** to place a sign about our monthly service as an add-on to St. George's Welcome sign. **The**

Rev. Joe Clark also permits us to either add-on to Ascension's welcome sign or add our info to their existing front sign. We are also in the process of ordering new signs for Bradley Lane and possibly West Ave that reflect our new name.

It seems there is not enough clearance to hang a sign above the West Ave entrance. We are considering mounting a West Ave sign from a scroll-type bracket or getting a free-standing "Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign. The free-standing sign would cost \$107.50. The smaller sign with a scroll-type bracket would cost \$115. The small sign for Bradley Lane will cost \$65.

We have room for 24 characters per line for 3 lines. **Let us know at the March 21 meeting which wording you like for the signs:**

1. For all locations (no service time/place)

**ST. BARNABAS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE DEAF**

OR
2. service time/place for each location

**ST. BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE DEAF
10 AM in the chapel**

**for Glenn Dale location:
ST. BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE DEAF
1:30 PM last Sun/month**

**for Gaithersburg location:
ST. BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE DEAF
3 PM first Sunday/month**

Treasurer's Report

By Ed Knight

In late February, St. Barnabas' received a check for \$4000 from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington to help defray expenses of the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf, which we are hosting this August. Thank you very much to EDOW!

The 2003 Year End Financial Reports are now posted on the bulletin board next to the parish office. I've submitted the 2003 treasurer's files to our auditor, **Beverly Ziner**, so she can do the annual audit report for the diocese. I've filled out the financial section of the Parochial Report, which requires following a ten page workbook.

I want to thank the former treasurer, **Jim Lindsay**, for doing this for so many years. Now I have collected this information I have a new appreciation for all the work Jim did for many years.

Jim Lindsay will serve as treasurer for the ECD convention.

In the last newsletter I reported that the Fall 2003 United Thanks Offering totaled \$68. However, I omitted that earlier in the year we had given \$200 to the UTO, which means our total UTO for 2003 was \$268. Thank you to all the thankful people who made UTO offerings in 2003 and to those who will make UTO offerings in 2004.

In the February newsletter I mentioned that we lost one pledge unit. However, about the same time we went to press we received that person's pledge card. That means that between 2003 and 2004 we did not lose any pledge units after all. In fact we gained two pledge units. Thank you to everyone who made the commitment of pledging.

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

2004 pledge units	15
2004 total yrly pledges	\$26,992
2004 median yrly pledge	\$1,300
2004 median wkly pledge	\$25

Did you know that St. Barnabas' budget includes \$1,500 for charity? This reflects the fact that we are a church, not a club, and that we exist not only to serve ourselves but others. Our mission in particular is to the rest of the deaf community in our diocese and sometimes beyond.

The Vestry would like to know what charitable organizations our members are active in, especially if those organizations serve the deaf community. If you are active in a non-profit group that serves the deaf community and accepts donations please tell me or Barbara+. Then the Vestry will discuss whether or not St. Barnabas' will make a donation to that charity, or help take up a collection.

When evaluating charitable donations, I think we should give more weight to those charities that our members know, love and personally support.

Inviting friends to church:

Tom Hattaway and **Kary Dyer** recently brought their friend to visit our church. This is exactly what we need to do in order to grow. Why not share the good news of God's love with your friends through an invitation to St. Barnabas'? With Easter approaching, this is a perfect time to invite a friend to come to church.

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 Stremlau

Lay Eucharist Minister

Ed Knight (July 2003 – 12/31/06)

Response Leader: Tom Hattaway

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.

Lectionary Readings can be found on the web at <http://www.satucket.com/lectionary/>

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

Next Deadline for Messenger submissions is March 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”

