

The Messenger

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church of the Deaf

December 2004

<http://stbarnabasdeaf.edow.org>

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
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Cell Phone text messaging:
3017554346@tmomail.net

Senior Warden

Marlene Hines, RdyMar@aol.com
Weekly 10 AM Holy Eucharist Service
With Healing Service 3rd Sundays
St. Mary's Chapel at
St. John's, Norwood
6701 Wisconsin Avenue at Bradley
Lane, Chevy Chase, MD. 20815

Satellite Congregation

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

Gallaudet University Ministry:

Ely Center Room 114 Fridays 11-3:00
during the Academic Year
Discussion group/lunch meeting is held
at noon each Friday, Holy Eucharist
celebrated the second Sun. of each
month at 2:00 PM in the Chapel of the
Student Union Building

Forthcoming Special Events

**9:15 AM Advent Study will begin
on November 28.**

Gallaudet Student Activities

December 18, 9:30 AM the
lunch/discussion group will leave
Gallaudet and take the Metro to
the new American Indian Museum.
Lunch will be provided.

**The following Cathedral
Services will be sign
interpreted:**

Christmas Eve Services

**Friday, December 24, 6 pm and
10 pm**

Lessons and Carols at 6 pm and
Festival Holy Eucharist at 10 pm.
Free passes are required for these
services. We have requested 10
passes for each service. Spaces
are limited!

Christmas Day Services

Saturday December 25, 9 am
Festival Holy Eucharist at 9 am
(nationally telecast and close-
captioned). No passes required.

**National Cathedral Annual
Creche Exhibit Nov. 22 – Jan. 9**

Collection of nativity scenes from around the world.

Rare Book Library Exhibit Room

**The 110th Episcopal Diocese of
Washington Convention**

Jan 28-29 at National Cathedral will be sign interpreted and St. Barnabas' will have a display table that will be shared by the Task Force on Disabilities. Volunteers are needed to sit at the table to answer questions about deaf ministry. The Diocesan Convention is the annual meeting of the diocese. Approximately 450-500 people attend the convention.

**Community Events/Volunteer
Opportunities – Show that St.
Barnabas' Cares**

**Metro Washington Association
of the Deaf-Blind Events:**

MWADB Mardi Gras Party Feb

12 6-11 PM at Gallaudet
University Student Academic
Center MultiPurpose Room

**MWADB tour of National
Museum of the American Indian**

March 5, 1-4 PM

MWADB auction April 16 6-11

PM at Gallaudet University
Student Academic Center
MultiPurpose Room

Contact stevenfrank@juno.com for details. To volunteer as Support Services Provider contact **Sandra Carpe** at sandsky80@aol.com
Galludet students can earn community service credits.

**“No Time to Wait” Conference
on Deaf Women and HIV/AIDS in
Africa June 10-12, 2005**

Gallaudet University
Co-sponsored by Gallaudet
University and Howard University

Registration Fee:
International Registrant: \$100
U.S. Registrant: \$350
Student: \$100
On-site registration fee add \$50

You can register at the web site:
deafafricanwomen.org



The Pastor's Corner:
The Coming of Jesus to
Each One of Us

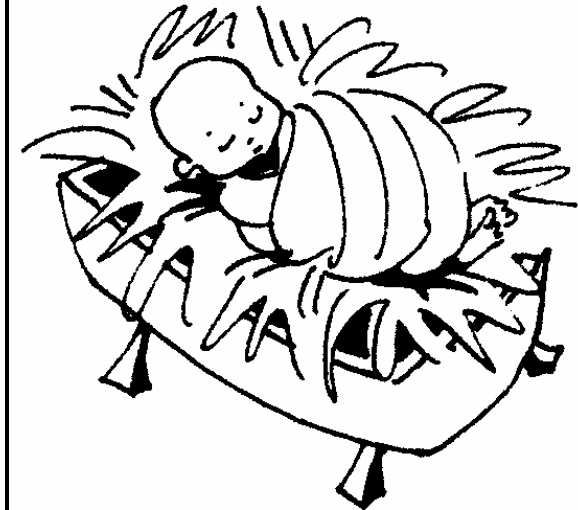
The last Sunday in November this year is the First Sunday of Advent. A season of great importance in our liturgical year. Why is this so very important? It is the season when we begin to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Christ Child at Christmas.

However, the word Advent means "coming" and there are other "comings" of Christ to us. During this season we look not only at the first "coming", Christmas but at the other expectations of Christ's "coming". We look at what is called the "Second Coming" which has always meant the time when Jesus will return to earth to claim his own.

I contend, however, that there is a coming in between these two. That is the "coming" of Jesus to each one of us. We are created in the image of God. God is with us from the beginning. However, we are not always aware of the presence of God in us. It is our recognition of Jesus as the Christ of God which makes us aware of what God is like. We are taught that we need to be "like" Jesus or "like" God, but we cannot fully understand what God is like until we meet Jesus in the Holy Scriptures. As we read and study about Jesus, what he did and what he said,

then we can begin to understand what we need to do in order to be like him. God bless each of you.

In Christ,
Barbara+
The Rev. Barbara A.
Allen



News from Among Us

On November 7, Barbara gave a sermon about All Saints Day. In that sermon she talked about how each of us who worships God and Christ are "saints", small s. She noted that recently in the Times Magazine there was an article about a "God Gene". Perhaps some of you read it. It is an interesting idea. There are those who hold that in each of us there is a "God-shaped" space, an area of our lives and souls that can only be filled by God.

Cass Martensen ECD at-large board member from California joined us as she was in town for an ECD board meeting. We are glad to report she continues to recover from the health problems that prevented her attending the August ECD convention. **Jenn Phillips** brought her beautiful 9 month old

Labrador Retriever **Kajal**. Kajal is learning to be a service dog.



Marlene Hines is our quietly dependable, dedicated & efficient Altar Guild Chair / Vice Chair of the Mission Committee. Sadly for us, Marlene and Rudy will be leaving us sometime in 2006 to live nearer to their daughter and her family in MN, so we need some new Altar Guild members. If you would like to serve on the Altar Guild, please see Marlene.

St. Barnabas' Cares
Ministry and Volunteer Activities Report

On November 2 and 5, our Rector **Barbara Allen** brought the Holy Eucharist to the home of **Mary Malzkuhn**.

On Saturday, November 13 **Roberta Merrill** volunteered as a Support Service Provider at the Metro Washington Association of the Deaf-Blind board meeting. On Saturday, November 21, **Iris Gomes, Ed Knight, Roberta Merrill** and **Shelley Simms** volunteered as SSPs at the MWADB Thanksgiving Potluck. **Michael Martin** and **Mae Lynn Mullen** also attended.

If I recall correctly, ten current members or friends of St. Barnabas' have at one time or another volunteered as SSPs for

deaf-blind people at MWADB: **Richard Ellis, Iris Gomes, Stephanie Hightman, Steve Holst, Ginny Lindsay, Jim Lindsay, Ed Knight, Roberta Merrill, Kiombo Nsumbu, and Shelley Simms.**

That's not counting former member **Harry Tremaine** who moved to Florida and our former Seminarian **Elke Betz-Schmidt** who moved to Idaho with her new husband, **Aditya Sharma**. Thanks to all and sorry if I overlooked anyone!

To volunteer as Support Services Provider contact **Sandra Carpe** at sandsky80@aol.com
Gallaudet Students can earn Community Service credits.

If you are involved in a ministry or volunteer work beyond the doors of St. Barnabas' please let the co-editors know.

It does not have to be related to deaf-blindness or MWADB and in fact we would love to get a better mix of ministry news. Don't be shy! Help show that St. Barnabas' cares.

*Snapshots from MWADB Thanksgiving Potluck: Top: Iris Gomes
Middle: Michael Martin and Roberta Merrill
Bottom: Mae Lynn Mullen and Shelley Simms*



Communications Workshop Report **by Ed Knight**

On Saturday November 13 I attended an excellent workshop hosted by the Diocesan Communications Staff. About 30 people, mostly parish newsletter editors and webmasters, attended the 4-hour meeting in the National Cathedral School. Director of Communications **Jim Naughton** spoke about public relations, publicity and visibility. Hosting events is a great way to improve your church's visibility. Fund-raising events like a car wash are good publicity even if they don't raise any money. The idea is to have people holding up signs pointing to your church for the event. Other ideas are to invite local organizations to have their board meetings at your Parish Hall or to co-sponsor a charity event.

Jim was generally not in favor of paying for advertisements in the religion section of the paper because the people who read the religion section most often already have a church.

Listserves are terrific for publicity because they are a targeted audience.

Publication Specialist and Editor of Washington Window **Lucy Chumbley** gave a talk about newsletters. Most newsletter editors have a hard time getting input. It helps to nag and pester individuals ("in a gracious way"). If you have committees that meet regularly, ask them to designate a scribe and then contact the scribe to remind them to give you the report. Be firm about deadlines.

Focus on the front page, make it interesting with important announcements and include contact information there. Don't put the Rector's message on the front page. The Rector is the "star columnist" but

newspapers don't put even their star columnists on the front page.

Photos should be active and close-up. Put local papers on your mailing list.

Communications Assistant and Webmaster **Amy Elliott** critiqued several websites in the diocese. A good website should have simple navigation, have address and contact information on the home page, and have a prominent "Header" with the name of the church with some distinctive element that suggests the personality of the parish. It should be updated regularly.

A good website can be cheap to build. In fact, the diocese can host and overhaul a parish website for free. She showed how to register a website with Google. She said cheap stock photos can be found at www.istockphoto.com The diocese also plans to set up an online clip art gallery with Christian-themed items that parishes will be able to use.

Jim Naughton spoke briefly about welcome brochures. The brochure needs to communicate not only to the church but more importantly to the unchurched. The brochure should use plain language and not use a lot of "insider" church language.

Welcome back to Johnny Najar!

On Sunday Nov. 14 we were happy to see **Jean-Albert Najar** return for worship and fellowship. **Jean-Albert ("Johnny")** is living in Frederick now so it is quite a trip for him. He was quick to ask for his pledge card for 2005. Showing exemplary stewardship spirit, he was first in line to pledge and receive his box of envelopes! If you haven't received a pledge card and box of envelopes yet, please see **Rudy Hines**.



We are sorry to say that our Rector has is having some serious eye problems that are preventing her from driving at night. She is seeing a specialist. Please keep **Barbara** in your prayers.

The Future of the Berg Fund

November 14 – during the fellowship time, Canon to the Ordinary Paul Cooney discussed the possible ways we can use the Berg Fund to increase the ministry of St. Barnabas'. **The Rev. Barbara Allen, Mark Kleberg, Jim Lindsay, Rudy and Marlene Hines, John Ricciardi, Stephanie Hightman, Shelley Simms, Nancy Conger and Ed Knight** attended.

Paul said that St. Barnabas' is a permanent part of the diocese. With all we do at St. Barnabas and also Gallaudet and St. George's we are one of the most active and effective small congregations in the diocese.

The Diocese is required by legal principle to do what the Bergs wanted. The intent of the donor is very important. The Rev. Berg wanted to assure this congregation remains viable and vibrant

and controlled by its governing body, the Mission Committee.

It would be helpful for the Mission Committee to put together and adopt a statement of perhaps two pages as to how the money will be used. The

value of the fund over the last three years (take the last three year's value and divide by three.) That moderates the impact of ups and downs in the stock market.

With an endowment we would have the



Mission Committee would adopt the plan and then take it to Diocesan Council for approval. That would put it in the formal record, i.e. the Diocesan Council minutes. Paul encouraged the Mission Committee to leave some flexibility in the plan. Paul also stated that if the Mission Committee would write down what it sees as the desires of St. Barnabas' for use of the Berg Fund then he would be happy to write it up in "legalese".

One common way to use a bequest is as an "endowment". That means setting up a plan to use the interest (and perhaps increased value beyond interest) to support what the endowment intends to support. A rule of thumb is to use 5% of the value of the fund each year. A good idea is to use the average

money "forever" and would be able to use the principal (also called the "corpus") if we ever truly need it. A main desire of the Mission Committee is to establish a "Seminarium Fund". This would be available to a deaf person who felt called to ordained ministry to assist in educational expenses. Paul recommends keeping the money in the Diocesan Investment Fund (where it is now) because it is managed by professional money managers and it has performed well in recent years including when the market was a bear market. It is a mix of stocks and bonds.

Paul and the Mission Committee discussed ideas for increasing the visibility of St. Barnabas' within the Diocese. Topics discussed included:

- working in some capacity with Virginia Theological Seminary to encourage seminarians to learn sign language and consider working with Deaf people
- working more closely with National Cathedral regarding provision of sign language interpreters for more events and on a more regular basis. Our Rector mentioned that she is working with the Prayer and Pilgrimage Center regarding interpreted services.

Marcus Borg Lecture **By Ed Knight**

On Wednesday November 17, I attended a lecture at National Cathedral by Dr. Marcus Borg, a best-selling author and president of the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars. His most recent book is titled *The Heart of Christianity*. His lecture was titled "A Tale of Two Christianities". Borg says that Christians in North America are deeply divided between conservatives and liberals. The difference is a paradigm difference. A paradigm is a very large framework that influences how we see everything else. (I think of a paradigm as a perspective.) He calls the two Christian paradigms "the Earlier Paradigm" and "the Emerging Paradigm".

In the Earlier Paradigm of Christianity, salvation is primarily about the fate of individuals in the afterlife. The focus is on the Bible as instruction from God and on the correct moral behavior of the individual.

The Emerging Paradigm has its roots in the Enlightenment era that began more than 300 years ago. (The Enlightenment also influenced the Earlier Paradigm because it prompted a

response which has evolved into Fundamentalism. Both paradigms, therefore, came into their present form in the past several centuries.) In the past twenty years the Emerging Paradigm has spread at a grass-roots level through mainline churches such as the Episcopal Church (and also through the Roman Catholic church to some degree). However, each mainline denomination is to some degree divided by the two paradigms, sometimes in the same parish. (Or in the same person – there are parts of both paradigms that seem true or interesting to me, so maybe I have one foot in each paradigm.)

In the Emerging Paradigm, the Bible is important for telling us what our spiritual ancestors thought about God. To understand the Bible we need to learn more about ancient Israel and the early Christian community.

This paradigm has its roots in the Enlightenment but it is not all about Enlightenment-era rationalism. In fact, it seeks to recover ancient Christian mystical practices. A mystical experience is an experience of God or the Sacred. It leaves the person who has the experience with a belief in a reality beyond all language. Dr. Borg has had mystical experiences on occasion.

In the Emerging Paradigm, faith relates to trust in God and salvation relates to personal and social wholeness. Righteousness means justice, which Borg says is its primary meaning in scripture. This paradigm's view of the Christian life is of a relationship with God that transforms us spiritually as it also transforms the world into a more just and peaceful place.

How to build bridges between the two paradigms? Borg says that they do agree on at least a few important things: the reality of God, the centrality of Jesus and the centrality of the Bible. Borg suggests that Christians of different paradigms can have more pleasant exchanges if they focus on exploring the meaning of Bible passages and don't get distracted by the question of whether or not certain things literally happened or were metaphors.

Borg says that many Christians have a hard time giving their intellectual assent to every word in the Nicene Creed and some don't say each word of the creed. One point Borg brought out in his book *The Heart of Christianity* is that he believes reciting a creed has less to do with the head than with the heart. "...as the giving of one's heart, credo means 'I commit my loyalty to,' 'I commit my allegiance to.' ...Thus when we say credo at the beginning of the creed, we are saying 'I give my heart to God.' ...The rest of the creed tells the story of the one to whom we give our hearts: God as maker of heaven and earth, God as known in Jesus, God as present in the Spirit."

Borg acknowledges "the Emerging Paradigm" is an awkward term and said some progressive Christians prefer the name "neotraditionalism" because they are trying to recover early Christian traditions and spiritual practices such as daily prayer, meditation, contemplation and pilgrimage.

Personally I think there will always be liberal Christians and conservative Christians with different perspectives on scripture. My parents both come from Episcopalian families. My mother's side of the family has a more conservative perspective and my father's side of the family has a more liberal perspective.

I hope we can stay in conversation with each other and with scripture. We are all one family.

On November 20, the New York Ave-Florida Ave-Gallaudet station opened

According to a Metro fact sheet: "...it is located between Florida Avenue and M Street, NE (on the Red Line between the Union Station and Rhode Island Ave stations)."

"Due to the close proximity to Gallaudet University, a bus connection will be established between the new station and the University. Students will be able to access the shuttle bus from the station directly to campus. The shuttle will run from Union Station to New York Ave-Florida Ave-Gallaudet U station and end at Gallaudet University."

This should make it more convenient for Gallaudet students to take the Red Line to Bethesda and come to St. Barnabas'.

St. Barnabas' member robbed

On November 20, **Michael Martin** was robbed on his way home from the Metro Washington Association of the Deaf-Blind Thanksgiving Potluck. The Potluck was not over until 11 PM but he left early because he knows it is dangerous to walk in his neighborhood late at night. It was a little after 9 PM and he was walking down Southern Avenue on the P.G. county line to the Otto Berg Apartments in S.E. from the Southern Avenue Metro station when three men in a Ford pulled over and demanded cigarettes. He refused and they grabbed his wallet which contained \$30 as well as the magnifier he uses for reading.

Michael was shaken but not injured. Michael told his story during fellowship time after church the next morning. After he was robbed he went home and called the police. A neighbor interpreted for him with the two police officers. He gave his report and the police took him and the interpreter to the Southern Ave Metro to get a clearer understanding and back to his apartment. They suggested an alternate route home that is safer after dark. They suggested that he take the bus from the Southern Ave Metro station to his apartment building. They said he should wait in an area where Metro employees can see him. Michael likes the exercise of walking but now he knows it is not worth the risk. Another option for Michael is to take Metro Access (paratransit) but he has had bad experiences with with late pickups with that service. (MWADB has begun an ad hoc transportation committee and its representative is now attending Metro elderly and disabled task force meetings to try to improve paratransit service for deaf-blind people.)

We are thankful Michael was not hurt and please keep Michael's physical safety in your prayers.

Fall Congregational Meeting

On November 21, we had our Fall Congregational Meeting. The Rev.

Barbara Allen, Mark Kleberg, Jim and Ginny Lindsay, Rudy and Marlene Hines, Michael Martin, John Ricciardi, Shelley Simms and Ed Knight attended. We discussed the Berg Fund and preparing to use it as an endowment.

We also discussed how to attract more deaf people to St. Barnabas'. One suggestion was Dingo (deaf bingo) game since MCAD has discontinued their version of Dingo. Our Rector suggested a game night with board games. She recognizes the problem that we are all busy people, but so were the first disciples of Jesus but they made time.

Another idea was to invite a deaf organization to use St. John's Parish Hall. One suggestion was to explore the possibility of co-sponsoring the Deaf-REACH annual Spring Fun Run at Haines Point, which would include our church name on the T-shirts. Our Rector prefers an event at Parish Hall to bring people to our church instead of a run located so far away.

So far, **Iris Gomes, Ed Knight and Shelley Simms** have signed up for the interpreted Christmas Eve service at National Cathedral.

Note: the senior warden, the junior warden 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 December 26. Please submit items to the co-editor, Ed Knight by email, if possible, at knightedd@comcast.net.
St. Barnabas' meets in St. Mary's Chapel at St. John's Norwood Church at the corner of Wisconsin Ave and Bradley Lane*