

ST.BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE DEAF

# THE MESSENGER

December 2006

A congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington



Investiture	2
Lindsay Wedding	4
Pastor's Corner	5
Book Review	6

**Above:** a group from St. Barnabas' welcomes the new Presiding Bishop, **the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori** at the investiture service at the National Cathedral on November 4. Right to left: **Cass Martensen** (ECD Board member visiting from California), **Dr. Ronald Sutcliffe**, **the Rev. Barbara Allen**, **Ginny Lindsay**, **Steve Holst**, and **Iris Gomes**. (**John Ricciardi**, **Ed Knight**, **Fred Miracle** and **Helen Rowe** also attended.) The service was spirited, uplifting, colorful, and sign language interpreted.

St. Barnabas' Advent Study Dec. 3, 10, 17 and 24 during Coffee Hour

St. Barnabas' Christmas Eve service 7 PM

December 24 6 & 10 PM Christmas Eve service at National Cathedral, ASL interpreted. Contact St. Barnabas' office if you want to attend.



December 25 9 AM Christmas Morning Service at National Cathedral, also televised with closed captions. ASL interpreted. Contact St. Barnabas' office if you want to attend.

## 112TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION

The 112th Diocesan Convention, convention workshop, hearings and business sessions will take place Jan. 26-27 (Friday and Saturday) at Washington National Cathedral. Interpreted, and St. Barnabas will have an exhibit table.

## ST. BARNABAS' WELCOMES THE NEW PRESIDING BISHOP



Above: Helen Rowe (of St. Georges' Glenn Dale) and Steve Holst at investiture service

THE NEW PRESIDING BISHOP WAS WELCOMED WITH APPLAUSE, INCLUDING "DEAF APPLAUSE" FROM THE SECTION RESERVED FOR THE DEAF COMMUNITY.



Bishop Katharine, photo courtesy of Episcopal News Service

On Saturday November 4, Washington National Cathedral held a service of Holy Eucharist and the investiture of the Most Reverend **Katharine Jefferts Schori**, the new Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. The service was very uplifting, spirited, colorful and beautiful. The assembly included the **Rev. Barbara Allen**, and the following members of St. Barnabas: **Iris Gomes, Steve Holst, Ed Knight, Ginny Lindsay, John Ricciardi, and Ron Sutcliffe**. **Iris Gomes** brought her friend **Fred Miracle**. **Helen Rowe**, a member of St. George's Glenn Dale (which has an interpreted service), and ECD member **Cass Martensen** also attended. The service was ASL interpreted.

The eclectic service included traditional Anglican elements as well as multicultural elements reflecting the diversity of the Episcopal Church and the mission of the National Cathedral to be a house of prayer for all people. The procession included Native American drummers and smudgers. The program book explained "Smudging is a sacred tradition of Native people across this land. A prayer offering of sweetgrass, sage and cedar incense, smudging promotes healing and unity and prepares for worship".

Many of the smudgers were from the state of Nevada and some of them were ordained priests. Jefferts Shori was bishop of Nevada prior to her election as Presiding Bishop.

Acolytes leading bishops and others in the procession waved "jubilation streamers" that contributed to the sense of festivity and exuberance.

The new Presiding Bishop was welcomed with applause, including "deaf applause" from the section reserved for the Deaf Community. Representatives of the church gave the new Presiding Bishop symbols of ministry including a Gospel Book, Water, Bread and Wine, and the Primatial Staff. The Gospel reading was Luke 4:14-21, where Jesus proclaimed release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. The new Presiding Bishop preached on the Gospel lesson, urging us to fulfill this scripture "in our doing" and to bring hope to the world's poor through working toward the Millenium Development Goals. We recited our Baptismal Covenant and then bishops and other ministers sprinkled the entire assembly with baptismal water as a reminder of our Baptism into the risen life of Christ. After Holy Communion, the new Presiding Bishop gave us a blessing and she was welcomed with a prolonged ovation. There were many leaders of the Episcopal Church and other representatives from around the Anglican Communion, as well as representatives of the ecumenical and interfaith community, so it was helpful for the future of deaf ministry that members of St. Barnabas and friends were visible participants. Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was there.

After the service, Iris took her friend Fred to visit the Chapel of St. Joseph, where there is a bronze plaque honoring Helen Keller. The Braille on that plaque is worn almost smooth from the many who have touched and revered it. The ashes of Helen Keller and her teacher Annie Sullivan are interred in a columbarium behind the chapel. The service was webcast on the Cathedral website and on the video at one point you can clearly see Ron, Ginny, Steve and Helen in the front row. At another point you can see Steve signing one of the hymns. There is a captioned video of the service available from the National Church offices.

### THANK YOU NOTE EMAIL FROM **MAE LYNN MULLEN** NOVEMBER 20

Thanks so much for your gift you give me it really help for my relocation expenses. Everything here in Seattle is settled and calm I love my new life. Thanks again and may God bless you all

## DIOCESAN COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY AND SPECIAL NEEDS

Thanks to **Ron Sutcliffe** who has agreed to serve as St. Barnabas' representative on the diocesan Committee on Accessibility and Special Needs. Ron and Mother Barbara Allen attended the first meeting of the committee on November 18. (Rudy Hines had served on a task force of accessibility and special needs. The task force has been replaced by a new committee. The committee will have an exhibit table next to St. Barnabas' table at the Diocesan convention in January.)



## THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS AT METRO WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF-BLIND EVENTS

Thanks to **Iris Gomes** and **Shelley Simms** for volunteering as Support Service Providers at the MWADB Thanksgiving Potluck on November 18.

**MWADB Holiday Party 2006 Sat. Dec. 9th: 12:00 to 5:00 pm, SSPs needed!**

Holiday Party; Luncheon; Door prizes; Fun games. Location: Flex A, Student Academic Center, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, D.C.

To volunteer for SSP/ride, contact Bruce Denhart, SSP Coordinator, email address: [bdenh75955@aol.com](mailto:bdenh75955@aol.com)

Please bring and share appetizers; sandwiches; holiday dessert; beverages



Iris Gomes with Ron Farris at MWADB Thanksgiving Potluck

## THANKS TO OFFICE CLEANING VOLUNTEERS

**Elaine Laird**, Vicar's Assistant, sent email on Nov 28:

Greetings everyone, I have some good news...two very nice gentlemen from St. Barnabas cleaned St. Barnabas office today. **Jim** and **Steve** worked close to five hours cleaning the office. They did a great job!

## REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

On Saturday, October 28, the 2006 Regional Assembly for Regions 2 and 3 met at St. Luke's, Bethesda. Attendees included the **Rev. Barbara Allen**, **Steve Holst** and **Ed Knight**. Two interpreters were provided by the diocese. **Bishop Chane** announced that construction will soon begin on a building for St. Nicholas Church in Darnestown, MD. The Diocese is also raising money to fund a new Episcopal school in Anacostia to be named the John T. Walker school. The budget was distributed and we noticed that mission support for St. Barnabas' Church will increase by \$5028 to \$74600. Canon to the Ordinary **Paul Cooney** noted that **Diana Butler Bass** will give a presentation at the next Diocesan Convention which will be at the Cathedral in January. (See a book review of Diana Butler Bass's latest book on page 6.)



## Lindsay, Sevier Wedding

Thank you to Jim Lindsay for the following news:

**Jim and Ginny Lindsay** announce the October 8 marriage of their daughter, **Kathryn Lindsay** to **Derek Sevier** at a ceremony outside of the Glenview Mansion in Rockville, MD. Reception and dancing followed inside the Mansion.

The Retired Rev. Dr. **Roger Pickering** officiated the wedding with the Rev. **Barbara Allen**, assisting. **Sandra Pickering** and **Richard Ellis** interpreted the service. Also **Byron Zimmerman** was the videographer.

**Clifford Dochtermann**, the bride's grandfather, was in attendance and also with several members of St. Barnabas' Church.

Following the wedding, the couple spent their honeymoon in Hawaii. They reside in Lakewood, Colorado.



The Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering, Kathryn and Derek Sevier, and the Rev. Barbara Allen

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER:

We are ready to begin our "countdown" to Christmas! Unfortunately, many see it as the countdown to gifts of material items, often luxury items with massive monetary costs. Many people this year will, as in years past, use credit cards or dip into savings to purchase things they probably don't really need.

I saw an old TV show last night that made me stop and think. A nine year old boy decided that he wanted to give his dad a really nice birthday gift, an expensive camera. He decided that he would canvass the neighborhood and ask for donations telling the neighbors that his family was poor and needed food and other things. The neighbors were duped and gave him the money. His dad was astonished when he opened the gift and knew immediately that his son had done something that was not right.

The little boy was quick to confess his wrongdoing. He had to go with his dad to all the neighbors from whom he had asked money and return it. He had to tell each one that he had lied and that he was sorry. When he and dad returned home the little boy was half-asleep. His dad helped him into his pajamas and tucked him in. The little boy pulled something from under his pillow and handed it to his dad. It was a strange looking ceramic piece he had made at school. He told his dad that it was an ash-tray. His dad did not even smoke but he said that he would put it in his office for his patients who did.

He then asked his son if he had learned a lesson from this experience. Yes, it is not the cost of the gift that is important but the thought and love behind it. I hope that we will all think carefully and long about how we celebrate the birth of our Lord this Christmas. Jesus came as a baby to parents who were poor laborers. His earthly father was a carpenter. Yet of all the gifts that his parents could have received the birth of the Christ child was the most precious. And, his birth is the most precious gift we will ever receive. The Christ child was a gift of love, the love of God for God's creation. Give love this Christmas. You will be glad that you did.

Blessings and love from your pastor,  
Barbara+



THE CHRIST  
CHILD WAS A  
GIFT OF LOVE,  
THE LOVE OF  
GOD FOR GOD'S  
CREATION.  
GIVE LOVE THIS  
CHRISTMAS.



## Book Review: “Christianity for the Rest of Us” by Diana Butler Bass

Reviewed by Ed Knight



**Diana Butler Bass** is an Episcopalian who worships in our own diocese and is a researcher and expert in the study of congregational vitality among mainline Christian denominations such as Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, Lutherans and others. These are churches that are aging and typically described as “in decline” compared to conservative Evangelical mega-churches. Diana Butler Bass does not study the decline of mainline churches, rather she focuses on those mainline congregations that are flourishing and looks for patterns, which she shares in this book. The common denominator has nothing to do with politics – the successful mainline churches she studied did not become more conservative or fundamentalist in order to grow. However, they did not stay the same – they transformed themselves by adopting certain Christian practices that in some cases go back to the Early Church. The renewed congregations she studied have become “intentional” about various Christian practices. They transformed themselves from a lukewarm “Rotary Club” style of congregational life to a spirituality that is emotive and energetic yet still true to the dignified and often solemn mainline heritage.

She describes the following **ten “signposts of renewal”**:

**Hospitality** – these renewed congregations “welcome strangers as we ourselves have been welcomed into God through the love of Jesus Christ”.

**Discernment** – these renewed churches develop the habit of seriously asking themselves “What is God calling us to do? Where is God in our activities and ministries?”

**Healing** – these mainline Christians are seriously interested in connecting with the type of healing ministry of Jesus and the apostles, not rejecting modern medicine but yet opening themselves to the mysterious possibility of supernatural healing and wholeness.

**Contemplation** – these congregations make time for silent prayer and practice, pausing from the frantic pace of modern life to be quiet and listen for God, making themselves sanctuaries from digital distraction.

**Testimony** – these mainline Christians cultivate the habit of sharing their faith stories, not necessarily about a dramatic moment of conversion, but, more often, “individual stories of being surprised by God’s love.”

**Diversity** – these congregations are new “village churches” that welcome people from all walks of life and are engaged in “the active construction of a boundary-crossing community” where all come together at the altar rail.

**Justice** – these renewed churches try to be a “servant community in the world”.

**Worship** – these mainline Christians are reconnecting to “awe, wonder and surrender” and going beyond merely “thinking about God” to an emotive experience of God.

**Reflection** – these congregations are seriously studying the Bible – not with an emphasis on literal or uniform reading, but in a lively, collegial, collective searching for meaning.

**Beauty** – these renewed Protestant churches are recovering a Catholic appreciation for visual arts and a concept of Art as “a pathway of mystical experience with God”.

RENEWED  
CHURCHES DEVELOP  
THE HABIT OF  
SERIOUSLY ASKING  
THEMSELVES “WHAT  
IS GOD CALLING  
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WHERE IS GOD IN  
OUR ACTIVITIES  
AND MINISTRIES?”



Note: the senior warden, the junior warden and two members-at-large are elected during odd-numbered years and the secretary and treasurer and 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/>

### **Worship Ministries**

**Vicar:** The Rev. Barbara A. Allen

**Consultant for Deaf Ministry:** The Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering

### **Eucharistic Minister/Response Leader:**

Tom Hattaway, Ed Knight, Ginny Lindsay

**Eucharistic Visitors:** Ed Knight, Ginny Lindsay

**Altar Guild:** Christina Duley and others on rota

**Acolyte:** Nancy Conger

### **Mission Committee:**

Chair: The Rev. Barbara A. Allen

### **Officers elected during odd-numbered years:**

Vice-Chair: Tom Hattaway

Members-at-large: Ed Knight

### **Officers elected during even-numbered years**

Asst. Vice Chair: Shelley Simms

Secretary: Wendy Ikezawa-Kohashi

Treasurer: Jim Lindsay

Members-at-large: Ginny Lindsay and Steve Holst

### **Other Ministries:**

Teller: John Ricciardi

Vicar's Assistant: Elaine Laird

Newsletter co-editors: the Rev. Barbara A. Allen, Ed Knight

Webstewards: Ed Knight and Elaine Laird (original design by Derek Braun)

ECD Delegate: Dr. Mary Malzkuhn

ECD Alternate: Ginny Lindsay

Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Steve Holst

Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention: Jim Lindsay

Hospitality Chair: Beth Hill

St. Barnabas' representative on diocesan Committee on Accessibility and Special Needs: Dr. Ronald Sutcliffe

ST.BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH OF THE DEAF

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Senior Warden: Tom Hattaway,  
ThomasHattaway@aol.com

Unsolicited newsletter items/articles are welcome,  
especially your digital photos related to church and  
community; send to knightedd@comcast.net with  
assurance that everyone in the photo has approved  
its publication

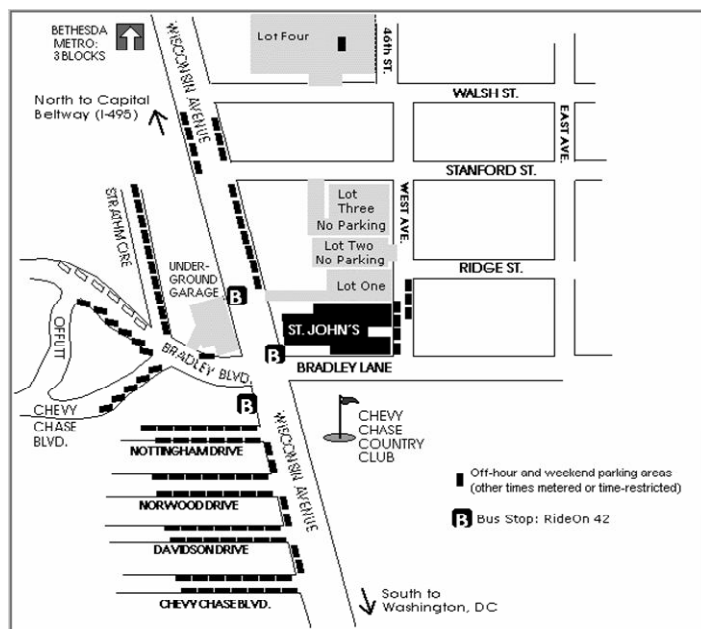
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ON THE WEB AT  
STBARNABASDEAF.EDOW.ORG

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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

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



*St. Barnabas' meets in St. Mary's Chapel at St.  
John's Norwood Church at the corner of Wisconsin  
Ave and Bradley Lane*