

THE MESSENGER

January 2007

A congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington



Above: a friendly group from St. Barnabas' met in the church library for Advent Study on December 3 (one of several workshops during Advent.). Clockwise from front: **Michael Martin, Tom Hattaway** (and behind Tom partly visible are **Ginny Lindsay and Elizabeth Spiers**), **Kiombo Nsumbu, Jim Lindsay, Beth Hill, Christina Duley, Steve Holst, and Wendy Ikezawa**. Mother **Barbara Allen** led the study and **Ed Knight, Angela Sanchez and Joshua Somers** also participated in it.



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The 112th Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, convention workshop, hearings and business sessions will take place Jan. 26-27 (Friday and Saturday) at Washington National Cathedral.

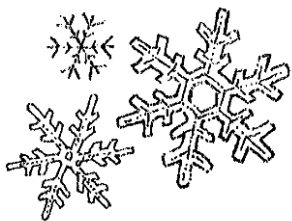
Interpreters will be **Rayelenn Casey, Richard Ellis, Karen Newquist-Gifford and Diane Lynch**. St. Barnabas will have an exhibit table. **Steve Holst** is St. Barnabas's delegate and **Jim Lindsay** is the alternate.



Dr. Mary Malzkuhn in the buffet line at her going away party, with hospitality chair **Beth Hill**.



Participants in the first Advent workshop share a laugh: L-R, **Tom Hattaway**, **Ginny Lindsay**, **Elizabeth Spiers**, and **Kiombo Nsumbu**.



Tom Hattaway, **Mother Barbara** and others gather in the nicely decorated St. Barnabas' office after the December 10 service. (Most of the decorations were contributed by St. Barnabas' member **Wendy Ikezawa**. **Jim Lindsay** and **Steve Holst** cleaned the office with some help from our office assistant, **Elaine Laird**. Then Elaine and Jim did most of the decorating on Saturday before this photo on Sunday.)

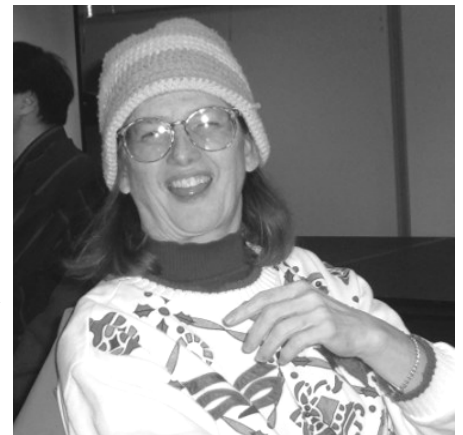


SUNDAY BRUNCH IN PARISH HALL

On December 3, St. John's welcomed St. Barnabas to again join them for their first Sunday Brunch in the Parish Hall which was decorated with Pointsettias. Pictured above, L-R are **Christina Duley, Michael Martin, Steve Holst, Beth Hill, Angela Sanchez, Kiombo Nsumbu, and Joshua Somers.** Ed Knight, Jim and Ginny Lindsay and Shelley Simms also attended. (Thanks, St. John's!)

ST. BARNABAS MEMBERS VOLUNTEER AT MWADB HOLIDAY PARTY

Thanks to **Shelley Simms** (pictured at right) and **Iris Gomes** for volunteering as Support Service Providers at the Metro Washington Association of the Deaf-Blind Holiday Party on December 12 at Gallaudet University. Several deaf-blind people from the Baltimore Association of the Deaf-Blind joined us and we also had a visitor from Ottawa, Canada. Sixteen deaf-blind people enjoyed games, socializing, a deli-style buffet including shortbread cookies and door prizes. Iris gave new SSPS (mostly students in the Community Service Program) encouragement and tips on how to be SSPs. The next MWADB event will be in March. For more information about MWADB, contact stevenfrank@juno.com.



HILL, HOLST WEDDING

Thank you to **Beth Hill** for sharing the following news:

After 20 years of being together, we got married by the Justice of Peace on Sept. 1st. On the next day, Sept. 2nd., we had a lovely wedding reception at Comfort Inn. Forty friends and relatives came to celebrate with us. We stayed at our condo in Ocean City for a week after the reception. We hope to have a honeymoon in Germany in the spring of 2007.

(Editor's note: we will have a photo in the February Messenger.)

NEWS IN THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF AND IN THE WASHINGTON DEAF COMMUNITY

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD) and the Washington Deaf Community were saddened in recent weeks as we heard of many deaths. **Sandy Ewan** who was a member of St. Barnabas', **Gil Eastman** honored actor and teacher and **Barbara (Babs) Myer Stevens**, graduate of and teacher at Gallaudet University for many years. She was also a long time member of St. Barnabas'. In the ECD we bid farewell in death to **Juliet (Judy) Buzzard**, wife of the Rev. Henry Buzzard, retired vicar of St. Ann's Church for the Deaf in Manhattan and **the Rev. Noel Mosier**, rector of St. Hilda's Church in Monmouth, OR and wife of the Rev. Dcn. William Mosier, President of the ECD Board and in charge of the Alleluia Deaf Fellowship which is part of St. Hilda's. We also mourned the death of **Ralph (Mac) MacLaughlin** long time member of St. Thomas Church of the Deaf in St. Louis, MO and valued ECD member.

Babs Stevens Obituary Reprinted from Potomac Deaf Times:

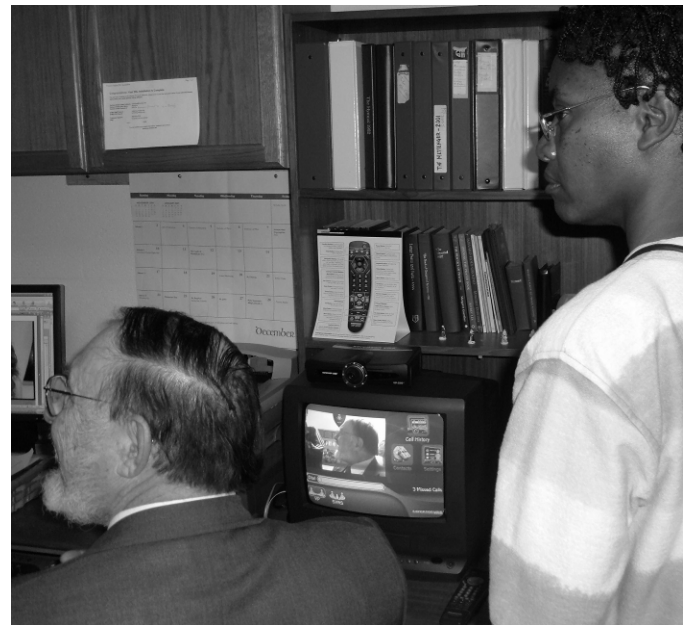
After living in Adamstown for many years, Barbara "Babs" Myer Stevens, a member of the Gallaudet University Class of 1947, passed away peacefully after a long battle with cancer on December 14, 2006. She graduated with a BA degree in 1963 from Gallaudet. She taught for many years in the English Department at Gallaudet until her retirement in 1991.

ST. BARNABAS' OFFICE NOW HAS VIDEO PHONE

St. Barnabas' now has VP in the office. It is ready to use. The number is the same: 301-907-9740. **Elaine Laird**, the vicar's assistant, is normally in the office on Tuesdays as is the vicar. They will be making good use of the VP for church related business. It will be available to church members and friends on Sundays after worship and at other times by appointment. We are working on a way to make the VP available without an appointment. We will notify everyone when that plan is in place. Having the VP will also help the vicar keep in touch with St. Barnabas' and with ECD Board Members and friends. The editor of the Deaf Episcopalian e-mailed the vicar saying, "Welcome to the Techno-World!" We are glad to be catching up!

Below left: **Tom Hattaway** and **Joshua Somers**

Below right: **Jim Lindsay** and **Elaine Laird**



THE PASTOR'S CORNER:

It is very difficult to lose those we love in death. It is especially difficult for family members and friends when their loved one dies near a holiday. Death is hard to accept, difficult to deal with. Why?

I think it is because death is unknown. No one has come back from death to tell us what it is like. Yes, Jesus was resurrected but he did not talk about his experience of death. Lazarus was also brought back to life by the Lord but we have no word from him on what it was like to die and be dead. Some people have had what they call "near death experiences" but that is not quite the same. Both Jesus and Lazarus were dead and buried. Lazarus lay in a tomb for four days and Jesus for three days. They truly had no physical life.

Christians talk about an "afterlife" which we call heaven. How do we know? We can only know by faith for there is no proof. I like a definition of faith I heard many years ago which says, "Faith is believing something is so, that isn't so, so that it can be so." That is almost a tongue twister and it requires some serious thinking and concentration. In order for something to be true for you and for me we must believe even if we have no proof. A difficult task. Having faith is difficult. The writer of the Letter to the Hebrews says that, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

What is your faith? What do you believe? I have heard ministers preach that if you ask God to give you faith God will do it. So our faith comes from the one in whom we need faith to believe. Perhaps that is related to what we call the "life cycle". Everything is born in some way, lives and dies. What happens after that is determined in our own minds and hearts by what we believe and our faith is given to us by God.

We are in the Season of Advent. Christmas is exactly one week away as I write this. This is the time we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, God's son. As Episcopalians we practice a liturgical cycle which begins with Advent and moves to Christmas, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Lent, Holy Week and the crucifixion on Good Friday and then Easter. The entire life cycle of Jesus, Son of God.

Think about it! What do you believe?

God bless you all at this wonderful season and in the coming New Year is my prayer.

Your pastor,

Barbara+



CHRISTIANS TALK
ABOUT AN
"AFTERLIFE"
WHICH WE CALL
HEAVEN. HOW
DO WE KNOW?

Marlene and Rudy Hines Christmas Letter Excerpt

Changing from congested rush hour traffic in the D.C. area to the many expressways throughout the Minneapolis / St. Paul area (which is like two Baltimores side by side) has made getting around much easier and faster. Like in Maryland, we have numerous shopping centers and malls but they are much larger. Cindy has been helping us get acquainted with the Twin Cities area by taking us shopping and seeing the sites, but, we are becoming more and more comfortable venturing out on our own. ...Happy Holidays!

Excerpt from Christmas Letter from **Father Roger and Sandra Pickering**

Lancaster County is a place of beautiful farm land with rolling hills, beautiful Amish people with horses and buggies and delicious home cooking. The city of Lancaster has many cultural opportunities that we have not had a chance to explore but are looking forward to doing. There are opportunities to hear a symphony, see a stage play (interpreted!!!), visit one of several museums and historic places, enjoy antiques and modern malls, benefit from college and seminary lectures and much more. ...Our hope is for the Peace of Our Lord Jesus to be with you at this time and in the year ahead. We ask you to join us in prayers for world peace.

Right: **Phoebe Tharp** smiles for a photo taken when **Mother Barbara Allen** visited her recently at her new home in Pennsylvania, only about 2 1/2 hours from us. Phoebe was very active in St. Barnabas for many years, including leading the Altar Guild and visiting deaf patients at St. Elizabeth's hospital. See Mother Barbara for directions, it is an easy drive, convenient to the highway.



An Advent Reflection by **Ed Knight**

As Mother Barbara Allen reminded us one of the Advent Study meetings, Jesus taught us to love God with all your heart, mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. I think these are inter-related. Love God, and sooner or later you will experience God's love. God's love is there waiting, like a parent waiting for a roaming child. When you experience God's love, you will want to share it with other people. You don't have to do it in a clumsy or rigid, politicized way, like some religious people, who, although they are truly on to something about sharing God's love, do it in a way that drives many people away from Christianity and drives many remaining Christians crazy. Many religious people are focused on the concern that people won't "go into the light" after they die. Meanwhile so many modern-day secular people miss the chance to "go into the light" of God's love now, here on earth. It is a sad disconnect.

I think the artists who painted or made icons of saints also were on to something when they painted halos of golden light around those people who shine God's love into the world. However, I think that the halos are painted in the wrong place — halos should be painted flowing and glowing from the heart, not the head. Marcus Borg points out that Christianity often focuses on the head, doctrine, when it ought to focus on the heart, compassion. As an Episcopalian, I'm glad I don't have to be anti-intellectual and "check my brain at the door" of the church, but I also know that Christianity is not so much about the head as it is about the heart. Church should be an emotive experience, as Diana Butler Bass says, not some arid intellectual event.

For me, Christianity is a life-long pilgrimage from an outer dimness into the bright, central, shining place that is the love of God. Why wait until we are dead to go into the light? Why not follow the example of Jesus and go into a quiet place, away from the distractions and the people pressuring and crowding our lives, and take time to contemplate God's love? And then, when re-energized and re-empowered, follow Jesus back into the crowds, shining God's love toward everyone, because whether or not they or we deserve it, God's love is simply there for the taking.

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, Mary Malzkuhn

Eucharistic Visitors: Ed Knight, Ginny Lindsay

Altar Guild: Christina Duley, Ed Knight, Mae Mullen

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:

Tellers: Ed Knight, 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. Ron Sutcliffe

ST. BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE DEAF

6701 Wisconsin Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD. 20815

Vicar: The Rev Barbara A. Allen

Office 301-907-9740 Videophone
Office 301-907-2955 V/TTY
301-907-7855 V/TTY
cell (via 711 Relay): 301-755-4346
text messaging: 301-755-4346
E-mail: revbaallen@aol.com or
DeafEpiscopal@aol.com

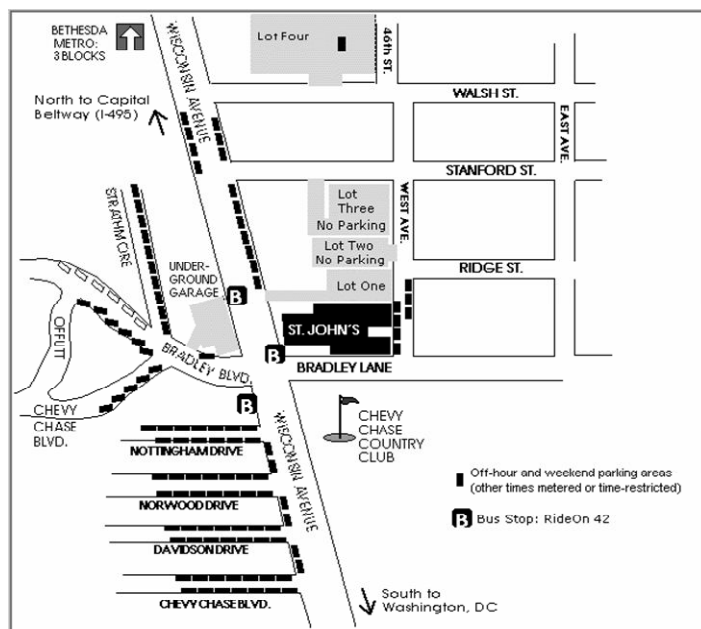
Senior Warden: Tom Hattaway,
ThomasHattaway@aol.com

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

ON THE WEB AT
STBARNABASDEAF.EDOW.ORG

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 OFFICE
HOURS ARE: 1-5 PM ON WEDS.
SUPPER AND DISCUSSION GROUP IS
5:30 PM EVERY WED. DURING
ACADEMIC YEAR, 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*