

ST.BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE DEAF

THE MESSENGER

June / August 2007

A congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington



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Episcopal Conference of the Deaf leaders (including our Vicar) met with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, **the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori**, on May 22nd in New York City — story on page 4. Photo courtesy of **the Rev. Roy Brown**.

(L-R: **Mr. David Early**, **Mrs. Cass Martensen**, **the Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering**, **the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori**, **the Rev. Dr. Virginia Nagel**, **the Rev. Dcn. Bill Mosier**, **the Rev. Barbara A. Allen**, and **Mrs. Sandra Pickering**)

We are planning the following activities for this Fall with dates to be announced:

1. Presentation by **Joshua Somers** of his mission trip to Honduras.
 2. Children's classes to begin.
 3. Children's sermon on Sunday mornings
 4. Beginning the first Sunday of Advent - Renew the book study on *The Misunderstood Jew*.
(This will last the four Sundays in Advent)
1. Music for our worship is being discussed with two of our own members who are musicians.
 2. Survey on changing the format of our worship services.
 3. Presentation by Evercare Hospice on accessibility for deaf/hard of hearing persons.

The next Mission Committee meeting will be on August 26, 2007 following the morning worship.

Annual Parish Meeting May 20

Present at the meeting: **the Rev. Barbara Allen**, Vicar, **Ginny Lindsay, Jim Lindsay, Steve Holst, Tom Hattaway**, Vice-Chair, **Shelly Simms and Beth Hill**.

Visitors: **Cass Martensen**, Member at Large of ECD Board From San Diego, CA

Vice Chairperson: **Tom Hattaway** was elected to continue as Vice Chairperson for another two year term

New member at Large: **Shirley Zimmerman** was elected to a two year term

Other Members at Large presently serving are: **Ed Knight, Ginny Lindsay and Steve Holst**.

Tom moved that we donate \$500 to St. Johns for "Lift High the Cross Capital Campaign". Motion carried.

Tom moved that we donate \$100 to "Bishop's Appeal". Motion carried. Ginny moved that we donate \$100 to Washington National Cathedral Challenge. Motion carried.

Welcome back to Kiombo Nsumbu

Kiombo went to The Congo to visit family from May 30 to July 5. Kiombo continues his studies at Gallaudet and will graduate next year with an MA in International Development with a Focus on People with Disabilities. Kiombo says he will visit the USAID office in D.C. to get advice on finding an internship in The Congo. He went to the USAID office in The Congo and they referred him back to Washington D.C. office.

Also, Kiombo recently became engaged to his girlfriend **Brett Best**. Best wishes to Kiombo and Brett!

Lindsay Anniversary Celebration on June 17

On June 17, **Jim and Ginny Lindsay** celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary with their family including daughter **Kathy** and son **Gavin** and their spouses. Their other son **Andy** and his wife could not come because they are busy with their newborn baby. Jim and Ginny are now grandparents, another reason to celebrate. On July 15 Jim and Ginny attended their new granddaughter's baptism in the state of Virginia. Congratulations to Jim and Ginny!



The Rev. Virginia Nagel receives Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree on May 19

Report by **the Rev. Barbara Allen**

On May 19, 2007 I was privileged to attend the Eighty-Second Annual Commencement at Palmer Theological Seminary in Wynnwood, PA. When our own **Rev. Virginia Nagel** graduated from there it was called East Baptist Seminary. For those who may not know Rev. Nagel was the first deaf woman to be ordained to the priesthood in the church.

I attended with **the Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering**, his wife, **Sandra**, and, of course, **Buffy** the dog. Roger and Sandra are long times friends of Rev. Nagel whom we all affectionately know as "Ginger". In fact, Ginger received her call to ordination from Roger's congregation, All Souls' Church for the Deaf in Philadelphia. All Souls' recommended her for ordination and Roger was her mentor.

The seminary conferred upon Ginger an Honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. It was an exciting day! It began with a delicious breakfast buffet to honor Ginger and one other person who was also receiving an honorary degree. Ginger's family was present including her husband, **Bob**, to whom she gave recognition for his years of support of her ministry. Several of her former professors spoke glowing words of her influence on them and on the seminary. They emphasized how she had educated them on the deaf world and deaf culture helping them to realize a rich area of potential pastors and teachers of which they had not been aware.

We moved from the seminary campus to a huge Baptist church nearby where the actual graduation service was held. Interpreters were provided. It was a beautiful and impressive ceremony. We watched with pride as Ginger stepped to the podium and received her red stole and her degree. Then she spoke words of gratitude for her years of education at Palmer and to those who had been such an integral part of her call, her education and her ordination. She also graciously thanked those who have been supportive to her "circuit-riding" parish ministry in Central New York for many years.

A brief biographical sketch was included in the program. This is being reprinted below.

The Reverend Virginia Nagel was born in 1939 in Schenectady, New York. As a young child, she developed a severe case of pneumonia, which turned into meningitis. Because penicillin was scarce — and most of what was available went to the military — her disease went largely untreated. Her doctor was able to get enough medication to save her life, but not her hearing.

Having grown up on her grandparent's farm, she went on to become the first deaf person to earn a Regents Scholarship in the state of New York. She graduated from high school at the age of 16 and went on to Gallaudet College, from which she graduated in 1959 with a degree in biochemistry. In the 1960s she worked at the V.A. hospital and Albany Medical Center in Albany, New York, first as a biochemist and later as a cardiac surgery technician. She was part of a group that developed the concept of coronary artery grafts (now known as the Vineberg procedure.)

After developing an allergy to chemicals, she went to computer school after which she began a position with a Philadelphia law firm. Shortly after the death of her oldest son in 1981 at the age of 22, she sought ordination. She graduated from Eastern School of Christian Ministry in 1985 and in 1988 graduated from the Seminary with her Master of Divinity degree.

Since that time, she has served a circuit-riding parish in Central New York, where she ministers to 11 small congregations of deaf persons. Says Bishop of Albany Daniel W. Herzog, "[Rev. Nagel's] ministry in the Diocese of Albany and the Diocese of Central New York has covered thousands of miles and touched innumerable lives. She is a loving witness to faithful and fruitful pastoral care."

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF LEADERS MET WITH THE PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, THE MOST REV. KATHARINE JEFFERTS SCHORI, ON MAY 22ND IN NEW YORK CITY

By **The Rev Dcn Bill Mosier**, President of The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf

The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf met with **the Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori**, May 22nd, 2007. This meeting was arranged with the goal of defining this ministry and addressing specific barriers for this work in the Episcopal Church. We had representatives from San Diego, CA- Philadelphia, PA- Syracuse, NY- Monmouth, OR- St. Louis, MO and Washington DC.

Our goals were to inform her about the variety of types of ministry with Deaf People. We also wanted to introduce the concept that this is not a ministry to people with a disability, but a ministry of people of a different culture. Much like Hispanic Ministry, the ministry with deaf people is dependent upon the language. Although Deaf People may, indeed, have physical disabilities, the major accessibility issue is one of communication. Communication is vital for Deaf people to have a relationship with God and God's people.

We asked that video materials produced by the office at 815 be captioned for deaf and hard of hearing people. (*Editor's note: 815 refers to The Episcopal Church Center, at 815 Second Avenue in New York.*)

We also stressed the need for captions on teaching materials published and used throughout the Church and yet remain inaccessible to the deaf community because they are not captioned. Modern technology makes it possible to easily provide captions with video media at a very low cost.

Another goal was to reestablish liaison with the offices of the National Church. The Episcopal Conference of the Deaf is a support for ministries of deaf people throughout the Episcopal Church. This liaison would permit an interaction between the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf and administration of the ECUSA at 815.

The Episcopal Church was the first church of any denomination to ordain a deaf priest. This history is largely unknown by most of the Church. The ministry with deaf people was built on a foundation established by **the Rev. Thomas Gallaudet** 150 years ago. In that time things have changed greatly. The Church no longer has the option of working with deaf students in state schools. Many established churches of the Deaf have struggled for lack of new membership. Deaf Ministry is in the process of reinventing itself in the Episcopal Church.

In addition, qualified deaf men and woman often do not have access to seminary training because of a lack of funding for interpreters .

All of this and more was presented to the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. She listened to us graciously and responded in meaningful ways. We came away feeling very positive about the possibilities of working with 815 to help us build up the ministry with Deaf People.

The Rev. Dcn Bill Mosier

THE PASTOR'S CORNER:

Summer brings a kind of nostalgia for me. I begin to mentally travel back to my childhood in Texas and Oklahoma. That, of course, was in the "caveman days" according to my children. Big grin!! I remember playing outside all day long. The sun was hot but the air was somehow life-giving even though sultry at times. It was such fun to just be a child and have no worries or cares. My life was managed by others, my parents, teachers and other family members.

Now I am "all grown up" and am responsible for myself. I have decisions to make that will effect the rest of my life and that is sometimes very scary. Suppose I make the wrong decision? Suppose I fail in an effort that I really thought was the right choice? Who is responsible then? ME!! Yes, I am responsible for all my decisions. If I don't take care of my responsibilities at home and at church then they are left undone.

We are planning some new things for St. Barnabas' to begin this Fall. They will require church members to accept responsibility for their success. I am hoping that many of you who receive this newsletter will respond with a big "YES!!!" saying that you want to help St. Barnabas' grow. It would be wonderful if I received e-mails from you volunteering for service! This would mean that the Holy Spirit truly lives within you and that you are listening to God's call to you to help spread God's Kingdom to the Deaf Community. That is the way God intended. Jesus said he would not leave the disciples (meaning us, too) without help and a Comforter. To whom do you "listen" when you are making decisions? Jesus said that we are to "become as little children" meaning "listen to God and follow God's leading" as we did as children with our parents, family and teachers .

I am looking forward to our new ideas and work in the Fall.

May God's peace and the power if the Holy Spirit fill you today and always is my prayer,

Barbara+



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DISCIPLES
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Metro Washington Association of the Deaf-Blind Fall 2007 Events

Volunteers needed! To volunteer as SSP/Ride: contact Bruce Denhart, SSP Coordinator, e-mail address: bdenh75955@aol.com. (SSP means Support Service Provider and is someone who helps a deaf-blind person.)

Sat. September 15: 3:00-5:00 pm. Tour of International Spy Museum. Location: 800 F Street NW, Washington, D,C Meet at the lobby at 2:45 pm. Metro stop at Gallery Place-Chinatown (Make sure you use 9th Street exit.) This museum has a self guided tour using a closed captioning system. Admission: Sixteen dollars per person.

Sat. October 13: 3:00-8:00 pm. Dinner and Guest Speaker: Guest speaker, Jamie McNamara Pope, Executive Director of American Association of the Deaf-blind. Location: Flex A, Student Academic Center, Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Ave. NE, Washington, D.C. Her presentation will be "Putting Your Best Hand Forward: Tips to Developing Successful Leadership." Dinner will be served.

EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF THE DEAF CONFERENCE ON MINISTRY JUNE 12-15, 2007

This Conference was held in St. Louis, MO at the Pallottine Renewal Center, site of the 2005 ECD Convention. Photos courtesy of the Rev. Marilyle Sweet Page



The Rev. Dr. Roger Pickering and Sandra Pickering smile for the camera.



The Rev. Dcn. William Mosier, President of the ECD Board and the Rev. David Vryhof, SSJE, share a laugh.



L: the Rev. Marilyle Sweet Page - Vicar of Ephphatha Church for the Deaf - Rochester, NY

R: the new Missioner to the Deaf in the Diocese of Rochester, Suzanne Johnson. Suzanne is studying in a diaconal program at Bexley Hall Seminary in Rochester



The Rev. Arthur O. Steidemmann - Retired priest who's parents were deaf and whose father was the priest of St. Thomas Church for the Deaf in St. Louis. Arthur has been the steadfast mentor of the ECD for many years.



The Rev. Roy Brown hard at work at his laptop

EVERCARE HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE — NEW DEAF-AWARE PROGRAM

The mission of Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care is to provide compassionate, individualized end of life services to patients and families. Hospice patients have been told by their doctor that they have a terminal disease and that they will probably live less than six months because of their disease. The patients have made the decision that the quality of life remaining is more important than the length of time. Evercare Hospice assists through pain and symptom management and providing support services through nurses, home health aides, social workers, spiritual support and volunteers. Hospice also provides spiritual and emotional support for patient's families for 13 months after the patient's death. Evercare Hospice, which cares for patients in Montgomery, Baltimore and Prince Georges Counties in Maryland, recently had its first Deaf patient. The Evercare Hospice staff soon realized that providing emotional and spiritual support for a Deaf patient has to happen differently than for a hearing patient. The needs are the same but the manner of delivery is very different and communication does not happen the way hearing folks usually think it will. They learned that English is very much a second language and that asking a sick Deaf person to write questions and answers does not work well for that patient.

After a lot of research and conversations with people in the Deaf community, Evercare Hospice has begun to develop a Deaf-aware program for patients, staff and volunteers. In addition to providing an ASL certified interpreter whenever a hospice staff member makes a visit, Evercare Hospice is also developing a strong Deaf volunteer program. Hospice volunteers visit patients, provide communication and comfort as well as emotional support. The purpose of a Deaf volunteer program is to make Deaf individuals available to provide this support for Deaf patients in hospice. Evercare Hospice provides training for all volunteers. In the new program, Deaf trainers (or individuals who are CODAs or who have a deep understanding of the Deaf culture) will train Deaf volunteers. Evercare Hospice is also working to make the current training materials more Deaf-friendly and appropriate for training Deaf people. All Evercare Hospice volunteer meetings, and general Evercare Hospice programs such as the annual Bereavement Program, will be ASL signed. In addition to the Deaf volunteer program, Evercare Hospice is reaching out to Deaf organizations in the community to help people understand what hospice is, how it helps and how to access it. Recently, the Evercare Hospice Volunteer Coordinator, Maurie Mullen, assisted by a Deaf volunteer, Holly Roth of Gallaudet, spoke to the Maryland chapter of Deaf Seniors of America. Dr. Gary Wilks, the Evercare Hospice Medical Director, will be doing similar presentations here at the church in the fall.

If you are interested in volunteering with Evercare Hospice, or if you know someone who needs hospice, please call Maurie Mullen at 800-543-0696.

St. Barnabas Mission Committee:

Chair: The Rev. Barbara A. Allen

Officers elected during odd-numbered years:

Vice-Chair: Tom Hattaway

Members-at-large: Ed Knight, Shirley Zimmerman

Officers elected during even-numbered years

Secretary: Wendy Ikezawa-Kohashi

Treasurer: Jim Lindsay

Members-at-large: Ginny Lindsay, Steve Holst

Newsletter Co-Editors: Ed Knight, the Rev. Barbara A. Allen

ST.BARNABAS' EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF THE DEAF

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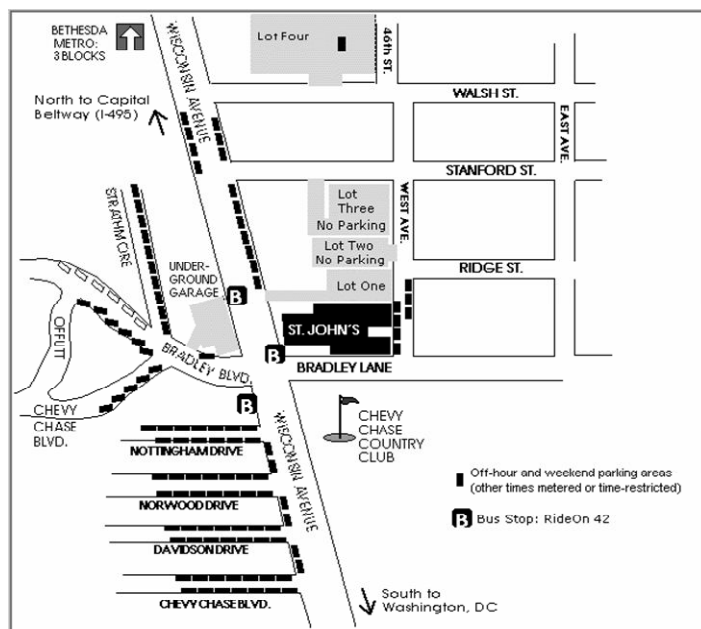
Senior Warden: Tom Hattaway,
ThomasHattaway@aol.com

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

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*