



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Advent Newsletter 2014

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Dear Friends,

We are approaching the time of our belonging. For a few weeks, we will wait through the anticipation of Advent, being pulled back so we don't miss something that could slip by in a rush. While most of the culture will be accelerating through the season as if it were a race, we will be slowing down a bit in our worship. There is a lot to think about as we approach our Christmas celebration.

Try this as a metaphor for Advent: As many will be speeding and honking their car horns at one another in search of the biggest and best deals, picture yourself deciding to walk instead. I have to admit that I am not the biggest "walker" in the neighborhood. I have a tendency to be that person who rushes from one appointment or commitment to another with the windows rolled up, making phone calls with a Bluetooth assist. I hear almost nothing other than sounds of my own obsessions. I see what is coming up, but my goal isn't to know anything about it either. As long as I can avoid hitting it, I can stay in my cocoon. Mostly, I'm successful. However, I could tell you little about the drive other than how long it took. I suppose it's time I started to walk.

If I walk slowly, I could be reminded to consider my ultimate hope for the world and myself as I hear Jesus tell me to make every moment count. Since we don't know the end, we must make the present moment precious. If I walk slowly, I might hear John the Baptist's urging that we prepare ourselves to receive the great gift of belonging and hope which God is offering. If I walk slowly, I might hear John the Baptist humbly acknowledge that he isn't the one and doesn't have to change the world by himself. The one who is coming after will teach us to do that together. If I walk slowly, I might hear the angel of God telling Mary that she is loved beyond measure. She will hear that she is about to bring hope into the world. In this Hope, nothing will be impossible.

This slow and thoughtful walk will lead to the gift we all await. That gift is the joining together of the divine and the human, the perfect and the broken. God will claim a place in the world, in every heart, every hope, and every struggle. This God will unite the rich and the poor, the young and the old, the able bodied and the disabled, the red and yellow, the black and the white. God will be present in our joy and our suffering, our success and our failure, in our lives and in our death. God will belong with us, and we will belong with God.

Please take a walk this month. If you have time, take several. Please let go of your noise and listen to this beautiful and tragic world. As we celebrate the incarnation of God into the world, look and listen for the God who is present in all the world. Please know that I remain...

Yours in Christ,

Randall+

<http://youtu.be/XR5vupwpRJc>

Advent in a Nutshell

I know that many of us are reacting negatively to the early onslaught of Christmas advertising. I even boycotted the bold brew from my coffee shop for a bit, because it was labeled "Christmas Blend". Alas, I have caved. One of the reasons is that I have to begin talking about Christmas myself as we prepare. St. Barnabas hopes to be a central part of your Holiday activities. We will have fun for all ages. Come one; come all! Ladies, gentlemen, and youth of all ages, you will be amazed and astounded. Take a gander at all of this:

December 2, 16, 19, & 30 – Latino Community Services. Please refer to the notice available in this newsletter for times and locations.

November 23 & 30 - Advent Candle making during Sunday School (9:30 a.m.) Wax will be supplied. Please bring whatever forms/molds you would like to use.

November 30; December 7, 14, & 21 – Sunday School discussions of the Advent lectionary.

December 3, 10, & 17 - Music followed by Wine & Cheese gathering. Of course, non-alcoholic beverages will be included. David Long and the Early Music Society are currently scheduled.

December 6 – Shopping at 10,000 Villages from 6 – 8 p.m. St. Barnabas will receive 10% of all sales! It's a great opportunity to buy Christmas presents and support the parish.

December 7 – Holiday Dinner in the Parish Hall after the 10:30 service. You know the quality of our cooks. Don't miss it.

December 14 – Our Annual Parish Meeting immediately following a "streamlined" 10:30 service. We will discuss parish health and elect 3 new Vestry Members. Please do consider serving or nominating someone to serve on the Vestry.

December 23 - Decorating for Christmas from 4-6 p.m.

Christmas Service – December 24 at 6:30 p.m. (There will not be a service Christmas Day.)

Please remember in your prayers: John, Ann, Tom, Kevin, and Timothy Knapp, Roger McFarland, Marvin Aycock, Cassie McKee, Stephen, Betty Brown, Jin Joe White, Robbin Bach, Jennifer Niven, Davilynn Furlow, Carla Morgan, Herbert Menendez, Jenny Smith, Lydia James, Warren Wilson, Blanca Ruiz, Julie Newell, Monica Franco, Lucy Acosta, Jeremy Wood, Mary Sayers Green, Carter Cummings, John, Charlie & Cheryl Kail, Carol, Pam Bello, James Clark, Patricia McTavish, Bill Shives, Myra, Grace Prevatt, Kelley Rich, Jenene Edwards & Family, Liz Warren, Imogene Long, Jean Olmstead, Peggy Reeve, Ali Broshar, William Olson, Rose Mertz. For those who are in wheelchairs and for the caregivers of the sick. For those who have died: Rita Knapp.

Vestry Meetings

We have gone back to a meeting time of 4:00 PM on the second Wednesday of the month. **Our next Vestry meeting will be Wednesday, December 10th.**

Church Website

There's a new look to the church website. It's simpler, visually cleaner perhaps, and it's designed to work in concert with our Facebook page. You might notice that some of the pages still need information - and the hope is that the information might come from you, the church members.

What are you involved with, inside St. Barnabas and out in the wider community? Please let your web administrator, Tony Davies, know. 336-286-3978 or tony@daviespubs.com. Photos welcome.



Latino Community Services

The following weeks are currently scheduled as follows:

Tues, Dec. 2 - Advent 1

When: 6:00 PM

Where: Garays' home (329 Montrose Dr., Apt C, GSO 27407)

Please bring a potluck dish to share after the service.

Tues, Dec. 16 - Las Posadas

When: 6:00 PM

Where: Garays' home (329 Montrose Dr., Apt C, GSO 27407)

Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Fri, Dec. 19 - Las Posadas

When: 6:00 PM

Where: Riveras' home (312 Montrose Dr., Apt H, GSO 27407)

Please bring a potluck dish to share.

Tues, Dec 30 - The Holy Innocents

Community-wide vigil and service ~ violence against children and young people

When: 6:00 PM

Where: TBA

A Friendly Reminder from your Stewardship Committee

To everyone who has already turned in a pledge form, many thanks!

We would very much like to get the canvass finished by Thanksgiving, so if the pledge form is still at your house, please think about it, pray about it, and send it back as soon as possible. Even if you don't intend to pledge, we'd like to know.

If you can't exactly put your hands on the pledge form any more, please call the church office, and we'll get one to you.

Your turkey will taste a little better!

Thanks again,
Allen Rembert
Nancy Poulos
Betty Priestley
Tony Davies



Ecumenical Celebration of Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 23, 2014, 4:00-5:00 PM
Dana Auditorium at Guilford College

There will be Hindu and Buddhist dancers and music from around the world as we are celebrating the theme of "Oneness".

Advent Music – December 17th

The Triad Early Music Society will play at St. Barnabas on December 17th (*time to be announced later*).

The More The Merrier

Holiday Luncheon - Sunday, December 7, 2014, immediately following the 10:30 am service. A delicious array of food will be served for your enjoyment (donation only). Please invite family and friends. As is written "the more the merrier". Come prepared for fun!!



Christmas Service
December 24th @ 6:30 PM

No service Christmas Day.

What a Deal! – Don't Miss Out!

The "Attractions" coupon books are still available, and better than ever. ***We would like to encourage everyone to take a book to sell to family, friends, or co-workers.*** At \$25 cheap, you get \$10 to \$15 coupons to thirty of your favorite restaurants (like Liberty Oak, Positano, Café Pasta, Bravo, Mayflower). There are also hundreds of fast food "buy one, get one free" coupons to places like Elizabeth's Pizza, Qdoba, Papa John's, Penn Station, Salsarita's, and even Hardees and Burger King. If that's not enough, it offers 20% off coupons at stores like Walgreens and Ace Hardware (which are redeemable at Home Depot and Lowe's), and up to \$25 towards a Sam's Club membership. Don't let this opportunity pass you by. They also make great birthday and Christmas gifts. This is a perfect opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping.

Trash/ Recycling Volunteers

Thanks to our volunteers who take trash/recycling to the street for Tuesday morning pickup and return cans afterwards. Thanks to Tony Davies, our November volunteer. Also thanks to Jack Alford for signing up for the month of December.

A volunteer is needed for January. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board if you are interested in helping.



November Birthdays

- 4th – Rose Whitman
- 15th – Mary Lee Rembert
- 23rd – Betty Priestley

December Birthdays

- 7th – Sam Heroy
- 9th – Leslie Bland
- 14th – Tony Lynch
- 17th – Dolores Wieselquist
- 19th Samantha Taylordean
- 21st – Alex Heroy
- 23rd – Anne Carter



When you are buying groceries you can do a lot of good by bringing home something to donate. Please select one or more canned or non-perishable food items:

- ✓ **Protein Sources** such as canned tuna, salmon, beef stew, soups, Spam, and peanut butter.
- ✓ **Canned Vegetables** such as greens (turnip, collard, mixed greens), mixed vegetables, peas, tomatoes, corn, and green beans.
- ✓ **Canned Fruits**
- ✓ **Misc. Items** such as dry milk, oatmeal, cereal, macaroni & cheese.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Christmas Poinsettia Contribution Form



Please put this slip and your contribution in the collection plate or mail to the church by **Sunday, December 21st**. Checks may be made out to "St. Barnabas Church," indicating "For Poinsettias." Thank you!

Forms are also located on the welcoming table.

I / We would like to contribute to the Christmas Poinsettias.

(Please Print.)

Name/Names of Donor

Contribution Amount \$ _____

I wish to give my gift in:

Thanksgiving For _____

Honor Of _____

Memory Of
