



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

December 2011- January 2012 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

In just a few days, we will proclaim and celebrate God's absolute and unconditional embrace of the Human Family in the Incarnation. While we might question God's discretion in becoming so intimately involved with such an unsavory bunch, we will proclaim it, claim it, celebrate it, and consider our response to such a thing. Many will focus their attention on the cute baby swaddled in the manger with his mother, "adoptive" father, Wise Men, shepherds, angelic choirs, and livestock surrounding him. We, and others around the globe, will be trying to consider and reconsider how this event and idea affects our relationships with God, one another, the wider human family, and the creation. The Incarnation's implications are great, both for good and for bad.

Taken wrongly, we might see this event as the first step in a process of individual personal salvation. The idea is that, if we had been there, we would have recognized this baby's significance and been on the "right side of history". We would see ourselves as "the good guys" who surrounded the child, brought gifts, and generally worshipped at the feet of God, enfleshed. We would consider Herod and all those who feared this event as "the bad guys" who would attempt to kill the child, would run his family into exile, and hound him throughout his life until they attained their ultimate goal. We would see this event as the first chapter of a story that would divide the Human Family into the good and the bad, the washed and the great unwashed, Christ followers and Christ deniers. Finally, we would ask ourselves and others which camp we and they fit in making determinations about ourselves and others based on the answer.

On the other hand, we might consider the story in another way. We might see it as promise of God's claim of us. We might see this as the act of a loving

parent who embraces without requirement, without condition, without qualification. What if what we celebrate this month might be more of a declaration of fact rather than an offer awaiting a response? It would seem to me that the Incarnation is a declaration of promise, embrace, and relationship. Could it be that God has absolutely claimed us as children of One Creator, as brothers and sisters in One Family, as gifts from One Source? Could it be that God has entered the world in order to claim it all and has begun to teach us that there is no longer "us and them"? We are One People with One Source whose future depends on our relationships and our unity rather than our power or our winning. Could it All be about relationships instead of science or power or knowledge or wealth or poverty?

As I write this, I am preparing to go downtown. You see, tonight is the swearing in of our new Mayor and City Council. As many of you know, Bishop Marble, others, and I have become very involved with Greensboro politics over the last few years. We have challenged our local government to be a government for all of Greensboro's citizens particularly the poor and disenfranchised. The last round of local elections was something we had been working toward for months. While many of us didn't actually endorse anyone, I feel pretty sure most of you have a general idea of who we were hoping would be elected. Guess what. Most of them were. So tonight, I and many others will be there when Robbie Perkins is sworn in as Mayor, and Yvonne Johnson (Episcopalian and Member of Holy Spirit), Mary Kay Abuzuaiter, Nancy Hoffman, and others are sworn in as Council Members. It will be a night of celebration. It will be a night when many of us will find ourselves on the inside looking out instead of

being on the outside looking in. It will be a night of affirmation and the assumption of leadership for many in Greensboro who have felt irrelevant in the past.

Just before going to the City Hall, I will be at the Federal Courthouse where Jorge Cornell and 12 of his Latin King and Queen brothers and sisters will have their first hearing after being arrested on “Racketeering” charges. Many of you know Jorge, his family, and some of the other Latin King and Queens. Most of you know that I consider Jorge to be a friend and coworker in our work toward social justice. When others and I go down to the courthouse to be with Jorge, some in the community might view us negatively. Without any knowledge of more specific charges or their merit, I do believe the Federal Case will be serious. As it has been over the past few years, there will be a lot of pressure to walk away from him as if he had been a “project of redemption” that simply didn’t work out. He will be defined as a criminal and held up for conviction, incarceration, and rejection by the government and the culture. Many of us who have supported and loved him in the past will have to decide whether we can continue to support and love him now and in the future.

I would like to suggest to you that the event we celebrate this month marks God’s answer. Rather than claiming either the established or the disestablished, the rich or the poor, the powerful or the powerless, the celebrated or the ridiculed, God seems to have claimed us all together and bound us together as brothers and sisters. As much I want to claim and celebrate those elected to our City Council, I must claim and love Jorge and his brothers and sisters who may face decades in prison. I, and all of us who recognize Jesus as our Messiah, have no choice if we indeed want to follow him. We must consider and come to know all to be our brothers and sisters. We must hold onto all of them and work to bring them all to the table with God and us. God became Human; God took Humanity into the Divine. And as we all know, Humanity can be a messy bunch.

I’m reminded of a story by Theophane the Monk, who served a monastery in Snowmass, Colorado. He writes about a man who attempted with some success to be a person of honor, integrity, and faith. After his death, he approached the throne of God. As he looked on the face of God, he knew that he was loved completely. He had no doubt that God wanted and adored him. When God spoke, only

one question was asked. “Where are the Others?” You see, God didn’t become Human to embrace you or me. God became Human to embrace us, them, and the others. Love your family, love your friends, love your enemies, love those who hurt you, love those who heal you, love those who inspire you, love those who scare you. Together, we will enter into the heart of God. Please know that I remain yours in Christ. Merry Christmas to all.

Randall +

Deacon’s Dialogue:

During Advent our Sunday School classes—for all ages—will reflect on our commitment to preventing homelessness in our community.

On December 4, we will pray for those who have lost their homes. When we’ve been traveling—or just had a long day—we are so glad to get home, where we can relax in a familiar, welcoming, and safe environment, alone or with our families. Now imagine not having a home to come “home” to, not having a place where we belong. Not having the physical or emotional safety of a dry roof, strong walls, secure doors. Over 1700 children in the Guilford County schools are known to be homeless—not counting the pre-schoolers and those who don’t tell anyone that they have lost housing; how can they grow up confident and healthy? When we are sick, we may just want to stay home and rest; imagine being sick with no home and no rest.

On December 11 we will prepare packages for homeless prevention groups to distribute to people experiencing homelessness. Please bring *new* gloves, hats, scarves, and socks to provide at least some protection from the cold. Small gifts for children and new packages of underwear (various sizes, men’s, women’s, children’s) will be great, too. On December 18 we will learn about the programs that are helping people keep a roof over their heads and about policies that make it easier—or harder—to have suitable housing so that we can be effective advocates for ending homelessness. Greensboro Housing Coalition (GHC) has helped nearly 350 households to move from homelessness into housing or to prevent eviction in the past 2 years through case management and temporary rental payments. GHC also helps unemployed homeowners apply for state assistance paying their mortgages while they search for new jobs. But the funding for homeless prevention is coming to an

end, mortgage lenders are slow to respond to distressed homeowners, and political voices are louder about cutting spending and regulation than about fair treatment of those crushed by the economy.

And on December 21, the longest night of the year, all are invited to the Homeless Persons Memorial service to remember those who have died in the past year. Join me in the walk from the Interactive Resource Center to Grace Community Church (gathering at 4:15) or meet us at Grace (643 W. Lee St) at 5:30 for the service.

Remember—EVERY Tuesday morning Episcopalians and friends prepare breakfast at Weaver House shelter. We don't have to wait for Advent for that.

Talk to me! Beth

Please remember in your prayers: Pam Myers, Ann Keeney, Vera, Apryl, & James, the families of Gerry Whalen and Joseph A. Manning III, Randall Keeney, Christopher Wolfe, Liz Warren, Warren Wilson, Helen & Clarence Parker, Sheri & Jack Martin, the Ibarra family, Erica Trivette, Imogene Long, James Smith, Charles Miller, Timothy Best, Jean Olmstead, Jimmy Estes, Anne McKee, Christian Giron, Roger McFarland, Peggy Reeve, Thornton Wierum, Emily Warwick, Renee & Tuck Tucker, Ali Broshar, Lola & Leonard Goff, William Olson, Lee Kallam, Rose Mertz, Ron Tellier, Eric Wright, and for the caregivers of the sick. For those who have died: Gerry Whalen, Joseph A. Manning III.

If you would like to have someone or something listed for prayer, please call or email the parish (294-1282 or stbarnabas@clearwire.net).

Greening and Grazing - December 18



Enjoy some finger foods and listen to Christmas music, and help decorate the church immediately following the 10:30 AM service.

Cookie Jar Raffle

The St. Barnabas Women's Group is having a Cookie Jar Raffle (filled with Christmas Sugar Cookies). The drawing will be held Sunday, December 18. Tickets are \$1.00 with the proceeds going to the Group's Benevolent Fund.



Christmas Eve Service December 24th at 6:00 PM

As you know, Christmas is on a Sunday this year. The good news is that if you come to the Christmas Eve Service, you are excused from services on Sunday, December 25, 2011. Please do come on Christmas Eve and help make our celebration of Christ's Birth the wonderful event it should be.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 8, 2012. The Calendar of Events currently shows a Pot Luck to follow. We will keep you updated.

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Please help! The Altar Guild here at St. Barnabas" is in great need of members! We are down to three members. If you think you might have time to help us, please call Anna Heroy at 430-7120.

Embracing a Mature Faith beginning @ 6:30 pm on January 11, 2012

On Wednesday, January 11, 2012, we will begin a new adult program called "Embracing an Adult Faith" by Marcus Borg. If you ever wanted an opportunity to ask the questions you have been afraid to ask in the past, this is your opportunity. Marcus Borg isn't afraid to engage the historic doctrines of the Christian Church in new ways. Please do consider coming.

196th Annual Diocesan Convention

Friday, January 20, 2012 - Saturday, January 21, 2012, Location: Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem NC

News on the Minister's Schedule for St. Barnabas

Just wanted to send some new information your way about the Monthly Minister's Schedule. We are going to have the schedule formatted on a Monthly Template for ease of use for both the parish office, and participants. I will be checking with all of you on the current schedule during the next month to see if you still want to serve and if the Sunday you're scheduled for is convenient for you. I know that there have been some changes recently with people not being able to serve for a variety of reasons; illness, travel away from Greensboro, etc.

Once I've completed those phone calls, I'll make up a monthly schedule that we will use from month to month. It may be helpful, if you have a last minute change in your schedule, to call another person on the schedule to fill in for you in your absence. Once I make up the schedule template, I will also email or send you all a list of the people on the schedule so you can have those names handy if you need to make a last minute change.

As always, if I can be of help in answering any of your questions, or If you need the readings in a Larger Print format, let me know that and arrangements can be made to get those readings to you. You all have been GREAT and I really appreciate your help in fine tuning the schedule. You can reach me at: (336) 662-3902 Phone or at lrblan105@gmail.com

Leslie Bland, Minister's Coordinator



It's Not Too Late To Join!!!

There's still time to join the group. **ALL ages are welcome** as we prepare some special Advent and Christmas music. The hand chimes are very easy to play.

Please join me in what will be the new parlor (formerly the Godly Play Room) after the 10:30 service for a short practice.

Betty B.

LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Please save your Labels for Education and bring them to church with you. We donate the labels to Thompson Child & Family Focus in Charlotte.

Thompson Child & Family Focus was founded in 1886 by the Episcopal Church of North Carolina and was a home for orphans until the 1970's. Today, Thompson provides a continuum of treatment and care to children who have suffered abuse or neglect and have emotional and/or behavioral disorders. This is Thompson's 125th anniversary!

Labels are found on **Campbell's** Soups, Tomato and V-8 Juices, Beans, Gravies & Spaghettios; **Pepperidge Farm** Breads, Goldfish, Cookies and Crackers; **Post** Cereals; **Swanson** Broths; **Dannon** products; **Emerald** Nuts and products; **Glad** Plastic Containers, Bags and Wraps; **BIC** Products; and the following magazines: *People*, *Real Simple*, *Time*, *Cooking Light*, *Southern Living*, *Health* and *All You*.

Please save the entire label with barcode intact.

Thompson appreciates all the labels we send them!

Marcia House is our contact person.

The Neatener's

We need some help in keeping St. Barnabas facilities uncluttered and neat. The more our buildings are used by the community, the more we need to pay attention to keeping things in order. If you use the buildings, please to straighten up and try to leave things better than you found them.

Name Tags Starting Again in 2012

We have a lot of new friends. In order to get to know each other, we will begin using Name Tags again at the first of the year. We will try to make them convenient and clothing friendly.

Hauling Resources Available



Lee Kallam now has a truck and is starting a business hauling items. He can be reached by phone at 965-2327.

Attractions Books

We still have a few Attractions Coupon books left on the credenza in the entry foyer. Books are \$25 each.

Checks should be made out to St. Barnabas with notation: "Attractions book(s)".



A Program of Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro

Holiday Cheer Program

Do you belong to a group that is looking for a holiday season project to help someone in need? Our Holiday Cheer Program provides assistance to our patients and families who have limited financial resources and family support. The patients and families are identified by our team of social workers from our Kids Path and Adult Hospice Homecare programs. Patients and families "adopted" by other community charities are not eligible for adoption by our project.

Kids Path is a unique program of Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro that offers supportive Home Health and Hospice care for children facing the challenge of coping with a serious progressive health condition.

Kids Path also offers grief counseling services to children and their families who have experienced grief and loss. Services are provided through individual or group support, in-school education and support, and additional activities designed to help the grieving child. Adult Hospice Homecare patients are adults who have a life-limiting illness and a life expectancy of six months or less. For all our patients, we offer physical, emotional and spiritual care with a goal of enhancing the quality of life for our patients and those who share their lives.

There are several ways in which you can provide assistance through our Holiday Cheer program:

- Adopt a patient and/or their family;
 - Provide gift cards for families to use at the holidays and throughout the year (Wal-mart, Target, grocery, gas cards are always needed). Please earmark for Holiday Cheer;
 - Provide supplies for use at Kids Path (we can provide a list of needed items);
 - Give a donation earmarked for Holiday Cheer.
- Participating groups will receive a family wish list (reviewed by the social worker) no later than Thanksgiving and will bring wrapped gifts to the Kids Path building during the second or third week of December. If you cannot wrap the gifts, we will have a volunteer do it for you. Because many of the patients and clients we serve have compromised immune systems, we ask that all donated items are new; we are unable to accept used toys, stuffed animals, etc.

If you have questions, please contact Cathy Lohr at 544-2274 or clohr@hospicegso.org.

--Submitted by Bill Fincke, HPCG Volunteer

William Mangum Holiday Honor Card 2011

This holiday season, many will honor someone special with the gift of one of these beautiful cards created by artist William Mangum. All proceeds will go to support those in need in our community through the work of Greensboro Urban Ministry.

Honor Cards are available for a minimum donation of \$5 each. All contributions are tax-deductible. Support the homeless and needy.

Honor Cards are available at the following locations:

Barnes & Noble Booksellers, Brown-Gardiner Drug Store, Fleet Plummer, Greensboro Urban Ministry, Leon Style Salons, Scissor Talk, William Mangum Fine Art Gallery

Trash & Recycling Volunteers

We also need to make sure that trash from the kitchen and parish hall is emptied each Sunday and put in the cans so as not to attract bugs or "little critters".

December – Bill Fincke

January – Jack Alford

February – Bill Fincke

A sign-up sheet is located on the main bulletin board.

Parish Mission Board

Please bring small (wallet size or so) pictures of you and/or your loved ones to put on the corkboard just inside the front door. If you don't have a picture to put up, we will have a camera here each Sunday for a while to take pictures. Also, we will have cards for you to fill out describing your work, interests, and service in the community. Hopefully, the board will help us keep up with one another as we grow and help us connect with one another as we live out our lives together.



Thanks for your continued support of The Servant Center. Current needs are for protein sources such as canned tuna, salmon, beef stew, soups, Spam, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, oatmeal, dry milk, and macaroni & cheese. Soups and stews are especially good as the weather turns colder.

Jo Ellen & Roger McFarland



December birthdays

- 7th – Sam Heroy
- 9th – Leslie Bland
- 14th – Tony Lynch
- 15th - Faye Sharpe
- 19th Samantha Taylordean
- 20th – Catherine Reams
- 21st – Alex Heroy

January birthdays

- 3rd – Sandra Ritter
- 4th – John Reams
- 5th – Marcia House

- 11th – Arthur Gardiner
- 15th – John Maddocks
- 22nd – Beth McKee-Huger
- 24th – Bryanna Elizabeth Madera
- 25th – Ridley Smith
- 30th – Rob Heroy
- 30th – Will Saenz, Lori Whitman



January 10th - Luis & Sue Navarro

Christmas Poinsettia Contribution Form



Please put this slip and your contribution in the collection plate or mail to the church by **Sunday, December 18.**

Checks may be made out to "St. Barnabas Church,"

indicating "For Poinsettias." Thank you!

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
