

# The Messenger

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church—Portland Oregon

October 2008

*“Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see”*  
*Hebrews 11:1*



**October 2008**  
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## A Letter from the Rector

An Invitation to Prayer and Conversation:  
 A “Signature Ministry” for St. Barnabas

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

This is a long letter – sorry! – but I think the message is important. I hope you will be patient with me, and read this letter carefully.

When I joined the St. Barnabas team about ten months ago, immediately I discovered how much energy and enthusiasm members bring to our shared mission and ministry. There is a lot of excitement about ministry here, and a lot of good ministry being done. Perhaps the most excitement may be found in the area we usually call “outreach”: concrete efforts to help people beyond the borders of our campus who are in some sort of physical, social, financial, emotional, or spiritual need. Our outreach ministry group is convened by Carolyn Nelson, but the group is full of good leaders who help us touch others with God’s loving hands. Outreach is one of our most successful areas of ministry – perhaps our most successful area.

Largely because outreach has been so successful, we are led to ask: Is God inviting us into something even greater? If outreach is our strength, how can we leverage our strength to create even greater benefit for ourselves and for the world around us?

It strikes me that our rich array of outreach ministries – Undies Sundays, collecting blankets, financially supporting Neighborhood House, to name just three among many – brings us many blessings, and meets significant needs in our community. But there is a challenge, too: at this time, among our many terrific ministries, we do not have a central, easily identifiable, “signature ministry.”

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What do I mean by a “signature ministry”? A signature ministry has all of these attributes:

- it responds to a significant need in the neighborhood, city, or world around us;
- a large proportion of the parish, of every age, participates;
- it provides all of us opportunities for spiritual growth and learning new ministry skills;
- it provides opportunities for evangelism (as we invite others to come join us in our efforts);
- it is so important to the majority of the parish that we organize our parish’s time, resources, and programs in order to complement and support it;
- it is easily and specifically identifiable, both inside and outside the parish.

That last point (about being identifiable) is important. A signature ministry is specific and concrete: not simply “outreach,” but a particular, concrete outreach ministry. We’ll know we have a successful signature ministry when someone asks you about your Sunday plans and you find yourself answering something like this, “I am a member of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church—we’re the ones who [*fill in signature ministry here*].” We’ll know we have a successful signature ministry when someone in your neighborhood discovers you belong to St. Barnabas, and she says, “Oh, St. Barnabas—you’re the ones who [*fill in signature ministry here*].” We’ll know we have a successful signature ministry when new folks walk through our doors saying, “I heard about [*fill in signature ministry here*], and I want to help out.” We’ll know we have a successful signature ministry when a new member says, “St. Barnabas helped me through [*fill in signature ministry here*], and I just stayed here!”

Having a signature ministry is a way to focus and coordinate all that we do—worship, education, service, and evangelism—in a way that maximizes efficiencies and creates synergy. It builds community through a common, shared purpose. It helps keep us focused and unified, and helps prevent becoming scattered and overextended.

I invite each of you to pray and reflect and dream about what sort of signature ministry God might have in mind for us. It might be an enhanced and expanded version of something we already do; or it might be something entirely new. I don’t know what it is—but I’m excited about finding out! Soon we shall plan opportunities for parishioners to start talking in an organized, focused way about our next steps. In the meantime, as always, I welcome your direct feedback and your ideas (tel. 503-246-1949).

Peace,  
Fr. L. D.

## First Fridays – Potluck & Games!

Every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday, 6 PM

Potluck & Game night in Grafe Hall

Please bring the family, your friends, a dish to share, your own dishes & silverware & a game! Let's have fun together !

### When to Call the St. Barnabas Church Office 503-246-1949

- + When a member of your family is in the hospital.
- + When you learn of a death in the church family.
- + When your class, group or committee plans to meet.  
(All meetings MUST be on the calendar)
- + When your address, phone number, or email address has changed, or to use your "Away" address for mailings of the Messenger.
- + When you would like more information or a mailing.
- + When you learn of someone who may be interested in church membership.
- + When you would like Holy Communion brought to you in your home.
- + When you feel we can assist you in any way.



## Birthdays

Colin R	Oct 9
Anne K	Oct 11
Blake P	Oct 13
Sarah W	Oct 14
Alice B	Oct 18
Jane D	Oct 18
Katie N	Oct 22
Amelia E	Oct 23
Emma E	Oct 24
Elaine C	Oct 25
Joshua R	Oct 25
J. J. H	Oct 27
Amelia M	Oct 28
Christina S	Oct 31

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**Deadline: The second Sunday of each month preceding the issue, unless otherwise noted.  
Contributions welcome!**

Messenger Staff: The Rev. L. D. Wood-Hull, Elaine C, Cathie D P,  
Beverly D, Sheila D, Barbara P, Jan S and Doris P; editor.

## The Journey



The world around us can provide a multitude of feelings daily. Sun through the trees or a bird singing may inspire us to smile or hum a tune we love. Like most of you I have had many such moments, a feeling of joy in life and the world around me. But there are also the times of a great sadness in my being. Over the past couple of years I have tried to capture and understand this feeling of sadness. Each time this has happened in the last year part of a Bible verse comes to mind; "Jesus wept."

This is only one verse in the passage from the Gospel of John but it has become the key for my personal understanding of what I have been feeling. It has been slow in coming but the "Light" at the end of this tunnel is Christ. I pray I can explain this part of my journey to you. At this point in John we find Jesus and the disciples outside of Judea. Jesus wanted to return to Judea and Bethany because He knew Lazarus had died. (John 11:17-35) On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside.

"The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. Jesus wept.

This was a very special moment in Jesus' life, He had lost a friend and shared His inner feelings openly. He knew He could ask the Father anything within His will to give and it would be done. But Jesus was also human and felt the same as we do. "He wept." I have asked myself many times now, how many more times did Jesus weep? What would make Jesus weep? Do I feel in the same manner as my Lord? Can I feel as deeply as He did? At this point I believe I do. At the time of this writing there is a lot of sadness and loss in our nation. We all feel this on one level or another within us. It is hard not to. A piece of this sadness I feel, is for the service men and women who walk in harms daily. It is for them and their families that are left behind trying to cope with daily life all the while worried to tears about their loved ones so far away. I am sad for them and pray for them. Each time this great feeling of sadness comes I can only pray with tears and hold hope in my heart. We are told there will be joy in the morning. Let us all pray for joy and peace each morning.

In His Service,  
Gary De R



## PARISH FAMILY IN THE MILITARY:

*We pray for Parishioners and friends in the Military* Douglas, Brian, Garrett, Scott, Heidi, Daniel, Ben, Travis, Vincent, Ryan and Jacob.

## INTERCESSIONS IN THE FAMILY

*Prayers of Intercession* have been requested for: Dorothy, Sherry, Floyd, Marty, Bruce, Ted, Paul & Judy, Emma, Jimmy, Victoria, Sandy, Janice, Emily, Maria, Ann, Randy, Amy, Harriett, Evelyn, Susan, Edyth, Pat & Larry, Al, Tom, Wayne & Ellie Mae, Lois, Barbara, Kathy, Donovan, Walter, Jim, Dave, Tim, Bill, Jocelyn, Don & Billie, Elaine, Linda, Ladd & Lois, Sherry, Denise, Johnnie, James and Caitlin.

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### Everyone's favorite time of year is coming soon: November is Stewardship Season!

*Watch for details later this month. In the meantime, here's a preview:*

**Step 1: Pick ONE of the following small group gatherings to attend:**

Sunday, November 2: at St. Barnabas after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist

Sunday, November 2: in the late afternoon or evening, at a parishioner's home  
(details to be announced)

Saturday, November 8: in the morning, at a parishioner's home (details to be announced)

Sunday, November 9: at St. Barnabas after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist

**Step 2: Pick up a pledge packet at church –**

**they will be available no later than Sunday, November 9.**

We'll mail packets that are not picked up, but as good stewards you will want to save the parish \$.42

**Step 3: Fill out a pledge card.**

Of course, we'll accept pledge cards any time of the year, but please plan to turn yours in before the end of November. The Vestry shall use pledge totals as it crafts the 2009 parish budget.

**Step 4: Pay your pledge in 2009, and enjoy the programs and ministries that you support!**

You are the Church. Without your presence, your ministry, your prayers, and your money, we cannot be Church. Thanks for being the blessing that you are!

## GIVING TO ST. BARNABAS

### How to Include St. Barnabas in your Estate Plans and Other Ways to Benefit your Church

Most all of us are familiar with the tax benefits of making charitable donations. The income tax deduction for charitable contributions is a valuable benefit under the income tax laws.

Most of us are also familiar with the concept of making charitable bequests as part of our estate plans. Many people include churches, charities and educational institutions in their will or revocable living trust. It's as easy as including a statement as simple as this:

"I hereby give the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (specify a dollar amount or a percentage of my estate) to St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Portland, Oregon." Bequests received are acted upon by the vestry and absent of other specific directions in the bequest, are contributed to the Endowment Fund or dedicated to other church purposes.

Did you know, though, that an even greater tax benefit is available by making gifts during one's lifetime of appreciated property (real estate and stocks, for example)? The tax law affords you a double benefit. You are able to avoid the capital gains on the gain inherent in the asset and you get a charitable contribution deduction for the full value of the gift.

If you would like to make a gift of appreciated property or find out more about including St. Barnabas in your will, we will be happy to provide you and your financial, tax or legal advisor with more information.

God's Blessings to you for your support of St. Barnabas.

Ken R  
Senior Warden



### **The Bishop is Coming! The Bishop is Coming! (October 26 to be exact...)**

The Right Rev. Sanford Z. K. Hampton—affectionately known as “Bishop Sandy”—shall make an official visitation to our parish on Sunday, October 26. This promises to be an exciting day for us. Bishops are the chief pastors in our Church. “Episcopal” means “having bishops”: bishops represent our connection to the larger Church, and to all Christians throughout time and across the world.

Please mark October 26 on your calendar, and plan to stay after the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist for a festive “Coffee Hour Plus.” Let's show Bp. Sandy some St. Barnabas hospitality!

The Bishop's visit is an opportunity for BAPTISM (both children and adults), CONFIRMATION (teenagers and adults), RECEPTION into the Episcopal Church, and REAFFIRMATION of faith. Please contact Fr. L. D. (tel. 503-246-1949) immediately if any of these interest you, as some preparation (but nothing burdensome!) is necessary.

## **Altar Flower Distribution (original article by Hilda Jane Bergstrom)**

Flower Distribution is part of the Pastoral Care Ministries. For further information please call Sheila.

Believing a bit of history can illuminate any relevant subject I offer a bit related to the distribution of altar flowers.

Back in 1989 Ann began to have unhappy thoughts about the altar flowers remaining on the altar following the Sunday services. Why not spread their joy? After consulting with the rector, who agreed, she made up bouquets to be delivered to those whom the rector suggested or to whom the provider requested. These were usually members of the church hospitalized or confined to their home because of illness and in need of sympathy and cheer. Ann handled most of the distribution herself until she secured some helpers (of which I was one) beginning in 1990. Later she was in demand for other church work and asked if I would assume the flower duties.

The number of ladies willing to help in this now established St. Barnabas voluntary service grew until little by little and even with other church duties there was a willingness to take a turn with the Altar Flower Distribution for a period of six, eight, or twelve months and even several years—with one volunteer exceeding five years—Roberta W!

Until printed cards including the name of St. Barnabas were available to accompany the bouquets, Helen P, a long-time member of St. Barnabas, used her beautiful calligraphy to identify each card as coming from our St. Barnabas Church. Over a period of five years or more she volunteered this duty, inscribing 500 or more cards!

It was interesting to learn from Howard Robinson, archivist for the Diocese of Oregon, that the distribution of altar flowers was being practiced in the Episcopal Church generations ago. He uncovered evidence which seems, he said, to date back to the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century—a card that reads as follows:

*“These flowers have been on the altar of St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church. They have heard the hymns that have been sung, the prayers that have been offered, and the sermon that was preached. Now they come to you, and in their silent way are telling you of God’s love and healing power, and the wish of the members of this Church that you be blessed with faith, hope, health, and happiness. The Pastor and members of This Church.”*

So—our St. Barnabas Episcopal Church continues this long pleasurable tradition.

Coming forward to today, Sept. 2008, the Pastoral Care Commission is looking for more members to benefit from the participation in this ministry. Please speak to Sheila!

- + This ministry is open to our ladies and our gentlemen!
  - + The flowers from the altar are removed and taken to the sacristy after the 10:00am service where they are separated into several bouquets for delivery.
  - + You will be able to deliver the bouquets to home bound or hospitalized parishioners.
  - + Both you and the recipient will benefit from the visit and cheer.
  - + Providers of flowers are requested to provide suggestions for distribution.
  - +The Rector may suggest someone in need of flowers and your stopping by to say “hi”.
- Some members of this team have brought the flowers to Hopewell House, Crestview, friends who are in at Terwilliger Plaza, or Marquis Care just to name a few.

## Here is the Buildings and Grounds report for September, 2009.

West Side Electric has completed electrical updates to Barnabas House and the school classrooms which were necessary to prevent tripping breakers due to overload.

The church furnace required repairs, which have been taken care of by Jacobs Heating. The Vestry has retained the services of MB Lawn Care, in order to have a consistently nice lawn at an economical price. We requested many quotes before we settled on MB, as they were substantially less expensive than the other services we spoke to. We will pay \$320 per month for bi-weekly mowing six months of the year (winter and summer) and \$485 per month for the six months (spring and fall) which require weekly mowing. This will include picking up leaves in the fall and any treatments required to maintain the lawn (such as mole control, spraying weeds, and applying fertilizer). Mark has applied fertilizer, and is eliminating the moles. Hopefully this will result in a nice healthy lawn by spring, and will free Buildings and Grounds volunteers to spend more time working on the ever growing list of maintenance projects which require our attention.

Thanks to Frank W for cutting the extra pew which was in the rear of the church into smaller sections, so that we could have pews for Sunday school. Sunday school is all painted and the carpets cleaned, just in time for the new school year. Thanks to Leslie, Keith, and Angela for the finishing touches and the curtains. It looks great!

Our next set of tasks includes replacing a broken window in the Sunday School hallway, repairing the rotting bench in front of church, installing brighter lighting in the Barnabas house stairway, repairing the leak damaged ceiling in the basement of Barnabas House, and evaluating a security system to ensure all doors and windows are closed.

Additionally, there are numerous small projects (more than twenty, according to the project list I maintain) which need attention. Please let me know if you have time to help with Buildings and Grounds projects, we have many options to suit your skills!

Thank You,  
Emile L



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Next Meeting of the Sunset Convocation:  
Saturday, October 11th at  
St. James – Tigard  
9:30 am

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Diocesan Convention will again be at the  
Phoenix Grand Hotel  
and Convention Center in Salem.  
November 6,7 & 8, 2008  
All invited, you do not need to be a delegate.

## Sunset Convocation News

We will have a presentation/discussion of the budget at our October 11 meeting at St. James, Tigard.

Thanks all for the great meeting last Saturday! Many thanks to Ann F of Christ Church, Lake Oswego for her succinct and effective intro to Appreciative Inquiry; the work we did is now an element of our Bishop Search process. (We will be doing more of this in October at Convocation and in November at Convention - all are welcome to participate, including and especially alternates, vestries, discipleship/mission/evangelism committee members, ministry team leaders, and all interested parties.)

We elected Mary D of St. John the Baptist as our Convocation Rep. to Bishop Search/Transition. Thanks to Mary and all who came forward as volunteers and/or nominees for their willingness to commit to this vital, time-consuming, and deeply spiritual commitment to the future of our diocese.

Everyone should have received their convention packets by now. Please contact our diocesan offices if you have not. Register on-line or by mail: [www.diocese-oregon.org](http://www.diocese-oregon.org)

We will be having our traditional Convocation lunch on Friday, November 7 - at the Marco Polo Restaurant, just across the street and one block over from the convention center. No driving required, easy access/escape for those on special committees, and a generous selection of vegetarian fare! (So if you're planning on this don't order the box lunch!)

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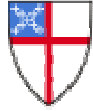
### **Subject: Budget Report**

2009 budget report can be found at our web site: [www.diocese-oregon.org](http://www.diocese-oregon.org)

Faithfully,

Mary M. C, President  
The Standing Committee

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church  
2201 SW Vermont St.  
Portland Or 97219



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TIME VALUE

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## Sundays: 8am, and 10 am w/ child care and Sunday School

Coming up at St. Barnabas.....ALL WELCOME!

Tuesday mornings 10:00am Quilters meeting in Grafe Hall

Thursday mornings at 9:30 am Holy Eucharist and Healing service

**St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Mission Statement:** A community of believers serving Christ by welcoming the diversity of all God's Creation, creating a sanctuary of peace and love for the spiritual and personal growth of all who seek the Lord.