



The Steeple Bell

of St. Barnabas Parish



September 2008

An Episcopal Community since 1891

Issue #2008-7,8,9

Festival of Faith

Sunday School Kick-Off is September 7th. Our theme this year, Festival of Faith, is reflected by signs, symbols and decorations in the upstairs hallway. Children 3 years old through middle school will celebrate different facets of faith throughout the year.

On Sundays, children begin in Children's chapel and then proceed to their classes. Parents bring children down stairs to join their family at Communion. For the first time, we have classes offered at three different levels:

- "Godly Play" is a way to give the stories of the Bible and our church to children 3 years old through Kindergarten. Based on the Montessori method, "Godly Play" uses story telling, engaging story figures and a variety of creative activities.
- Kids 1st through 3rd grade will be using "Seasons of the Spirit," a liturgical curriculum that connects faith to life as well as nurturing imagination and creativity through the arts.
- Young people 4th grade through middle school are using "Living the Good News," sharing God's Word through activities, learning, liturgy and everyday life.

A few more teachers are needed to complete the teaching year. If you are able to give three Sundays to co-teach a class, please see Jane Schmitz (jschmitz@stbdenver.org, 303-388-6469). Every-

one in the program learns while doing and provides an on-going community for St. B's kids. Let's all celebrate!

Families in Faith Calendar

September 7 - START-UP SUNDAY (Sunday School begins)

September 13 - Saturday - Safeguarding God's Children (9am - 1 pm), a workshop required by the diocese, at St. B's

September 21 - Sunday - Families in Faith AIDS walk

October 11 - Saturday - Families in Faith retreat. 10 am - 3 pm, lunch & snacks provided (kids 9:45 am - 3:25 pm)

November 22 - Saturday - Pre-Advent Potluck, 5pm

(crafts and potluck) at St. B's

December 20 - Saturday morning - Christmas Pageant rehearsal

December 21 - Sunday - Christmas Pageant

December 24 - Christmas eve Family Service



2nd Annual
Karaoke and Kocktails
 Sept. 27, 7:00 p.m.
\$10 /family at the door, snacks & drinks
Bid to sing or not to sing. Challenge friends.
Fun for the whole family!
 (Childcare for little 'uns)

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Benedictine Way community meets the first three Monday evenings of each month, September-May, at St. Barnabas from 6:30-8:30. Pat Long describes the experience. “We gather for sung vespers, a silent soup/bread supper, a short teaching, prayer time and close with Compline. We leave the church in silence.”

Come and discover if this quiet worship style is for you.” If you have questions you may contact Pat Long at PatJLong@comcast.net or 303-733-3614 or Helen Barron at candlepress@earthlink.net or 303-337-6852.

nity for worship in a quiet, intimate environment. Bible Study, following the Eucharist, will enhance your understanding of the Scripture for the week and help you to apply the lessons and insights to your daily life. The best way to learn about Benedictine Way and Wednesday Eucharist and Bible Study is to experience them. You don’t need to make advance reservations, just come and worship with fellow followers of Christ.

The same holds true for the *Adult Forum* at 11 a.m. most Sundays in Marshall House. Informally led by Jack Unruh, Helen Barron, and Brian Price, the forum explores theological or intellectual topics or current issues selected for study by the group. All are welcome to participate in the Adult Forum’s free wheeling discussions conducted in a

St Barnabas Historic Elm Featured

St Barnabas’ beautiful elm tree, gracing the southeast corner of 13th and Vine, was featured in Swingle’s Elm Preservation Newsletter. The elm was one of 110,000 trees planted in Mayor Robert Speer’s 1904 city beautiful program. As noted in the newsletter, our American elm is an example of one of the earliest survivors of two major epidemics of the dread Dutch Elm Disease (DED). The St. Barnabas tree has been on Swingle’s Elm Preservation Program since 1970.

Swingle notes that there are at least six elm varieties that are disease resistant, look and act like American elms and are available for purchase. Swingle has tested the Asian varieties including Prospector, Accolade and Triumph. Their favorite is Prospector, characterized by quick growth, compact size and insect resistance. Also available are disease resistant American elms including the Valley Forge, New Harmony, and Princeton elms.

It’s gratifying to know that elm trees are making a comeback. In April, the city of Denver planted disease resistant elms on Speer Boulevard adjacent to the Denver Performing Arts Complex. In the spirit of mayors before him, Mayor Hickenlooper planted the first tree.



St. Barnabas elm tree 1904.



St. Barnabas elm tree today.

Join the Soup Group

The ad hoc “soup group”, operating under shared leadership, is re-assembling to discuss future possibilities to raise funds for a worthy project.

In 2007-2008, a project inspired by Bobbi Siersma, generated contributions from soup making, as well as donations from the Virginia Ervin fund, the Outreach Committee, individual parishioners, and Sunday school children. The Parish-wide endeavor supported building a well for a village in Malawi under **Water for People**.



All who are interested in exploring ideas and assisting with the soup making project are invited to a breakfast meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 10.

At that time, those attending will decide as a group whether to continue work with **Water for People** or select another non-profit that could benefit from our efforts. Volunteer opportunities include shopping, cooking, and/or assisting in distribution on Sundays.

Thank you generous parishioners!

Your response to Loaves and Fishes Sunday was tremendous. St. Barnabas donated 230 lbs. of food and \$1,400 in gift coupons to families in need. .

Bless you,

Paul

Barnabas Time

Sunday, September 28

11:00 a.m.

Marshall House

Budget Discussion

Vestry Insights

Question Time

Garden Committee Plucks and Plants:

And a new tree grows in St. B's courtyard.

One of the most enjoyable activities of gardening this summer was planting an Aristocrat Callery Pear Tree along the east wall of Lukens Wing. The Garden Committee has been working hard to improve that area of the parish grounds. Weeds* were removed, mulch was put on the ground, the slate was rearranged and the hose is now stored in an attractive carrier.

When full grown, the tree will measure about twenty to thirty feet tall and about fifteen feet wide. It will form a narrow pyramid, with white flowers in the spring. Its leaves will turn to a beautiful maroon color in the fall. The tree will provide a beautiful focal point for our grounds from Vine Street.

The tree was purchased from, planted by and is warranted by Swingle Lawn and Tree Service for \$534.00.

Funding was made possible by a donation from the **Siefer Memorial Fund**. Thank you very much, **Stan**.



Callery Pear Tree along the east wall of Lukens Wing

*Hint to gardeners:

white vinegar is a very effective, safe and environmentally friendly way to permanently eradicate weeds and unwanted grass, like in sidewalk cracks. Just spray it on. It may smell like vinegar for a few days, but what did you expect?

“Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians’ 4:8

From the Rector:

As we begin this autumn season together many thoughts of our current and future life and ministry as a community come to mind. So much is possible, so much is needed. But what are we as a community and is that what we ought to be?

Well, we are a community that has an organic quality about it. Really, in many senses, we are a community that forms an organism whose life can be characterized by cycles of gathering, engaging and dispersing. This is an intriguing pattern in our life and ministry but it is not unique. Other institutions and organizations live by similar cycles. Yet, unlike schools, fraternal organizations and even businesses that might exhibit this pattern, we exist as a community not for ourselves or profit or even for fellowship and service. No. We exist because we see that our lives are essentially and vitally dependent on and are of intrinsic worth due to the author of all that is. We exist as a community because God created us, all of humanity, in the divine image and declared that work, and us, to be good. Even beyond that we exist as a community because God confirmed, at the deepest possible cost, that intrinsic worth. As Paul said in his letter to the Romans: “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (5:8) We exist as a community in answer to that creativity and that redeeming love. We exist as a community offer-

We exist as a community offering our response of love and gratitude and, indeed, we offer a response of holiness.

ing our response of love and gratitude and, indeed, we offer a response of holiness.

We live in a world that has been submerged in an ocean of materialism. Though it is complex, engaging, and at times even amusing (though too often isolating, consuming and horrific), nonetheless we know this all encompassing materialism to be, ultimately, barren and sterile. Materialism is the exact opposite of holiness. All that is seen...is not all that can be (or even is). Holiness, holiness in community, is the answer to materialism. We come together we, belong together, as God’s community, and as God’s people and we engage, encourage and support one another together to reflect God’s

character, to “be holy for I am holy” (Leviticus 19:2) Holiness then is what the organism of our community exists to be and express.

This call to holiness is the ancient call of God to God’s people. And God’s people haven’t always gotten it right. The ancient prophet of Israel didn’t exactly endear himself to his contemporaries when in God’s name he said their life and ministry, their gathering, engaging and dispersing in a careful calendar of observance and ritual was an unacceptable abomination! (Isaiah 1) Instead, he proclaimed if they wanted to live in true holiness then their observance must lead them to concern for the widow, the orphan and the alien. Even the most pious fast was pointless unless it was the fast that God wanted: setting the captive free, clothing the naked and feeding the hungry. (Isaiah 58) This message was repeated by Jesus in the parable of the Last Judgment. (Matthew 25) To live in holiness isn’t to be a content little band of the like-minded enjoying an other-worldly piety. No. To live in holiness means to be those who undertake the mundane, this-world work of setting free those in prison, loosing the chains of

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the enslaved, preaching the good news to the poor and announcing the Jubilee year of the Lord’s favor!

So, as we come back together this fall in that cycle of gathering, engaging and dispersing, our life together should shape us as an organism encountering the God who calls us to a holiness that is at profound odds with the barren materialism of the world that is so hostile to most of God’s children. Our life together should be an encounter with God that inspires us to work for the “kingdom”, that way of life that runs counter to materialism, a way of life of beating swords into plowshares, spears into pruning hooks and an end to the study of war (as both Isaiah and Micah proclaim). Our life together should lead us on in working for the fulfillment of God’s dream, as Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu has put it, that “dream of a new heaven and new earth when God will wipe away all tears and the wolf and the lamb will feed together and the lion will eat straw like the ox-“For they shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord” (Isaiah 65:25)”

This is what we might be. Is this what we will be?

Peace, Paul+

Education for Ministry: *Discovering God's Presence in Your Everyday Life*

By Elizabeth Hepp

For lots of people Education for Ministry (EFM) is a life changing experience. For everybody it is an opportunity to worship, study the Bible, explore our personal theologies and discover how we can minister to each other and to the world around us. EFM is a four year program that utilizes a curriculum from the School of Theology at the University of the South in Sewanee Tennessee. It is not a "course" that is "taught" but it is a process of self-study and self-discovery in a small group setting.

A core element of EFM is a process called *Theological Reflection* that provides a structure to help you discover, in the midst of a caring and supportive community, the presence of God in everyday life. It is a framework that fosters creative exploration of the role of spirituality in our lives. *Theological Reflection* explores the intersections among our daily life experiences, our knowledge of our Judeo-Christian traditions, the culture that we live in and our personal beliefs. As one EFM graduate put it: "you get to hear yourself talk about things at a level that you may never even have thought of before."

Theological Reflection explores the intersections among our daily life experiences, our knowledge of our Judeo-Christian traditions, the culture that we live in and our personal beliefs.

Theological Reflection helps to make sense of things that happen to us in our daily lives and how we respond to them in the context of our Christian heritage and the culture around us. It also allows us to examine our firmly held beliefs about the world and often to come up with new insights.

A typical weekly EFM session includes a discussion of a text reading. The first year readings are from the Old Testament, the second year readings from the New Testament, third year readings are on church history and fourth year readings relate to more contemporary theological models. Each session also includes a theological reflection based on a theme, a piece of writing or an experience of a member of the group. Each session also includes a time for worship, personal sharing and generally much good humor and laughter.

all four years. The current EFM group meets Thursday mornings from 9:30 to noon at St. Barnabas. There is at least one person reading each of the four years of text (which greatly enriches the text discussions). We meet from early September (9/04/08) to late May with a break at Christmas and Easter.

Another EFM graduate reflected: "Through EFM I have experienced a remarkable growth in my spirituality. Both in theoretical knowledge and a kind of inner peace as I have gained insights, solidified my position in the most important areas of life and found ways to put my new insights into practice".

If you have questions about Education for Ministry contact Jim Scheffe at 303-777-5092 or Elizabeth Hepp at 303-322-9084.



Thank you for your prayers for our Aunt and Uncle, Dave and Vonnie Simons. On Labor Day 2007 they were in a car crash on I-70. Their car rolled 5 times. My uncle sustained a broken neck in three places and a bruised spinal cord, among other injuries. He continues the recovery therapy but is now walking again! He is also regaining use of his arm. We are marveled but grateful for his recovery. My aunt broke several bones and suffers from PTSD. She is also recovering.

Thank you for holding them up in love and prayer. We celebrate that their names can be removed from the prayer list.

*Jill Bednarek and
Jolene Whitney*

A PEACHY SEASON ...

Dear St. Barnabas folks,

This year, we ordered 381 boxes of Western Slope #1 peaches! The most ever! And they are/were delicious! When all is said and done we'll earn about \$3,800. Once again we broke a record! We could have sold more if there had been more extras ordered. Next year, the amount of extra boxes ordered will be increased again.



Every box sold made a difference. Sixteen people sold three or more boxes by selling them to their neighbors, colleagues, relatives, etc.

Thank you one and all. Our fundraiser would not have been successful without **you**.

I also want to thank **Rick Angell** for loaning us two hand carts and **Kerby Meyers** who also loaned us a hand cart. The day the peaches arrived, it was raining. The rain, however, did not deter our volunteers: **Barbara Mattison, Roger Mattison, Karen Jefferson and her sons, Deaven and Spencer, Kerby Meyers.** Thanks to them, the unloading process went well. On Saturday, it continued to rain and Sandy Ortiz stayed until 1 pm helping people load their peaches. Thank you volunteers for your hard work.

St. B's support for the peaches fundraiser changes what we can do in the Family Ministry Program. We now have options I never would have imagined. I am grateful for the generous people of St. Barnabas Parish.

Sincerely,
Jane Schmitz
Family Minister



Parent Retreat at St. Barnabas

Parents, spend Saturday, October 11th, 2008 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm (lunch and snacks provided) at the Families in Faith Retreat.

The retreat offers an opportunity for parents to

- "fill your well"
- experience private reflection
- explore ways to help child(ren) sustain a moral compass

What about the kids?

They will be in childcare at a nearby off-site location (lunch and snacks provided).

Pre-registration required. Cost: \$20 per family (actual cost of the retreat is provided through St. B's Peaches Fund)

Registration forms in Lukens or contact Jane Schmitz at 303-388-6469 or

jschmitz@stbdenver.org

Deadline: Friday, October 3rd



Help Wanted *Bulletin revamp*

If you have thoughts about how the Sunday bulletin and announcements can be visually improved to become more readable, we welcome your ideas and your help. Specifically, we need help collecting sample bulletins and announcements from other parishes, reviewing them, and incorporating improvements into our Sunday publications. Experience with lay-out would be helpful, but not required. For more information, contact Mary Kelly O'Donnell at mkellyo@comcast.net or 303-322-9654.

B i r t h d a y s a n d A n n i v e r s a r i e s

- 1 Bobbi Siersma
Tom & Judy Ward
- 2 Caroline Corrigan
- 4 Preston Bender-Marcoux
Keith & Carol Wier
- 5 Nathan Gorham
Maggie Wakelyn
- 6 Melinda Cabell
- 8 Polly Gibb
- 9 Jim Steed
- 10 Larry Volmert
- 11 Sondra Lee
- 12 Jane Schmitz
Teagan Bohlen
Mary Ellen Garrett
- 14 Preston Izant Mueller
Tori Meyers
- 15 Alice Potter
- 18 Larry Douglas
- 19 Tom & Toni Potter
- 21 Karen Burgess
- 23 Christopher Conroy
- 26 David Gartland & Carrie Corrigan
- 27 Elizabeth Schmitz
Carson Everett
Dennis Kennedy
- 29 Maddie O'Connell
Claire O'Connell
- 30 Kate Gallanter

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

To confirm dates and times of events, please view the church calendar on the web site home page.

Monday, September 1

Labor Day

Wednesday, September 3

Eucharist followed by Bible Study 10 a.m.

Sunday, September 7

Eucharist Services: 7:45 and 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School begins: 9:15 a.m.

Contemporary Service: 5:30 p.m.

Monday, September 8

Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 10

Eucharist followed by Bible Study 10 a.m.

Sunday, September 14

Eucharist Services: 7:45 and 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service: 5:30 p.m.

Monday, September 15

Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 17

Eucharist followed by Bible study

Sunday, September 21

Eucharist Services: 7:45 and 9:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service: 5:30 p.m.

Monday, September 22

Benedictine Way, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 24

Eucharist followed by Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Saturday, September 27

Karaoke and Kocktails

7:00 p.m. Family Fun. \$10/family. Marshall House

Sunday, September 28

Morning Services, 7:45 and 9:30 a.m.

Blood Pressure Checks Following each Service

Barnabas Time: 11 a.m.

Contemporary Service, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 1

Eucharist followed by Bible Study, 10

Art in Nature Slide Presentation

By resident artist and former art history and music professor at UCD. Oksana Ross

Saturday, September 20

Marshall House

4:00 p.m.

Read Bishop O'Neill's Blog and Lambeth Impressions

While he was at the Lambeth Conference this summer, Colorado Bishop Robert O'Neill recorded his thoughts and impressions in a blog- the Lambeth Diary. He has also started a blog about life and ministry here in the Diocese of Colorado. The Lambeth Diary contains information and passages the bishops discussed in their Bible study sessions and Bishop O'Neill's thoughts and impressions of the Indaba sessions, as well as his impressions of some of the faith leaders who addressed the gathering.



You can view his Lambeth Diary at www.lambethdiary.blogspot.com, and his other blog at www.coloradobishopsblog.blogspot.com.

DIOCESAN FALL ACTIVITIES

“Called to Be One: Women and Minorities – Leadership in Church and Society”
Lecture by Dr. Jenny Plane-Te Paa
Sept. 21, 2:30 – 4:00 pm
St. John's Cathedral

Participate in a facilitated dialogue with one of the worldwide Anglican Communion's most distinguished theologians, an advocate for women and minorities, a member of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Commission which produced the Windsor Report, and a critical voice in the international debate on human sexuality and ecclesiastical

authority in the Episcopal Church and the worldwide Anglican Communion. Dr. Te Paa's presentation will be followed by Choral Evensong at 4 pm.

Third Annual Celtic Spirituality Workshop
Sept. 27, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
St. Benedict, La Veta.

The Rev. Jack Stapleton, workshop leader, will explore how the spiritual insights and practices of Celtic Christianity can renew the modern church and the individual seeker. Further information and a registration form can be found on the St. Benedict website at www.stbenedictlaveta.org. For more information, please contact Stirling Lathrop at 719-742-6655 or lbsterize@yahoo.com. Many past participants have enjoyed both the Celtic Spirituality Celebration and the Spanish Peaks International Celtic Music Festival which takes place in La Veta and Walsenburg from September 25 - 28. For more information, visit www.celticmusicfest.com.

Diocesan Convention, Oct. 2 – 4,
The Ranch, Loveland.

St. Barnabas delegates to the convention will be **Lynn Hoffman, Helen Barron, John Lind, Lynn Herlinger** and **David Mills**. Parishioners will be asked at Adult Forum about matters of concern they wish to be brought before the Convention.

Genesis Youth Weekend, Oct. 17 – 19

Genesis weekends are designed to provide a fun, non-intimidating environment in which young people can discover and grow in their understanding of the Christian Gospel. For more information, contact St. Barnabas Family Minister at 303-366-6469 jschmitz@stbdenver.org or call the Office for Faith Formation in the Office of the Bishop – 303-837-1173.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

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The Steeple Bell is published at the beginning of each month and distributed by email. Co-editors are Timothy Hepp and Mary Kelly O'Donnell, with assistance from Carol Anderson, parish administrator. To request a mailed copy, contact Carol at the above address. The **Steeple Bell deadline is the 15th of each month.**

Weekly Announcements' deadline is the end of the day Tuesday for Sunday publication.