



the Beacon

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Vol. 2, No. 12

December 2011

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Following is a short excerpt from Fr. Andrew's book, **Love's Fulfillment**. I believe this could be useful for all of us as we journey through Advent to renew our faith and prepare ourselves for the birth of Our Lord.

“The one place in which we can try to discover experimentally what alliance with the Divine Will means is in our own life (hence penitential seasons). Our first instinctive, childlike experience is that, if we do certain things, we have a sense of union with the purpose behind life; and, if we do or do not do certain other things, there is a sense of discord between ourselves and that purpose. As we are true to this first experience, we begin to know with greater certainty what the will and purpose of God is, and we begin to see that complete harmony with that will and purpose is following in the footsteps of Christ, and that Christ' life is a sure revelation of that will and purpose even than our own consciences. We become more and more vitally sure of the Person Who is the Author of our being, and from the prayer of a child we go on to the prayer that is the communion of a lover with the beloved and the work that is a co-operation of a friend with a friend.”

This is what Advent is about, reestablishing our friendship with God. Often times we don't realize how far we have gone astray. We need to be more aware of the distinction of how we live our daily lives and how God is asking us to live our daily lives.

“There should be no division in our life at all. We are accustomed to speak of certain things as sacred and other things as secular. It is a wrong distinction. If our relationship with God is true, then it affects all things in our life and all things are sacred. What we cannot consecrate we may not keep.”

During this first penitential season, ask yourself, are you friends with Our Lord or are you friends with the Jones'? What are you preparing for, Christmas morning with friends and family or the birth of our Savior? Do not take advantage, do not waste, do not neglect this season the Church has given us to refocus ourselves on what is truly important in life. During this Advent season reestablish yourself with Christ.

May you have a blessed Advent and a glorious Christmas!

Fr. Murphy

FIRST FRIDAY DINNER SETS ALTERNATE DATE FOR DECEMBER...



With all the events happening during the coming Advent/Christmas season, Our First Friday Dinner for December is being changed to the *Second* Friday, December 9th meeting at 6pm at *Boskey's Grill*!

Please RSVP to Marianne, at (931) 461-9062 or email to macavett@aol.com with your number of persons that will be joining us at the *Boskey's Grill* (at the Golf Course entry on 6751 McMinnville Hwy., East of Manchester and I-24). Make your plans today... Thanks and God Bless, Marianne Cavett

January 6, 2012 is date for the First Friday Dinner in January.

Location and Name of restaurant will be announced at the December dinner.

IT'S THE MOST BEAUTIFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

Those wishing to purchase Poinsettias to be used during the Christmas Season to beautify the church are urged to make their purchases on the first two Sundays of December. On **December 4th & December 11th** the Altar Guild will be on hand in the parish hall following both services if you wish to purchase one, two, three or more! The cost is **\$8.00**/per pot. Please be sure to notate if your gift is in memory of a loved one or in honor of one of God's many gifts He has bestowed upon you (marriage, birth, etc).



Did you know? Poinsettias were first introduced to the United States in 1825 by Joel Robert Poinsett, amateur botanist and first ambassador to Mexico. He introduced the plant to the United States when he brought some cuttings to his plantation in Greenwood, South Carolina.

December 12 is National Poinsettia Day, an official day set aside to enjoy this symbol of holiday cheer. It was established upon the death of Mr. Poinsett to honor him and the plant he made famous. He died in 1851.

Legend of the Poinsettia ~ Poinsettias are native to Mexico, where they grow wild. The enchanting legend of the poinsettia dates back several centuries, to a Christmas Eve in Mexico when a little girl named Pepita had no gift to present to the Christ child. Her cousin Pedro urged her to give a humble gift. So, on her way to church she gathered some weeds she found along the road. As she approached the altar, a miracle happened: The weeds blossomed into brilliant flowers. Then they were called Flores de Noche Buena - Flowers of the Holy Night. Now they are called poinsettias.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL VISITATION

Sunday, December 11th – 10:30 a.m.



Please join us in welcoming Bishop Bauerschmidt into our parish family on **Sunday, December 11th** for his annual visitation. The Bishop will be our guest preacher at the 10:30am service with a reception in his honor immediately following in the parish hall. Please be sure to bring a dish to share for the reception feast. We hope you will take time to come to know him better.



CHRISTMAS IN AFGHANISTAN

THIS Sunday, December 4th is the last day for collections for the Military Care Boxes being sent to Afghanistan. Please bring your donation of items on the list below and/or money for postage, so that these can be filled and ready for mailing this week. We will start packing the boxes during fellowship hour.

Volunteers are also needed to write notes on the greeting cards and letters, as well as to help pack and label the boxes.

CHRISTMAS IN AFGHANISTAN LIST

- Venus Razors with Shaving Cream (not pink)
- Hand/Body Lotion with Aloe
- Tinactin Foot Powder
- Lotrimin
- Copenhagen Snuff
- Baby Wipes
- Hard Candy/Peanuts... No Chocolate Please
- Boxes of Powder to Flavor Water
- White Socks that come above the boot top
- Paperback Books/Magazines
- Female Hygiene Products
- Christmas Cards and Letters



Old Towne Stroll

St. Barnabas will open its door to the public as part of the Old Towne Stroll, an historical tour, on Tuesday evening, December 13th from 5-8p. The Handbell Choir of St. Barnabas will play for the first time at this event with music of the season. There will also be music from our newly enhanced organ played by our two very talented organists, Nelda Lowrance and Marjorie Collier. We hope you will plan to join us in welcoming the public into our home as well as supporting our musical artists!



You don't know the day, you don't know the time.

Are you ready?

Advent is the season to prepare for His coming.

Sunday Mass 8am & 10:30am

Wednesday 12 noon

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Mary E. Norton Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King hosted a Quiet Day on the 15th of October. We were joined by Barbara Whalen, Sue Morphis, Michelle Daley and Mary Darwin from Redeemer Church in Shelbyville and Laura Lowndes from Estelle Springs. Barbara and Dick Sanders opened their beautiful home to us; providing an ideal setting for quiet reflection and fellowship. The day's theme was "Women of the Bible" and we explored the life, times and relevance of Esther, Elizabeth (the mother of John the Baptist), Mary Magdalene and Sarah. A lunch on the deck concluded the morning. We were joined for dessert by Fr. Murphy for whom we served a surprise birthday cake.



Any lady of the parish interested in becoming an **active** member of the Order of the Daughters of the King is invited to join us for our regular monthly meeting on January 8th. We meet right after Coffee Hour in the Adult Sunday School Room. At this meeting we plan to finalize the schedule for membership preparation sessions. Come explore the order and understand our calling.

GREETERS WELCOME ALL NEWCOMERS!

As we move from the Thanksgiving season into the Advent Season, we offer many *Thanks* for our wonderful and growing team of *Greeters* this year. They remain ever ready to make everyone feel welcome at St. Barnabas... with a big, happy smile and a firm handshake or hug.

It is our continuing goal to have each and every member and friend take an active part in welcoming all who walk through our doors at St. Barnabas. New additions to our Greeter Team are always welcome. Anyone interested in becoming involved, please call (931) 461-9062 or email macavett@aol.com for more information.

Advent & Christmas Service Schedule

- Advent II – Sunday, December 4th – 8 & 10:30am
- Advent III – Sunday, December 11th – 8 & 10:30am – Bishop's Visitation
- Advent IV – Sunday December 18th – 8 & 10:30am – Cookie Share

Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

- December 24th – Christmas Eve – 4:30 p.m.
- December 24th – Music of the Season – 10:30 p.m.
- December 24th – Midnight Mass – 11 p.m.
- December 25th – Christmas Day – 10 a.m.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ian Duncan	December 1	Lesa Young	December 1	Lela Grace Ivins	December 3
John Gray	December 4	Kristin Robinson	December 4	John Angell III	December 5
Pat Rhudy	December 5	Mary Petree	December 7	Robert Collier	December 9
Daniel Mackersie	December 11	Brandon McKinney	December 11	Elizabeth Clark	December 12
Will Barnes	December 12	Steve Robinson	December 13	Madeline Walls	December 13
Scotty Bennett	December 17	Margaret Henderson	December 19	Edward Shapard	December 19
Sandy Duckworth	December 19	Davis Wenger	December 20	Megan Duncan Wood	December 20
Maurice Hale	December 24	Hannah Bradford	December 25	Kristian Lungdren	December 28

Watch over thy children O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Tom and Gloria Ashton	December 21	Bob and Vicki Young	December 29
	Jeff and Jean Emmett	December 29	

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Olivia Murphy	January 4	Roger Debatin	January 5	Dick Sanders	January 5
David Burgess	January 8	Jonathan Emmett	January 12	Angus Huskey	January 14
Theresa Wendle	January 14	Sherry Grissom	January 19	Bob Hiers	January 19
Jacob Lowrance	January 20	Toni Hiers	January 23	Harriet Carroll	January 24
Lisa Credle	January 25	Richard Robinson	January 25	Liz Jolliffe	January 26
Cliff Phillips	January 27	Madeline Ellis	January 30	Craig Collier	January 31

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Annual Parish Meeting

COMBINED SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15th ~ 9:30am



The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 15th, 2012**. We will gather as a parish family on this Sunday at **9:30am** for Holy Eucharist. Please be sure to bring a dish to share for the potluck brunch immediately following. The Annual Parish Meeting will commence shortly thereafter. Volunteers are needed to host. Please call the parish office if you are available to assist.

This year we tip our hats in gratitude to three very hard working vestry members; Rick Crutcher, Senior Warden, Maurice Hale and Crawford Lee Parrish, Jr. Assistant Treasurer. Your gift of ministry is immeasurable, ***THANK YOU!***

Anyone of the parish family wishing to submit names for consideration of nomination may do so no later than December 31st. Nominated persons must consent and be members in good standing. All nomination forms must be submitted to the Parish Office in writing.

Chairpersons of our various ministries are asked to submit their reports to the Parish Office also no later than December 31st to be included in the Annual Report.

Annual Diocesan Meeting

The Diocesan Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 20-21st at St. Andrew's Sewanee. The delegates from our parish family are Rick Crutcher, Mark Williamson and Denis Root, alternates are Dot Duncan and Crawford Parish Jr. Those wishing to attend the Diocesan Meeting without voting privileges are encouraged to do so. Come learn more about how the Diocese is doing God's work here in Middle Tennessee and around the globe.

St. Michael's Conference - Midwest



Looking forward to..... ***St. Michael's Conference ~ Midwest 2012!!*** The date for the 20th annual Conference is: July 8th – 14th, 2012. All youth between the ages of 12 -20 are eligible to attend and are encouraged to join us on Sunday, January 29th in the youth room to learn more about the Conference and to start planning our fundraisers. We will meet following the 10:30am service.

What is the St. Michael's Conference you ask? Why do our youth go and how can I support them? Glad you asked! Feel free to join us at our meeting or commit to volunteering for a fundraiser – your support is not only needed, it is much appreciated!

Bible Study

When Bible study is mentioned, an image is formed of the Bible, several other Bibles in the original languages - Greek, Latin, and Hebrew, commentaries on the Bible and the individual book being studied, a Bible dictionary, a concordance to the Bible, a Bible atlas, etc. While this is a heavenly vision to a book lover or scholar, it is a nightmare to the person not so enamored of books. How can we draw more people into studying the bible as the Apostle Paul wrote to his disciple Timothy - "*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV) The answer to our dilemma is found in the **Book of Common Prayer** (BCP).

The Revised Common Lectionary, may be found on page 889 of the BCP. It maps out a three year cycle of readings for Sundays and Holy Days, that when combined with the *Daily Office Lectionary*, the two year cycle of daily readings found on page 936, will have the individual reading the entire bible except for the chapters of Levitical law and the lists of begats. The basic tools needed for starting a personal bible study is the Bible, the BCP, a dictionary, a notebook to record your thoughts, and the Sunday Bulletin or its insert. Taking the Sunday bulletin and its insert home is very helpful when you can't remember which Lectionary cycle we are reading.

Bible study always starts with a prayer to Christ to send the Holy Spirit to open your heart, eyes, and mind to see the truths hidden within the scriptures you are about to read or to paraphrase the song, "open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth thou hast for me...spirit divine". Having found the proper day in the Lectionary of the BCP, open your bible and read the assigned scriptures. In your notebook write a two or three sentence summation of each scripture and psalm you have read. Try to answer the questions, who, what, when, why, where, how, which. How would you explain each of these readings to a child or an individual who hadn't read them? Then spend a few minutes in quiet, attentive listening. End your bible study with a prayer of thanks to the Holy Spirit for ministering to you through the scriptures. Now as you go through your day, evening or week think about what you have read, let it simmer on the backburner of your mind and see what 'needed' truths will percolate up for your benefit.

A first step in becoming comfortable with personal bible study is to take the Sunday Bulletin and its insert home. You have already heard these scriptures read and the Holy Spirit ministering through the priest's or bishop's sermon. Now in the quietness of your home, follow the steps outlined above for personal bible study. As you become comfortable with this, add the Daily Office readings to your personal bible study. Over time you will see the need for Bible commentaries, a Bible dictionary, a concordance to the Bible, a Bible atlas, etc. You can purchase these additional study aids as the need arises or you could check with your local public and college libraries for them.

Daily Bible study is a lifetime goal and pursuit. Like an infant learning to walk you start out slowly and keep trying. You will have times when you miss a session or two through your own fault, i.e., 'I don't feel like doing it. I overslept and I'm late for ...' or through life circumstances. Don't beat yourself up over it, but do acknowledge it in your prayers and ask for strength and the desire to continue.

Advent 2011

Lectionary B, Daily Office Year 2

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m. Christian Education*
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist*
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

*Child care is provided on Sundays for ages five and under

CONTACT US

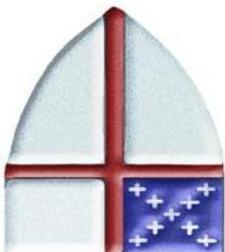
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
110 East Lincoln Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388
Phone: 931-455-3170
Fax: 931-454-3194
Email: st.barnabas@charter.net

OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Thursday, 9 a.m. — 12 noon

The Reverend Michael J. Murphy, SSC, Rector
110 East Lincoln Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388
Office: 931-455-3170 Cell: 931-215-1435
Email: frmmurphy@yahoo.com

Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee
The Right Rev. John Bauerschmidt
50 Vantage Way, Suite 107
Nashville, TN 37228
Phone: 615-251-3322
Fax: 615-251-8010
Email: info@episcopaldiocese-tn.org
Website: www.episcopaldiocese-tn.org



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
110 East Lincoln Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388