

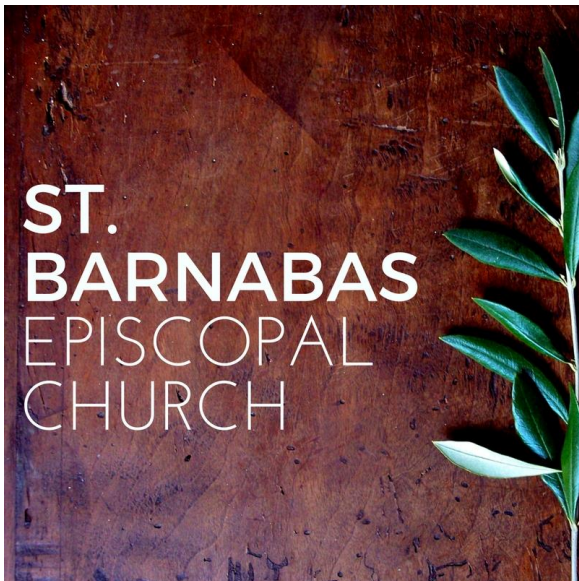
*Ancient Mysteries    Modern Faith*

Committed to Scripture    Committed to Sacraments

Welcoming Everyone

# Annual Meeting 2018

Sunday, February 11, 2018 11:00AM



A Parish of the Diocese of Chicago

The Right Reverend Jeffery D. Lee, Bishop

The Reverend Canon Natalie B. Van Kirk, Rector

22W415 Butterfield Road

Glen Ellyn, Il 60137

630-469-1394 [www.saint-barnabas.net](http://www.saint-barnabas.net)

### *Our Clergy and Staff:*

The Reverend Natalie Van Kirk, Rector

The Reverend Carol J. Kraft, Deacon

The Reverend Mark L. Ramirez, Deacon

The Reverend Robert P. Trask, Priest Associate

The Reverend Dr. Frederick W. Schmidt, Priest Associate

Ms. Cathy Kuna, DiRector of Music

Ms. Angela D'Onofrio, Children's Ministries & Parent's Day Out DiRector

Ms. Ashley Mowers, Parish Administrator

### *Our Lay Leaders:*

Jay Baum, Senior Warden(2019)

Roger Cantu, Junior Warden(2021)

Ginger Cantu, Treasurer (2018)

Andrea Saul, Clerk (2018)

Vestry Members: Bobby Scott (2019), Ramon Ortiz (2019), Marie Czech (2020), Debbie McCormac(2020), Jonathan Horjus (2021), Richard Shields (2021), Chris Greenman (2021), Wendy Taylor (2021)

# Agenda

11:00AM	Brunch	
11:30 AM	Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Mthr. Natalie

**Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of St. Barnabas at this Annual Meeting. Teach us in all things to see first your honor and glory. Guide us to preserve what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

11:35	Statement of Purpose	Mthr. Natalie
11:40	Appointment of Clerk	Mthr. Natalie
11:45	Reading of Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting	Clerk
12:00	Rector's Report for 2017	Mthr. Natalie
12:10	The Senior Warden's Report	Jay Baum
12:20	Recognition of Ministry Reports and Lay Ministry Leaders	Jay Baum
12:30	Treasurer's Report on 2017 and Presentation of 2018 Budget	Ginger Cantu
12:40	Junior Warden's Report	Roger Cantu
12:50	Report on the Building & Capital Campaign	Mthr. Natalie
1:00	Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of New Vestry Members	Mthr. Natalie
1:15	Motion to Adjourn	
	Closing Prayer & Dismissal	Deacon Carol

# Rector's Report

February 7, 2018

What a difference a year makes! Last year at the Annual Meeting we were waiting on the arrival of the engineers from Wiss, Janey, and Elstner to come and examine our building and tell us what was wrong. All we knew was that the dome was sagging and they could not make their mathematical models of the building work. The models were indicating a building that should not be able to stand.

Two and a half weeks later, after WJE's first day of examining the building, we were celebrating Ash Wednesday in the Donne-Herbert Room and wondering just how badly damaged the building and the roof structure might be. A few weeks later, WJE returned and then the question became, "Can the building be repaired and can it be done for a price we can afford?"

Celebrating Easter last year, with its promise of resurrection and new life was an act of faith in more ways than one for many of us. The future of the community at St. Barnabas was not at all clear. It was not until late May that we were able to breathe a sigh of relief and know that we could go forward to repairing the building. At the Parish Meeting in June, when we shared the engineering and cost estimates with everyone, those who attended were willing to commit to giving nearly \$1.3 of the \$1.8 we will need to repair the building. Please congratulate yourselves and one another. The commitment of St. Barnabas members to this community and its preservation is absolutely extraordinary.

There is a report included in your booklet that gives further updates about the building repairs and the upcoming Capital Campaign. For now, though, I thought it was important that we remember how far we have come in the last year. Things may have seemed uncertain last February, but it certainly did not stop ministry at St. Barnabas. We have accomplished an extraordinary amount this year.

## Vestry

The chief function of a Vestry is to serve as the policy setting body of the Parish with regard to the temporal affairs of the Parish. In addition, the Vestry monitors and manages the financial and physical assets of the Parish and serves as an advisory board to the Rector and other clergy in matters of Worship, Formation, and Pastoral Care.

Your Vestry deserves special recognition and thanks for their steadiness and hard work throughout the year. The great temptation for a Parish when faced with a crisis like we have had with our building is to stop, put everything on hold, and wait until the crisis is resolved before risking anything new or different. I am glad to say your Vestry did not do that. There was a general understanding that the needs of the Parish could not wait and so they continued to move forward starting new ministries, developing and planning for a new vision for St. Barnabas, and looking forward for new opportunities to make disciples of Jesus Christ and incorporate them into our community here at St. Barnabas.

Beginning in February the Vestry read and studied James Mallon's book *Divine Renovation*. Fr. Mallon is a Catholic priest who has managed to grow Parishes in Newfoundland, Canada a region which is at least as challenging for the church as ours. Our Vestry found that Fr. Mallon offered valuable suggestions on ways to shape the Parish and reach out into the community as well as a strong theological explanation of the gospel imperative to do so. Additionally, I found Fr. Mallon's suggestions helpful because as a Catholic he works with very similar constraints regarding worship and church governance, as well as similar attitudes among Parishioners. That meant we could easily translate from Catholic to Episcopalian.

The Vestry met two times per month from February through June to carry them through the initial stages of this work. We have continued to work with the analysis and ideas suggested whenever time has allowed in Vestry meetings through the late summer and fall. Please understand, this was far more than a book study, this was your Vestry committing themselves

and their time to learning how to be leaders and planners for a growing Parish.

In addition to their work on visioning, the Vestry approved the creation of a Parent's Day Out program, hiring someone to do the work needed for a new website, the addition of the Alpha Course to our offerings for members and our community, significant changes in our children's formation program, and kept up with the building, the finances, and all the other day to day issues of the Parish.

Wendy Taylor stepped aside from the duties of the Clerk in the spring, but remained with the Vestry through her one year term. Andrea Saul has graciously agreed to return as the Clerk of the Vestry. When Andrea has been absent Marie Czech has proven to be an able recording secretary. The building repair and its finances place a special burden on the Clerk. We have learned the hard way that incomplete minutes are not much use twenty years later when you are trying to understand why certain decisions were made. Andrea and Marie are very thorough and it is a great gift to us and to those who come after us.

Ashley Giecshen finished her term as a Vestry member at the end of February. She did a fine job of making sure that the needs of our families with children were not forgotten over the past three years and we are grateful for her presence. Additionally, Chris Greenman, Wendy Taylor, and Ginger Cantu finished their terms as Vestry members. Ginger will remain Treasurer through 2018 at which time she will retire from that position also. Chris and Wendy will be returning to the Vestry for a full term this year. Chris brings invaluable insight into this building and the history of the Parish. Wendy has expertise in construction that the Vestry has found extremely helpful in our conversations about the repairs. The Nominating Committee (Rector, Wardens, Treasurer, Deacon Carol) also asked Richard Shields and Jonathan Horjus to join the Vestry for three year terms. Both agreed to do so. Their willingness to commit to such a significant leadership role is a gift to all of us.

I want to say a special thanks to the Wardens, Jay Baum and Roger Cantu, and to Ginger Cantu for their support and counsel this year. There has been an endless array of business to attend to, decisions to be made, last minute projects, and ideas that needed to be bounced off of someone else. They have all met those demands from the Rector with grace, patience, and good humor.

### **Administration**

In September, we said farewell to our long term Parish Administrator, Pauline Briggs. Pauline started working at St. Barnabas in 2000, the same year that Fr. Matt Gunter was called to be Rector. Over the years she became friend, pastoral care person, liturgist, historian, and aide-de-camp for everyone in the Parish. Pauline was a central figure in our community and she has been missed.

Fortunately, Ashley Mowers has stepped in until summer of 2018 to take over some of Pauline's duties as well as to work on our social media and web presence. Our new website has been up for about three weeks. Take a look at it if you have not seen it yet. It gives us a fresher more contemporary look and has the added advantage of being much easier to update. The website is still a work in progress and your feedback is welcome.

As you will see in the Treasurer's Report, we completed an audit of our 2015 financial statements this past year. This took an extraordinary amount of work on the part of Christine Price, our accountant, and Ginger Cantu. In 2018 we will audit the 2016 and 2017 financials. It is a great relief to me to know that we are finally on such firm financial footing.

We have a great need going forward on our Finance team. Ginger Cantu will retire from being Treasurer at the end of 2018. I had originally asked her to do the job from September through December 2015. Surely, I thought, with the help of a CPA we can get ourselves back on firm footing financially in four months. Then Ginger decided she needed to stay on through 2016 to see the job through, then 2017, then 2018. This, however, is it. Three and a half years as Treasurer is long enough. I am praying that God will lead someone among us to take over as Treasurer. If you feel that call, please let me

know. You will need business and financial sense, computer skills, and the ability to deal with our vendors and suppliers pleasantly.

In 2018 we will work to improve our social media use and presence, get internal systems organized and clear, and continue to develop the policies we need to manage our finances effectively. Starting in May, we will also be looking for a new Parish Administrator who can fulfill all of the roles that Ashley now fills so well for us.

There are three areas for which the Rector has special responsibility in a Parish: Worship, Formation, and Pastoral Care. All three saw significant changes in 2017.

### **Worship**

The biggest change in worship has been our new location. Worshipping in the Donne-Herbert Room has forced us into very close quarters and made it difficult to worship with the same formality we were used to in the church. I am grateful to everyone for their flexibility and grace in all of the moving about and adjusting that we were forced to do.

We have also changed the bulletin format significantly in the last half of the year. As I explained to the Vestry, this bulletin format is one I have used for years at weddings and funerals to make it easier for non-Episcopalians to understand what is happening in the liturgy. Over the years I have come to realize that Sunday visitors and even some Episcopalians have been grateful for the explanations that appear in the inside columns of this bulletin. I often hear, "I never knew that!" as a response to bits or pieces of the explanations.

Cathy Kuna has continued to do an extraordinary job coordinating an ever shifting membership in the St. Barnabas Consort and in incorporating children into Sunday worship. Our music program is one of which we can be justly proud. It was good to be able to give her a well-deserved and overdue raise this year.

### **Formation**

First and foremost, I want to thank Leslie Davey, Booie Madden, and Pat O'Connor for their many years of dedication to Catechesis of the Good Shepherd here at St. Barnabas. They were part of a core group who worked hard to make Catechesis what it was and who continued that mission when there was no one else here to do it. We cannot thank them enough for their dedication and their love for our children in this place. When it was time to switch from CGS to another form of Children's Formation, as painful as it was, they were gracious about that too, and for that I am also grateful.

There is a report from Angela D'Onofrio on the new Kid's and Youth Formation programs in the ministry section of this book. For my part, I just want to say how fortunate we are that we have Angela. In addition to creating a Parent's Day Out program from scratch, getting it up and running, and building to a point where it breaks even, Angela assembled a great team to create a new kids and youth formation program that started in September. On top of that, she took on the task of being the Youth Mentor and Formation Coordinator working through a new curriculum with the youth that includes Youth *Alpha* and arranging for outings and a planning a lock-in.

In the children's program, Dodie Trask and Judi Horjus have developed a program that looks forward through the next several years, setting marks for the skills and information they want to help the children develop as they grow in their faith. Angela and Judi have developed a practice of sending regular emails to parents to keep them informed about the content of their children's formation and upcoming events.

To top off a new and exciting Sunday morning program, Angela has been working with Cathy Kuna to have Wednesday evening group programs for the children and youth. The children are learning music and how to sing, exploring what the lyrics of the music mean, and are encouraged to bring their instruments to contribute to Sunday morning worship. In both the children's and youth groups our young people are learning to love Jesus, know the scripture, and become friends with one another. All of these things are amazing gifts.

This spring, Angela and I will be working together to create a Children and Youth Formation Commission that will involve parent's and other interested parties in planning for our needs in the future and supporting the teachers and leaders in the program. Ashley Geischen is currently working with Angela to create a summer Vacation Bible School program for our children and the children of our community.

In our efforts to provide formation opportunities for adults we began offering a conversational bible study during the mid-hour using *The Path*. *The Path* is an abridged version of the Bible that exposes readers to the grand sweep of God's salvation history and to stories with which they are not always familiar. This far, it has offered opportunities for interesting conversations and discoveries. We will continue with this study until we have completed the readings for Revelation.

This spring we will begin the *Alpha* Course for adult members of our Parish and then in the fall for members and guests. We are looking forward for *Alpha* as a great opportunity to bring your own questions and doubts as well as to invite the doubters and seekers you might know to join the conversation.

### **Pastoral Care**

Following George Pelch's death, Peg Pelch moved to Maryland to be with her son John and his boys. It was then that it began to dawn on many of us exactly how much Peg had done to assist in the pastoral care needs of the congregation. Peg took care of phone calls to keep in touch, finding rides and other assistance, communicating needs to the prayer team, and countless other odds and ends. She was very good at attending to all of those details. In 2018 we will be looking for someone to assist the staff and Rector with the pastoral care needs of the Parish.

Additionally, almost all of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers have moved or retired. Currently Patty Dixon and Shirley Holt are our only regularly active LEMs. This is another spot where we will be looking for a few committed volunteers in 2018.

### **The Clergy & Staff**

What can I say about our clergy and staff that I have not already said? They are terrific and they make much of what we do here possible. Deacon Carol, Deacon Mark, Fr. Bob, and Fr. Fred have all stepped in to lead, to preach or teach, to counsel and work as spiritual diRectors, to maintain gardens, or clear shrubbery and the undercroft. There is almost no job here that they have not done or will not do. I give thanks for all of them.

I am so blessed to be the Rector of St. Barnabas. I thank you for your prayers, your support, and all of your hard work. Most of all, I am thankful for this Parish's faithfulness to Christ Jesus and your commitment to share him with the world.

With love and God's blessings,

Mother Natalie

## **Sacramental Acts for 2017**

Sunday Holy Communion Services	105
Weekday Holy Communion Services	16
Taizé	23
Home/Hospital Communion	39
Weekday Offices	8
Burials	3 Nancy Weatherhead, George Pelch, Marilu Hammons
Confirmations	3 Andrea Saul, Allen Mowers, Ashley Mowers
Receptions	2 Denise Boutin, Cate Croteau

# Senior Warden's Report - February 2018

## Role of the Senior Warden

Wardens are elected members of the Vestry with particular leadership responsibilities. The Senior Warden acts as the Rector's advisor and representative on the Vestry to the Parish at large. The Wardens, along with the entire Vestry are the lay leaders of the church. The Wardens meet regularly with the Rector to review the life and work of the congregation, plan for future growth and development and work to anticipate and resolve problems.

## Role of the Vestry

Vestry members are legal representatives and agents of the Parish charged with specific responsibilities by the canons of the Episcopal Church. They share leadership responsibilities with the Rector for setting Parish policy, growing and managing finances, management of property and human resources and developing programs to move the Parish forward.

The shared responsibilities of the Vestry and Rector can be described roughly as:

- \* Discernment of God's call
- \* Identification of new leaders
- \* Setting Parish policies
- \* Stewardship and development of resources
- \* Special duties when a congregation is without a Rector

## The Work of the Vestry this Past Year

\*Welcomed New Vestry Members --- Every year the Vestry becomes new a team as we say goodbye to retiring members and welcome new members. We spent time together working and understanding the role of Vestry. We emphasized the idea that one is not just elected to serve on the Vestry to complete business activity but that God has called us to this important ministry as leaders of the church.

\*Building the Team--- In order to foster a prayerful and supportive working team, each Vestry meeting begins with a time of devotion led by one of the Vestry members, followed by an opportunity for us to check in with each other regarding the concerns or thanksgivings in our own lives and the lives of the congregation.

\*Short and Long-Term Planning---As a Vestry, we looked closely at the numerous opportunities and challenges presented to St. Barnabas. The opportunities are endless as we look for ways to be a community that faithfully worships, prays, serves and invites others to join us in following Jesus Christ our Lord. The challenges are also many and include increasing our visibility in the community, increasing our capacity to invite and welcome new members, growing our financial resources to meet a larger vision and dealing with the major repairs on the building. In 2018, the Vestry will focus on focusing our ministries and activities so that they support our vision for the future and become vehicles through which we can help others see and know the Gospel.

\*Guiding Vision/Guiding Principle---The Vestry has adopted the following guiding vision and principle for our Parish. ***St. Barnabas is a healthy, growing faith community that brings people to Christ, forms disciples and sends them out to transform the world. Every member is committed to worship, to grow, to serve, to connect and to give.***

\*The Vestry spent a significant amount of time earlier in the year as often as 2-3 time per month assessing



reports and moving forward with decisions for our building repair.

\*The Vestry was instrumental in preparing for our two Parish meetings in June and September.

\*The Vestry read the book *Divine Renovation, Bringing Your Parish from Maintenance to Mission*, by Father James Mallon. We have studied and attempted to implement things from the book that might help St. Barnabas move forward.

\*The Vestry addressed specific needs at St. Barnabas including: Formation, Visibility, Hospitality, Local Community Outreach and Strengthening Small Groups.

\*The Vestry worked together to assess St. Barnabas by completing a SWOT Analysis. (*St. Barnabas' Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats*).

\*The Vestry has made it a priority to follow Jesus' own words in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and to focus on ministries that make disciples.

\*The Vestry was attentive to the following ten values of healthy church communities which we learned from Fr. Mallon's book:

1. Giving Priority to the Weekend (Making a point of going to church on Sundays.)
2. Hospitality
3. Uplifting Music
4. Great Homilies
5. Meaningful Community
6. Clear Expectations
7. Strength based ministry
8. Formation of Small Groups
9. Experience of the Holy Spirit
10. Become an inviting church.

\*The Vestry was supportive of our transition from our Catechesis of the Good Shepard educational program for our youth to our current program that has been up and running successfully since September 2017.

\*The Vestry was supportive of our new PDO Program that was implemented in September 2017 as well.

### **Things to Be Thankful For:**

- \* The dedication of our congregation to St. Barnabas as we moved from the church proper to the current sanctuary.
- \* New folks attending and joining St. Barnabas in the past year.
- \* Our entire St. Barnabas community rising to meet our financial needs and having the faith and determination to see this through to its completion.
- \* So many people who serve on the various Commissions.
- \* Our continued support in the various areas of Outreach.
- \* The approval of the Diocesan Standing Committee to approve our request permission to move forward with our building repairs.
- \* Bob Spitzer and Mother Natalie for their countless hours of service regarding our repairs.
- \* All of our clergy, Mother Natalie Van Kirk, Father Bob Trask, Father Fred Schmidt, Deacon Carol Kraft and Deacon Mark Ramirez.
- \* Cathy Kuna's outstanding leadership with our music program and especially for including the youth.

- \* Angela D'Onfrio heading up our youth formation and PDO programs.
- \* Ashley Mowers working on improving our St. Barnabas website.
- \* The skilled and devoted leadership of Christine Price our new accountant and both Ginger Cantu, our Treasurer and Roger Cantu our Junior Warden.
- \* Ashley Gieschen for her efforts in serving on Vestry for 3 years and for Richard Shields and Jonathan Horjus for stepping forward to serve on our Vestry for the next 3 years.
- \* St. Barnabas' inaugural Fall Fest was a huge success as well as our children's increased involvement in our music program and Sunday morning liturgy.
- \* We finished the fiscal year in the black.
- \* All of our former Parishioners over the years who have laid the foundation at St. Barnabas and for all those in the future who we have not met yet.

**In Conclusion:**

I do not go to church. YOU do not go to church. WE COME together to BE the Church!

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."  
Matthew 28:16-20

Thank you, Lord, for blessing each one us here at St. Barnabas!

**Jay Baum**  
**Senior Warden**

At St. Barnabas we place a high value on lay ministry and work to make such ministry available to as many of our parishioners as possible. Lay ministry is the backbone of any healthy church and the means by which lay people live into the vows made at their baptism. To that end, we have changed the format and titles of commission reports to reflect the fact that each of these represent ministries that are integral to St. Barnabas and part of the way we seek to live into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

# Lay Ministry Reports 2017

## Formation Ministries

### Children and Youth Ministries

#### Kid's Formation

Our ministry to children ages 3-10 has seen significant changes in 2017. In May we marked the end of a long and faithful chapter of St. Barnabas' children's formation with the end of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. We have since ushered in an exciting and vibrant new ministry that works intentionally to help children connect the Bible and their faith to their lives. Summer 2017 also saw the successful implementation of our ten-week summer Sunday School series "Lego™ Bible Camp." The children had a lot of fun learning Bible stories, memorizing verses, making crafts, and building with Lego™ bricks. They learned that "Jesus is our Awesome Foundation!"

We began our new Sunday morning ministry for children in late August to coordinate with the beginning of their school year. Sunday morning children's formation includes a pre-school room, led by Dodie Trask, and a K-10 year old room led by Judi Horjus. We have had excellent parent involvement, communication, and presence in the classrooms as volunteers this year, and are so thankful for the families of St. Barnabas. The children start their Sunday mornings with singing, and then move into teaching time, reading their Bibles, making crafts, playing games, praying, and engaging in creative activities that reinforce their lessons around a clear weekly theme.

The team is developing a curriculum that intends to expose the children to all of the most foundational lessons of faith and spiritual formation over a three-year period. We have a regular attendance of between 5-11 children each week. We are incredibly grateful to Ms. Judi and Ms. Dodie for their tireless and brilliant work in formation this year, and to all of our families for their support and involvement.

Cathy Kuna has continued her Wednesday Children's Music Program in 2017. The children have learned elements of music while being immersed in the worship at St. Barnabas through participation in the music ministry. The opportunity this class affords to families is incredibly valuable and something that could draw people into our community. Many thanks go to Ms. Cathy for her faithful music ministry to the kids.

This summer we will be once again having Lego™ Bible Camp on Sunday mornings. We will be focusing on stories from the Old Testament and look forward to a lot of learning and fun. We are also planning a one-week Vacation Bible School with an arts focus for July. Angela and Ashely Geischen are heading up this team and will be looking for volunteers and ways to reach out to the community around St. Barnabas for this event. We also are hoping to hold special Children's Lego™ night parties in the coming year.

## Youth Formation

Ministry to youth ages 11 to 18 has received new life and commitment in 2017. The students meet on Sunday mornings as well as Wednesday evenings. There are between 4-6 youth in attendance for these meetings. Sunday mornings are a time for spiritual development and some of the lessons have centered around prayer, Saints, Bible, and currently Youth Alpha. The lessons on Sunday mornings will continue, when Alpha finishes, with conversations designed to prepare students for confirmation, as well engage the students with their Bibles and with their faith in God.

Wednesday evening youth group is run by Cathy Kuna and Angela D'Onofrio. This weekly meeting has a musical identity, as the students spend about half of each evening engaging with liturgical music both in conversation about the meaning behind sacred music, as well as with playing and singing music themselves. The youth group just had their first evening outing of the year to Fun Way in Batavia and had a truly great time. The students are bonding and becoming closer to each other as they learn and grow in their faith together.

Looking forward, are planning for a weekend retreat where the students can learn, pray, have fun, and enjoy time together as a group. Once this is planned the group will be sponsoring a fundraiser this spring to help with some funds for the trip. The Youth will also be Camp Counselors for our summer VBS.

**Angela D'Onofrio, Director Children and Youth Ministries**

## Adult Formation

Part of the Vestry's vision for a growing, healthy parish is a collection of formation ministries that encourage everyone, regardless of age, to continue to work on the development of their faith and their spiritual lives. Leaning on the things learned from the study of *Divine Revelation* the Vestry determined that there were three critical issues which needed to be addressed: First, is the need to increase Bible study and biblical knowledge among the congregation. Many members of the congregation had little formation in Scripture as young people and want to learn more. Second, we needed a way to provide a safe place for parishioners and members of the community to bring their questions about Christianity that would encourage conversation and build community. Third, we needed to find ways to create small groups that would incorporate newcomers and encourage faith formation within the group.

To meet the first goal we started using *The Path* as the book for our Sunday morning mid-hour gatherings in late October. *The Path* is an abridged version of the Bible—a sort of “greatest hits” synopsis of the every book. To date, attendance has increased at the mid-hour gathering and participants are reading stories which are new to them. The conversations have been stimulating and brought the readings from Sunday morning worship into greater focus.

The second and third goals will be met using *Alpha Course*. *Alpha* is an eleven session program designed to address the most common issues and misconceptions that un-churched people bring to their encounter with Christianity. We will begin *Alpha* in March, 2018, with a “dress-rehearsal” for church members, and then open the sessions to the public in the Fall. One of the benefits of *Alpha* is that participants are formed into small groups for a

meal and conversation, and the friendships formed during the ten-weeks of the course tend to endure long after the course is over.

We are constantly looking for ways to increase the content and variety of our Adult Formation programs with offerings for study as well as spiritual development. Deacon Mark Ramirez has picked up the Quiet Days ministry that Fr. Bob Trask led so ably for the last several years. We are also looking for ways to add regular other study and prayer opportunities during the week. One of the things stressed in *Divine Renovation* is that a healthy, growing parish requires a vibrant, well-led, content rich formation program for adults. We invite everyone—no matter how much or how little you may think you know—to participate in these opportunities for spiritual development.

## **Mother Natalie**

### **Library**

St. Barnabas is fortunate to have a well-stocked library. Over the past few months, we have added hundreds of books, and removed some out-of-date works as well. There are interesting, challenging, helpful and thought-provoking books on many topics waiting for you. If you are interested in Old Testament or Gospel commentaries, works about Jesus, theological reviews, devotionals, prayers, histories or books about the church through the ages, we have these and many more. We operate the library on the honor method: take a book, read it and bring it back. We will continue to expand our collection, and if you own good books that belong in a church library and you would like to donate them, please see Fuad Saba. We're always happy to oblige.

## **Fuad Saba, Librarian**

## **Parents' Day Out**

In February, 2017, the Vestry authorized the creation of a Parent's Day Out program as a means of serving the needs of children and families in our area. We spent the spring and early summer organizing the rooms and gathering area on the lower level, buying equipment, and setting policies and standards. In August we began enrolling students in the program.

Today, the Parents' Day Out program is flourishing and is currently in its 7<sup>th</sup> month of operation. We have a total of 12 children enrolled, and employ two staff members, Angela D'Onofrio and Julia Rubio. The program is bringing in enough income to pay the salaries of its staff as well as having a bit extra each month. When enrollment increases to fourteen children it will be necessary to add a third paid staff member.

All but one of the children currently enrolled in PDO come two days a week, which means that our families are making full use of the program and seem very happy with the care their children receive. We provide one scholarship to a needy family, and offer a discount to our church members whose children are enrolled. We see PDO as a ministry of St. Barnabas to the community and to our parishioners. Registration for next year will begin in early March. We are hoping that the word about our high-quality option for part-time child care continues to spread in

the community.

PDO provides individualized care to each child that is centered around their developmental needs. We communicate regularly with parents and offer flexibility that allows us to support the care of each child including some with special needs.

In the summer of 2018 we will offer a six-week summer PDO program on Monday and Wednesday mornings. We hope to have more children enrolled for fall, and to continue to grow the program. We plan to expand our program by hosting a weekly play group in our PDO room for caregivers and children. Additionally we plan to offer a quarterly Parents' Evening Out event, in which families bring their children for an evening of supervised play and care.

**Angela D'Onofrio, Parent's Day Out Director**

## **Outreach Ministries**

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty, and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?"

Matthew 25:37-38.

### **Local Outreach**

#### **PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter)**

St. Barnabas has a long tradition of helping those who are experiencing homelessness by partnering with DuPage PADS. St. Barnabas was a host site for 10 years, during which we provided our guests with hospitality, shelter and hot meals. In 2018, St. Barnabas has made a commitment to PADS to serve two nights at an off-site location.

#### **St. Leonard's House for People Returning to the Community from Illinois Prisons**

Three times a year members of St. Barnabas travel to the West Side of Chicago to bring a Sunday supper and visit with residents at St. Leonard's. Our purpose is to bring conversation, companionship and compassion as we serve home cooked food and talk with the residents. It is a "ministry of presence." Our next visit is Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ESSE Senior Services**

**Glen Ellyn Food Pantry**

**Walk-in Ministries Glen Ellyn**

**DuPage Community Outreach Center**

St. Barnabas offers financial support to these local agencies.

## **National Outreach**

### **Cheyenne River Indian Reservation Mission Trip**

In 2017 a mission team from St. Barnabas returned to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This marked our third visit in the past four years. We go to live among our Lakota sisters and brothers to listen and learn, to share our stories and the love of Christ, and by God's grace, to absorb some of their grief and pain. Ziebach County is one of the poorest in the U.S. with 40% living below the poverty level. During the week we participated in a community meeting which addressed the epidemic of tribal suicide, and then we co-sponsored a healing service. We helped prepare and serve food on Soup Kitchen Day. We also repaired a long crack in the Parish Hall floor at St. John's in Eagle Butte. We were overwhelmed by the hospitality and kindness of the people we came to serve. The dates for the 2018 trip are July 6-15. Please speak with Fr. Bob Trask if you are interested in joining the mission team for 2018.

## **Global Outreach**

### **South Sudan, Support for Medical Clinic and Clergy**

In the Diocese of Renk, South Sudan, St. Barnabas helps pay the salaries for two priests and donates money for desperately needed medicine at a local clinic. This ministry is founded on a personal relationship with Bishop Joseph Atem who visits us annually and gives us a first hand account of the pressing need in Renk.

Each year St. Barnabas holds a concert to benefit the clinic. Professional musicians from St. Barnabas, St. Mark's Glen Ellyn, and Saint Margaret of Scotland volunteer their time and talents and provide an evening of extraordinary classical music. In 2017, we raised over \$11,000 for the clinic.

The 2018 concert will be on Saturday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in Glen Ellyn.

### **Missionary Support**

St. Barnabas provides financial support to two missionary couples who have roots in our parish. Phil and Karen DuBert serve in South Africa at a pastors' training school. Ron and Erin Hesse serve in Papua New Guinea with Bible translation. Both couples are actively working to spread the gospel in ways which are compatible with the needs and culture of the local population.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

In 2018, the Outreach Ministry is exploring opportunities that would allow our families with children to give hands-on service in a local setting. We may be able to make birthday cards under the direction of a talented card maker and then participate in parties for children who have never had a party. We are also considering volunteering with World Relief to assist refugees.

**Shirley Holt, Outreach Ministries Coordinator with Fr. Bob Trask, Marie Czech, and Bob Spitzer**

## Evangelism Ministries

This year we also began two important traditions that provided outreach to families at St. Barnabas and our community this year with our Fall Fest and Advent Workshop. The Fall Fest was a resounding success that saw a huge wave of support and involvement from our congregation, as well as a huge crowd! We can't wait to continue the tradition next year with the knowledge we acquired this year. For a first time event like this, and with the large crowd that showed up, St. Barnabas did a great job. The feedback was nothing but positive from those whose came. Thank you again to everyone who participated and volunteering including donating funds, hay bales, time, and energy.

Another special tradition begun this year, was the addition of our Advent Workshop event. The event was designed to provide support to families in creating and implementing spiritual traditions at home during the season of preparation for Christmas. There was a time for the adults to learn and chat with Mother Natalie while the children made a craft, and the event ended with the families working together to make advent wreaths to bring home. We produced a booklet for readings and traditions at home surrounding Advent. We are looking forward to making this event a yearly tradition.

In 2018 we will work to make our Welcome Table more inviting and a true landing place for visitors on Sunday mornings. Debbie McCormac is taking on this task. We will be promoting parish events more widely on Facebook and other local websites and become more intentional about getting the message out that 'The Canterbury Trail Starts Here.' And we will continue to develop our website and social media presence. Our focus is on reaching out to our community and visitors to let them know we are here and welcome them.

**Angela D'Onofrio and Mother Natalie**

## Worship Ministries

Worship on Sundays, or any other day of the week, requires the assistance of many different members of the congregation. The following reports are from the Altar Guild, the Ushers, the Acolytes, and, of course, the Music Ministry. These are the people who work tirelessly in the background and the foreground to make worship at St. Barnabas such a glorious experience. I cannot thank them enough for all that they do.

**Mother Natalie**

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is an essential and often invisible ministry of the church. Its primary purpose is to prepare for worship, the celebrations of Holy Eucharist, and other sacraments of the church. The Altar Guild has the responsibility for caring for the worship space, its furnishings and decoration, its linens, and the sacred vessels. The work of the Altar Guild provides order and beauty for worship. Service on the Altar Guild is a spiritual practice. The Holy Spirit



can be experienced in the results of the Altar Guild's work and the worship which follows, and also in the process of preparation in which the members engage. The Altar Guild at St. Barnabas is a group of women and men who make up four teams that divide the work of each month among themselves. These teams make all things necessary for worship ready each week. They are: Mary Beine, Gail Hanzlik, Bob & Doris Raynor, Lisa Correia, Dodie Trask, Sue Easterwood, Roseann Madden, Ian & Amy Thomas, Sandy Clapp, and Ginger Cantu. Dan Walsh attends to the ministry of purchasing and arranging flowers each week.

## **Bonnie Pollworth, Director of the Altar Guild**

### **Acolytes**

With the necessary move into the Donne-Herbert Room for worship, the acolytes' responsibilities for this year have been simplified. That is because the smaller space has necessitated only a single acolyte serving at each service, and because the small space has temporarily eliminated the use of incense. That's been a good thing, since our ranks are thin. The acolytes have focused on serving in the smaller space, as unobtrusively and helpfully as possible.

As we look ahead to the next year, we joyfully anticipate moving back into the sanctuary. We'll need to expand our ranks. (Happily, one new acolyte has already been added to the 8 a.m. service.) We plan training meetings to refresh and smoothen our processes. We strive to serve clergy and the congregation mindfully and inconspicuously.

Current acolytes include Ginger Cantu, Cate Croteau, Eric Wetle, Marie Czech, C. J. Scott, Derek Scott, and Rodney Clapp.

## **Rodney Clapp, Acolyte Master**

### **Ushers**

The ushers at St. Barnabas serve at both the 8 and 10:30 am services. Ushers provide the following duties:

- \* Ring the church bell prior to the service
- \* Serve as greeters by welcoming parishioners and guests
- \* Pass out visitor bags
- \* Distribute the bulletin
- \* Answer questions before, during and after the service
- \* Assist in seating folks
- \* Tape the sermon
- \* Pass the plate during the offertory
- \* Secure a couple of people to bring up the elements
- \* Assist people up for communion
- \* Record the number of people for attendance purposes
- \* Pass out the announcements at the end of the service
- \* Clean up bulletins after the service along
- \* Other specific duties for various special services

Parishioners who have served as ushers at St. Barnabas in the past year are Jay Baum, Floyd Beine, Bob Correia,

Sue Easterwood, Joe Hanzlik, Dick Holt, Ramon Ortiz, Sylvio Pollici, Bob Raynor, Henry Schmidt, Bobby Scott, Bob Spitzer, Dean Swanson, Wendy Taylor, and Dan Walsh.

## **Jay Baum, Usher Coordinator**

### **Lay Readers**

Lay Readers serve a critical ministry role in worship. It is they who lead the congregation in the proclamation of Scripture. Their effective and knowledgeable reading of the biblical texts helps fellow parishioners understand the meaning of the passage and quite often makes it come alive in new ways. We are always in need of good and committed readers. If you are interested in reading during worship, please contact Deacon Mark.

### **Lay Eucharistic Ministers**

Lay Eucharistic Ministers or LEMs take Communion to homebound and hospitalized members of the congregation. This is an important ministry of presence and remembrance. Our homebound and hospitalized members depend upon it. If you think you might be interested in becoming a LEM, please see Mother Natalie.

### **Music Ministries**

Highlights of 2017 include the continued growth of our children's music program, the launch of our youth group music program, and the increased participation of many members of our congregation as choir members and instrumentalists.

Our faithful choir continues to grow and inspire! Continuing their musical offerings are Christine Salisbury-Poncin, Bonnie Pollworth, Georgia Baum, Suzanne Scott, Sue Easterwood, Shirley Holt, Lora Wiens, Sandy Clapp, James Keables, Jonathan Horjus, Bob Trask, Phil Gieschen, Richard Shields, and Doug Long. Ashley Gieschen, Brit Taylor and Fuad Saba have also contributed their voices. An extra special thanks goes to our faithful cantor, James Keables.

It has been exciting to have the children sing with the adult choir on many occasions this past year. The kids' music program continues to meet weekly, and is a chance for the kids to learn about music, explore singing and a variety of instruments, and contribute to our Sunday morning worship. Much gratitude to our children who help us sing "Alleluia!" every Sunday morning with their joyful playing of chimes: Ivan and Susannah Gieschen, Sheppard Littrell, Sadie and Brody McCormac, Eila and Emiliana Quetua, and Orrin Rammien. Thanks also to Angela D'Onofrio for her invaluable help in coordination, and to the parents and Sunday School teachers for their support!

Our youth group band spent many Wednesday evenings preparing the song "The Man Who Calmed the Sea" and sang it at a December worship service. Cammy, Maddie, Eric, CJ, Derek, and Tavione - we are thankful for your thoughtfulness, time, voices, and instrumental talent that went into that offering.

The instrumentalists of the St. Barnabas Consort have met the new challenges of our Donne-Herbert Room wor-

ship space with inventiveness and flexibility. The core musicians who have served in 2017 are Katherine Becker, flute; Daniel Gunderson, guitar and mandolin; Fuad Saba, drums and percussion; Suzanne Scott, recorder; Richard Shields, guitar; Danielle Wetle, violin; and Lora Wiens, percussion and piano. Frequent contributors are Jonathan Horjus, guitar; Dave Sampsell, piano; Jean Spitzer, piano; and Alex Wetle, guitar. We have also been ministered to by our youth musicians: Cammy Kucaba, clarinet; Tavione Porchman, percussion; Nathan Ramirez, guitar; Grace Ramirez, cello; CJ Scott, tuba; Derek Scott, baritone; Eric Wetle, guitar; Maddie Wetle, violin and ukelele. All of our musicians are versatile, and are willing to try their hand at unusual instruments like the glockenspiel, Macedonian tambura, and Tibetan singing bowl.

We said goodbye to Katherine Becker upon her move to Texas. We truly miss her contributions as a soprano in the choir and as a flutist. We are so pleased that Ivy Paul-Van Os has joined the Consort on flute, and that Kevin Van Os has joined with string bass.

Thank you to all who participate in the ministry of music at St. Barnabas. We are blessed with such musical talent, and blessed by your offering of your time and gifts. You enable us all to make a joyful noise.

**Cathy Kuna, Director of Music**

### **Taizé Prayers and Worship**

Taizé Prayer at St. Barnabas provides the opportunity to end the hectic work week with an hour of contemplative prayer, singing, and quiet reflection. Our service is modeled after worship in the Taizé Community, a group of ecumenical Christian monastics in Taizé, Saône-et-Loire, Burgundy, France.

This year, St Barnabas increased its ministry by offering services on both the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. We have a faithful core of 18-20 folks in attendance, many of whom are from other church traditions. We regularly meet someone new who either actively searched for Taizé Prayer and/or were intrigued by our sign on Butterfield Rd. We have been gifted by attendees who have read the appointed gospel in Spanish, French, Italian, Lithuanian, and even Hawaiian!

During our temporary exile from the sanctuary, we have created a fine worship space in the narthex by the double doors, thanks to the creative eyes of Judi Horjus and Cari Shields. We have also created a complete year of biweekly service bulletins containing a unique mix of song selections appropriate for the church season, gospel readings, and meditations from the Taizé Community. Many thanks to Cari Shields, Cathy Kuna, Pauline Briggs, and Ashley Mowers for making that happen. Also, thanks to the entire music team (Jonathan Horjus, James Keables, Cathy Kuna, and Richard Shields) for setting a wonderful tone for contemplative Prayer, and to Fr. Bob Trask for his support.

**Richard Shields, St. Barnabas Taizé Community**

# Parish Life Ministries

## (Formerly Community Life)

Parish Life is a program that invites connectivity with all parishioners, whether they attend 8:00am services or 10:30am services. This is achieved by attending events and sharing a meal together.

This year, among other things, we went to a baseball game in a suite at the Kane County Cougar Baseball Park and later, in the fall, took a walk around Lake Herrick. Not all, but many feature a shared table. Our monthly Ethnic Dining second Fridays are an example of shared dining. We try to eat at a different restaurant and different ethnicity each month. We are on our 95<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Our Foyers' Groups are on their 13<sup>th</sup> year. Seven or eight people, couples and singles, share a meal at each other's houses, or at the church, or another's house between September/October till June. The host provides the entrée and the others provide sides, bread, salads, desserts, beverages, etc.

It has been a lovely year for Parish Life.

**Ginger Cantu, Parish Life Coordinator**

### **St. Barnabas Book Club**

The St. Barnabas Book Club meets one Sunday a month September-November and January-May. We discuss a different book each month from a variety of titles that have been both suggested and voted on by the group. Group members take turns leading discussion or providing the food that we share during our meeting. In September 2017 we began meeting at a new time, 12:30-2:30pm, and it has been well received. Our attendees include both men and women with between six and twelve people attending each month. Several people attend every month but the group is open for people to attend whenever they are able or when a certain book is of particular interest. All adults are welcome at any time!

Reading the same book, whether fiction or non-fiction, is a wonderful shared experience. Discussing a book opens topics and opportunities to share that don't always happen in day-to-day conversation. Participation in a book discussion is a straight-forward and approachable way to get involved and get to know others at St. Barnabas. Participating in book club has led to friendships, encouragement, and increased involvement with other ministries. The St. Barnabas Book Club has been and continues to be a source of great blessing!

**Judi Horjus, Coordinator**

### **Two Thumbs Up**

Two Thumbs Up is a group of movie lovers who meet to watch some of the great movies of our time and then to discuss them over a shared meal. In 2017, we gathered to watch movies streamed at home, but we also met at theaters to watch some films that were "hot off the press." One of the highlights of the 2017 season was an Academy Awards party at the Czech's home.

In 2018, we are looking forward to seeing more intelligent films and having more insightful discussions. The meeting dates are included in the Encourager and Bulletin. The Academy Awards party is on for March 4 at 6:00 p.m. Participants: Jay & Georgia Baum, Roger & Ginger Cantu, Bob & Elisa Correia, Sue Easterwood, Joe & Gail Hanzlik, Dick & Shirley Holt, Judi Horjus, James & Erin Keables, Cathy Kuna & Lora Wiens, Tad & Marcia Lehe, Allen & Ashley Mowers, Ivy & Kevin Paul Van-Os, Anne Ramirez, Bob & Doris Raynor, Bob & Jean Spitzer.

**Marie Czech, Coordinator**

# Annual Report from the Treasurer

This year has been a year of bounty and change. There was the slow and careful removal of our three towers from July to September. The red tailed hawk that used to perch on the highest point was not happy, and squawked her displeasure from the parking lot fence. People have been big-hearted in donations to the repair of our building.

The pledges for 2017 have been paid and the generosity of all in making their pledges for 2018 has been truly amazing. This sort of bounty begets prayers of great thanksgiving and a big grin. We have been careful with our money and plans, and have ended the year fully in the black with a nice reserve.

We are fortunate to have this reserve to be able to give well deserved raises to our staff who work many hours for our benefit. Having worked beyond their pay, the Vestry has taken the opportunity to increase the salaries of Mthr. Natalie, Cathy Kuna, Ashley Mowers, and Angela D'Onofrio.

The Vestry is drawing up guidelines for policies for the use of the remainder of this reserve so that it will not be spent on the operating budget, but used to fund selected projects that further St. Barnabas' spiritual reach into the community and the larger world as well as to serve as emergency funding for critical repairs of the physical plant.

People have begun to remember St. Barnabas in the form of bequests, and, in gifts of stocks. We will establish a Legacy Fund this year to support St. Barnabas' future. The Vestry will also be drawing up a policy for managing this fund. We have parishioners and former parishioners and rectors who give with great kindness. Father Robert MacFarlane and Bishop Matt Gunter, both former rectors of St. Barnabas, have sent significant gifts for the repair of our building.

St. Barnabas is a very special place with very special people. Thank you.

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There are some fairly significant changes in the budgets from 2017 to 2018.

51000 - Total Administration \$19,000 greater, mostly due to the salary increases and audit fees. We will be auditing 2016 and 2017 this year.

51700 - Total Stewardship - \$1,700 difference is budgeting for the Leadership dinner, Parish celebration luncheon and some printing.

51900 - We are pleased to be able to raise our Diocesan contribution this year.

52400 - We will have to update our financial software this year.

53000 - Parish Life is now responsible for more parish events and the coffee hour supplies.

54000 - Evangelism Hospitality - Beginning the Alpha program, increasing our advertising and the number of events, such as the Fall Fest which was so successful last fall.

55000 - We have new material and needs for the Children's and Youth Formation programs

56250 - Replacing some choir vestments

All our budgetary increases are geared toward realizing our vision of making disciples through Evangelism and Outreach.

**Ginger Cantu, Treasurer**

# Junior Warden's Report

The focus of the Junior Warden is on the building and physical plant of the church. Owing to the current building repair project, much of the work done last year focused less on routine repairs that will be wrapped into the larger project but rather on preparing the building for that project. To that end, there were several scheduled parish work days.

Heartfelt thanks to all who put in so much effort towards the big work projects:

- Relocating the Altar Guild's work space and storage.
- Clearing and cleaning the "cave" of decades' worth of stuff.
- Clearing and cleaning the undercroft.
- Moving furnishings and other material out of the way of the likely construction areas.
- Getting rid of a dumpster's worth of trash.
- Clearing brush and preparing the gardens for winter.

In addition to this work, contractors were brought in to remove dead and dying trees as well as clearing the back lot which had become a gathering spot for unwelcomed activities.

The altar and baptismal font were boxed in heavy plywood for protection in preparation for the repair work in the church.

Some of the projects planned for 2018 include:

- Boxing the organ to protect it during the repairs.
- Installing security cameras and a monitoring system.
- Installing a television with software to display information about events and activities taking place.
- More work days to reorganize after the completion of building repairs.

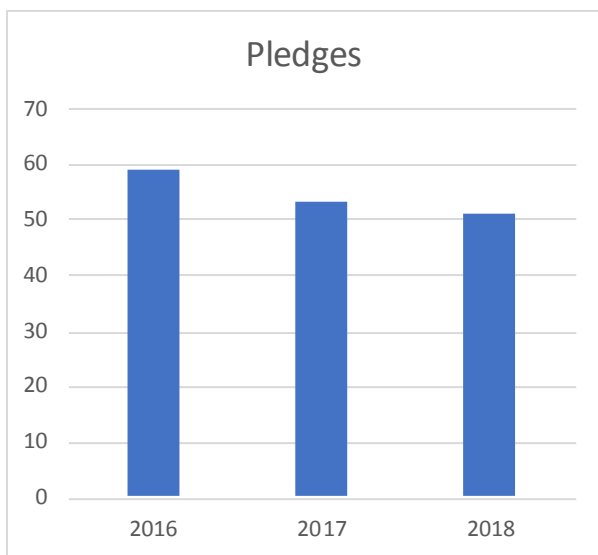
# Stewardship Report

Giving at Saint Barnabas reflects both God's call to give in support of the church's work and the devotion displayed by parish members in answering that call. At a time of great challenge, when uncertainty might give way to fear, member support has not wavered. In spite of a decrease in the number of pledges, the amount pledged has actually increased.

A very big *Thank You* to everyone who helped bring this stewardship campaign to fruition. We will be launching the Capital campaign to fund the work on the building very soon.

## Operations Budget pledges for 2018 compared to the previous two years

	2016	2017	2018
Pledges	59	53	51
Pledged Amount	\$270,718	\$273,416	<b>\$279,849</b>



**Roger Cantu, Junior Warden and Stewardship Chairperson**



# Building Report

At the outset of this report, I must thank Bob Spitzer for the countless hours and the immeasurable brain power that he has devoted to St. Barnabas and the repair of our building over the last year. Bob probably would rather I did not mention it, but he has done things like locate and copy all of the drawings we have of the original construction, Photoshopped hundreds of photos to get them to give up their details about the construction of the church building, get up to be here at 6:00 AM when there were people working on the building or on the property, meet multiple times with the engineers, architects, and contractors, and then go through their new drawings and proposals with a fine-toothed comb trying to sort out what might be missing or still unaddressed. He has earned the respect of all of the folks working with us. Bob sees the big picture and the details, and he sweats the details. It is impossible to say how many problems and short-comings Bob has headed off by insisting that all of our contractors and subcontractors learn to see the pieces of this project as one integrated whole. We cannot say thank-you enough.

It has been a long year of waiting for something to happen, hasn't it? There has been quite a lot happening, but most of it has involved engineers and architects. At the June Parish Meeting we told you that the towers on the roof had to come down. They were causing stresses on the structure that it could no longer bear and were a significant source of the water problems we had in the church. Last summer Pepper Construction brought in a large crane and took the towers and the cross down piece by piece. After that, it seemed like everything stopped. But it didn't.

The week before Christmas we received the mostly final drawings from the engineering company, Wiss, Janey, Elstner (WJE). Bob went through them carefully and asked some important questions. Then, in January we received what are known as 95 percent drawings, drawings which are complete enough for contractors to bid on them and to seek permits from the county. On January 30, Bob and I met with the full team of people who will be working on the church. (In June, on the strong recommendation of WJE and Jaeger, Nickola, Kuhlman (JNKA) our architects, the Vestry elected Ward Contracting to be our general contractor.) We are currently in the process of finalizing contracts and supervision agreements with WJE and JNKA.

We are also in the process of finding an attorney who will advise us on the contracts and stay current with the work. We are doing this not because we expect there to be problems, but so that if a problem should arise, we are not left in a difficult position. The Diocese of Chicago does not have anyone who consults with congregations on such matters.

JNKA has been working with the County Building Department to get agreement on how we should approach applications for permits for this project. We now have a plan for approaching the county and should start submitting applications for permits in the next two weeks. At the moment, Ward and WJE are hoping to start construction in mid-March. The project will take at least five months. The work inside the church is demanding and complicated, and the five beams that need repairs must be repaired one at a time. We will keep you abreast of each stage of the work as it moves along.

At the moment, we are hoping and planning to be back in the church on the first weekend in October—Sunday, October 7. We will have more certainty about that date once construction actually starts. In the meantime, save the date for **Homecoming Weekend, October 7, 2018.**

# Nominating Committee Report

Members of the Nominating Committee: Mother Natalie, Deacon Carol, Jay Baum, Roger Cantu, Ginger Cantu

## **Richard Shields, Vestry, 2021**

### **Why did you come to St. Barnabas?**

I began attending St Barnabas as a college student in the early 70's. I was seriously questioning the faith of my youth and had given up on church for a season. While taking a course in historical theology led by Dr. Bob Webber at Wheaton College, I started to explore liturgical worship - first in the Lutheran tradition of my maternal grandmother (which she had left for a fundamentalist church along with my mother), and then at St. Barnabas. The first experience in this community is difficult to describe other than that I immediately resonated with the language, rhythm, and the music of the liturgy, and God's Presence in the Eucharist.

### **What is your church background before St. Barnabas?**

My family attended a fundamentalist church in Chicago and then transferred to a more mainstream Evangelical church when me moved to the NW suburbs. My high school youth leaders eventually spun off and founded the Willow Creek megachurch.

### **What has made you feel at home here?**

I first attended with my good friend, Patrick Ward, a former Roman Catholic who came to Wheaton straight from Vietnam where he had a conversion experience. There just happened to be an Inquirers' Class the afternoon of our first Sunday here.

Fr. Monroe was a former Baptist who understood both the strengths and baggage of my upbringing, and he gave a good foundational overview of the Episcopal tradition. We were soon corralled by Bob Correia to work at St B's concession at the county fair, and I was welcomed into the choir. (Patrick is now a retired priest in New York.) Many folks also know that I met Cari here during coffee hour, and Patrick set us up on a blind date soon afterward. Cari and I were married at St Barnabas 40 years ago on January 21.

### **What parish activities have you been involved in? Do you have outside organizations you work with?**

I have been a part of music ministry my entire time here. Twice a warden, youth leader for many years, and currently active in the Outreach Commission and Taize Prayer.

### **Tell us a little about your educational and professional background.**

I have a bachelors in religious studies from Wheaton College and did some grad work at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and DePaul University. I retired from FedEx Corp. after 25 years in operations, training, and human resources. I have been HR Director at *Christianity Today* in Carol Stream for nearly 10 years.

## **What are your dreams for St. Barnabas in the next year? How can we be an even better parish?**

To see the completion of the sanctuary repairs and celebrate our "re-entry," to grow in numbers and commitment, to deepen relationships, and to actively discern how to be effective stewards of our gifts and facilities.

## **Jonathan Horjus**

### **Why did you come to St. Barnabas?**

I first became aware of St. Barnabas by noting it as a place that held Taize services (the sign worked!). I then read the book "Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail" and realized I knew of the church that was featured so prominently in the book. Finally, I happened to stumble across Matt Gunter's blog (former rector of St. Barnabas), which I found encouraging and compelling. By then it seemed clear I should visit St. Barnabas!

### **What is your church background before St. Barnabas?**

I grew up in a conservative, reformed church and community, but as an adult attended various Baptist, Evangelical and Charismatic leaning churches. Lastly I was introduced to the larger Anglican tradition through a small ACNA church near our home. It was there that I began to sense the importance of tradition and see the beauty of the liturgy and Eucharist.

### **What has made you feel at home here?**

What first made me feel at home here was kindness. I found the people of St. Barnabas to be very kind and welcoming. From my first visit in July 2015 I experienced genuine friendliness. I also saw kindness expressed in how the PADS program was run, and continued to discover this kindness in other ministries to those in need. I saw kindness in the passion with which programs were crafted and communicated that would encourage people to connect and grow. I heard truth and kindness in the messages preached each Sunday, and experienced the welcome and mystery of God's great kindness through the liturgy and weekly invitation to partake at the altar. As I continued to visit, eventually becoming a member, it was the recognition of shared values that kept me coming - values such as unity, kindness, acceptance, a focus on what we are "for" not what we are "against", the importance of creating opportunities to work and serve together, meaningful worship, and seeking an authentic spirituality. For all these reasons and more, I am happy to call St. Barnabas my church home.

### **What parish activities have you been involved in? Do you have outside organizations you work with?**

I had the opportunity to be involved in PADS while that was running, and continue to be involved in choir, the weekly men's Bible study, the Taize service team, the book club, foyer groups and mission trips to the Cheyenne River Reservation. I am also in the second year of the Education for Ministry program that meets at St. Barnabas.

### **Tell us a little about your educational and professional background.**

My education is in media and communications, but the bulk of my professional life has been as an IT developer. I currently work in IT as a developer for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) in Northbrook.

## **What are your dreams for St. Barnabas in the next year? How can we be an even better parish?**

I believe that St. Barnabas is aptly named (son of encouragement), so one hope for this year is that the church would continue to grow in its charisms of encouragement and kindness; that these would continue to be our mode of operation so that others in need of a safe place might find it here. I also hope to see the building project continue as planned and look forward to the sanctuary being re-opened and the renewed opportunities that that will represent.

I think that we can be an even better and growing parish by looking for more ways to connect, worship and serve the community and world together. We can also ensure that all opportunities be even more clearly communicated, so that visitors and members alike can confidently participate, serve and grow in their faith and gifts.

### **Diocesan Convention Delegates**

Delegate #1: Jay Baum

Delegate #2: Roger Cantu

Delegate #3: OPEN

Alternate: OPEN

Nominations will be taken from the floor for the open positions.

# Minutes for 2017 Annual Meeting

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Annual Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2017

Mother Natalie Van Kirk called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Mother Natalie moved to appoint Wendy Taylor as clerk of the meeting. This was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Gary Burge moved that the reading of the 2016 minutes be suspended. Richard Shields seconded and a unanimous voice vote approved.

Mother Natalie presented the Rector's Report. She highlighted the implementation of a year-round children's education program, Father Trask's Quiet Days ministry, realizing current financial statements and preparation of the 2015 finances for an audit as well as the establishing an annual outreach trip to the Cheyenne River Indian Mission. She thanked clergy and staff for their hard work. Mother Natalie then presented her 2017 goals which include building and roof repairs, reinvigorating the youth and children's programs, implementing new income sources (i.e, Parent's Day Out, an indoor farmer's market, building rentals for meetings and retreats, and a regularly scheduled flea market) creating an improved web presence, beginning a capital campaign for the building repairs, holding a Lego-themed vacation Bible school and executing formation, prayer and small group initiatives.

Gary Burge asked questions regarding protocol for communicating with parishioners during extended absences and the development of a wills and legacy gifts program. Jay Baum explained the current systems being used. There was discussion regarding the parish's web presence. Erin Seaman asked whether the sanctuary would be used during the planned repairs. Mother Natalie replied that this was currently unknown.

Cari Shields presented the Warden's Report.

Cari then recognized the commission reports and Mother Natalie recognized the vestry officers.

Ginger Cantu presented the 2016 and 2017 Treasurer's Report. She explained that a \$45,000 deficit in 2016 was reduced to \$13,000. Ginger then reviewed 2017 budget cuts that were considered for the diocesan contribution, Outreach Commission and personnel. Finally, she spoke about a \$13,000 grant was received for the Outreach Commission. Ginger moved to accept the 2017 budget and a unanimous voice vote approved.

Bob Spitzer gave a report from the Building Committee. He reviewed the building's history, scope of the repairs to be made and upcoming steps.

Mother Natalie then gave the report of the Nominating Committee. She recognized departing Senior Warden Cari Shields and vestry member Bob Correia. New vestry members Marie Czech, Roger Cantu, Debbie McCormac were affirmed by a unanimous voice vote. Diocesan Convention delegates Jay Baum and Cathy Kuna were elected by voice vote as well.

At 12.53pm Lora Wiens moved that the meeting adjourn and Jean Spitzer seconded.

Deacon Carol Kraft gave the closing prayer.

**Wendy Taylor, Clerk**





**Saint Barnabas**  
**Episcopal Church**

22W415 Butterfield Rd.      Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

[www.saint-barnabas.net](http://www.saint-barnabas.net)

The Rev'd Natalie B. Van Kirk, Rector