

# THE ENCOURAGER – DECEMBER 2011

*“There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means ‘son of encouragement’).” Acts 4:36*



## ADVENT

### **ADVENT WEDNESDAYS:**

10 A.M. & 7 P.M. Advent Study  
6:30 P.M. Advent Supper

### **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:**

4:30 P.M. Children's Service  
9:30 P.M. Service with Choir

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:30 A.M. Service



# Advent

## Prepare the Way of the Lord

There has been a crusade in the Episcopal Church for many years to “Slow Down! It’s Advent,” that intends to invite people into a holy observance of this short season. However, too often these 4 weeks fly by in a flurry of shopping, parties and baking.

Suddenly it is Christmas Eve and we wonder where the time went. It seems counterintuitive to suggest another activity in the midst of an already hectic season, but the intension of this activity is to prepare our hearts and minds to welcome the coming of Christ.

From a suggestion offered at a Cottage Meeting, we will be having an Advent Study on Wednesdays during Advent (Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>). We will have a session at 10 in the morning (for those who do not like driving at night or would rather come in the day) and a second starting at 6:30 PM with a light dinner (there is a sign-up sheet in Hubbard Hall) followed by the presentation from 7 – 8:30 PM. We will be listening and studying the music from Handel’s “Messiah,” particularly the parts that reference the prophets foretelling of the coming Messiah. You are welcome to participate as you can – each session can stand on its own. The hope is to offer you some time to reflect on God’s Word as interpreted by Handel and how it impacts your life and faith

today. Even though the music may be very familiar to you, listening to it with a group and talking about it may offer you new insights. I hope you will join us.

I am looking forward to celebrating my first Christmas here at St. Barnabas, learning your traditions and creating some new ones together. As we come to the close of an eventful year for all of us, I feel very blessed to serve as your rector and rejoice that we, both individually and as a community, make time and space to nurture the presence of God within us and share that with the world.

May the joy of this season surround you and support you every day of the New Year.

*Rev. Valerie+*

It seems impossible that we are near the end of the calendar year, yet here we are. And what a great year it’s been, with the Holy Spirit guiding us together through so many changes and challenges. But it’s been tiring too. And I



know that I am not the only one who breathed a sigh of relief when Reverend Valerie walked through our front doors

back on that rainy day in August. So we’ve had a little time to catch our breath, to rest just a bit knowing she was here. But now December is upon us, and a new liturgical year begins along with a new era at St. Barnabas, which I know will be filled with new energy and vibrancy. So, if you haven’t already done so, get out your calendar and save the date for our Celebration of New Ministry scheduled for Saturday December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM. St. Barnabas is ready for a new beginning and we are thankful to have Reverend Valerie lead us, bringing her energy, her vivaciousness and her love of Christ to us as we enter 2012.

*Susan LeDonne*

## The First Friday Book Club

We meet at 7:30 PM in the Bolmer Room each month. Participants usually gather at “Confectionately Yours” at 5:30 PM for dinner and fellowship beforehand. All are most welcome to join us. Please contact Monica Devanas or Carolyn Hales with any questions. Here is what the Book Group has planned for the next few months:



- **12/2/11:** *The Red Tent: A Novel* by Anita Diamant
- **1/6/12:** *Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock* by David Margolick
- **2/3/12:** *90 Minutes in Heaven: A True Story of Death and Life* by Don Piper
- **3/2/12:** *The Dovekeepers: A Novel* by Alice Hoffman

## Saturday Cleanup

**This Saturday, 12/3**, from 8 AM to noon, please come to help spruce up the church for Advent and Christmas. The rain/snow date is December 10th.

## St. Nicholas Day

Celebrate St. Nicholas Day on Sunday, December 4! **Breakfast** will be served from 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (donation basket will help defray the cost of the breakfast). **Want to Help?** Sign Up sheet in Hubbard Hall. The worship service at 10:30 will be a Children's Service and Sermon for the Young and “Young at Heart.” Afterwards, **visit** with St. Nicholas in the Bolmer Room. **Photos** will be taken and available for pick-up on Sunday, December 11

**Bring your favorite** Christmas Cookies or Goodies for the Coffee Hour.



## Celebration of New Ministry

You are invited! Come celebrate with us as we formally welcome our 4<sup>th</sup> Rector, The Rev. Valerie L. Balling, on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM. The Rt. Rev. George E. Councill, XI Bishop of New Jersey, will be presiding. The Rev. Dr. Patrick Close, Rector of Grace Church, Haddonfield, will be preaching. The reception after the Celebration of Ministry service will be hosted by the parish of St. Barnabas.

Please look for the sign-up sheet in Hubbard Hall – a menu will be planned for the event, please sign up for one of the items on the list and/or help with the Celebration reception.

If you would like to make a donation towards the reception, please contact Maria Flick. Donations will help cover the expense for items not provided by the parish members.

We are also in need of 9 card tables for the reception; if you have a card table that can be borrowed from December 16-17, please call or email Maria Flick.

## Annual Giving

Thank you for your financial support of the ministries of St. Barnabas. We appreciate you keeping up with your commitment to God through your pledge. Due to extenuating circumstances, the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter pledge reports were not sent out. If you are not sure of how much you have given to St. Barnabas this year or how much of your pledge has been fulfilled, please contact Ralph Moreno, our Pledge Secretary. Please note that any contributions for 2011 must be received by December 31<sup>st</sup> in order to be included in your statement for tax purposes. Thank you again for all of your stewardship.



## Christmas Flowers

If you would like to contribute toward the Christmas decorations for the church, you may offer a donation with a flower envelope (available on the table in the Narthex or entry way) or in your regular envelope. If you write a separate check, please write "poinsettia" in the memo line. Thank you for helping make the church look beautiful for Christmas.



## Intergenerational Caroling

On **December 18**, the Youth Group will be visiting StB parishioners who aren't able to get to church regularly, and will sing an assortment of Xmas carols for their listening pleasure. This event is open to anyone who wants to sing, youth and adults. The



more the merrier!

There will be a rehearsal at church on **December 4** from 5:30 to 7 PM for all who wish to participate. For more information, please see Tony Thompson or Steve Welch.

## Food Handlers Course

The South Brunswick Health Department will present Basic Food Handlers Courses at the South Brunswick Municipal Complex for food handlers (all who help out with food in the StB kitchen) who have not previously attended *or who have not attended within the past 5 years.*

The courses will be held from 2:30 – 5pm on the following dates: 1/3/12, 4/30/12 and 10/29/12. Please speak with Kitty to sign up.



## Adopted Family

St. Barnabas has adopted an African American Family for Christmas:

**Serah: 13 year old girl.** Wears XL or size 14 juniors. Loves reading, knitting & Giants. Needs new winter jacket, clothes, twin sheets and comforter, pajamas & art or knitting supplies.

**Calise: 8 year old girl.** Wears size 12 girls' clothes & size 3 shoes. She likes girly things, needs slippers, art supplies, twin long size sheets & comforter in girly colors, and socks. She needs learning toys.

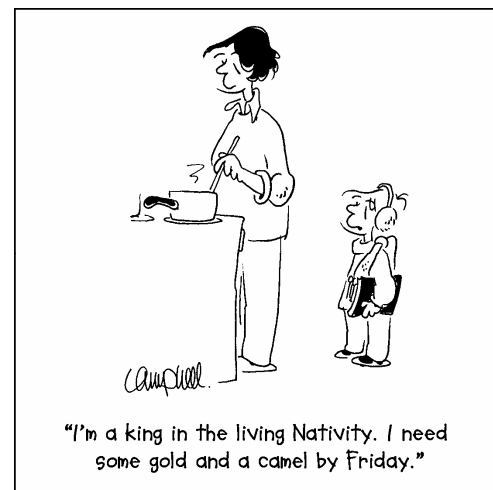


**Ashar: 2 ½ year old boy.** Loves dinosaurs & Discovery toys, wears size 3T clothes & size 8 shoes, wants Elmo on drums, learning toys, winter jacket, toddler boy bedding, pajamas & trucks.

**Parents:** either an ironing board or a record player. Her father recently passed and left her all of his records.

## Fundraising

Help support St. Barnabas by shopping online through iGive.com and Amazon.com. Go to [www.stbarnabas-sbnj.org](http://www.stbarnabas-sbnj.org), click on "Ministries" at the top and scroll down to fundraising. There are links for both Amazon and iGive there.





## Youth Group

### MISSION PROJECT

Our 3rd Annual Youth Mission Trip will occur on June 25 through June 30, 2012. This year, we will be returning to Rutland, Vermont to assist a community in which many live below the poverty level (including 21% under the age of 18). Jeff Flick and Rev. Valerie will lead our team of youth in grades 6-12 who will join with other churches to serve under the direction of YouthWorks! (See [www.youthworks.com](http://www.youthworks.com) for further information). If you are interested in going on this year's Youth Mission Trip please attend **the Mission Trip Meeting on December 4 at 4:30pm** in the upstairs classroom. Commitment forms, payment schedule, fundraising and a possible local Mission Trip will be discussed. If you have any questions regarding the mission trip please contact Jeff Flick.

### Food Pantry

Please help out if you can: the Food Pantry is desperately low on a number of items including: Parmalat/boxed milk, canned beans & green vegetables, canned pastas, canned soup, boxed macaroni & cheese and dried soups. In addition the following food items are needed to help make Christmas special for the less fortunate among us: stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy, boxed baked goods, rice, corn muffin mix, sugar & flour, coffee & tea, canned sweet potatoes, gift cards, and frozen turkey & ham. Non-perishable items can be placed in the laundry baskets in Hubbard hall and they will be taken to the food pantry. Please drop off perishable items at the South Brunswick Municipal Building, Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 pm. For information please call 732-329-4000 Ext. 7672 or 7674.



### Helpful Info for Seniors

The South Brunswick Senior Center has investigated snow removal companies and asked for the best price they can offer to South Brunswick senior citizens for snow removal. Brushhill Landscaping came in as the most economical and this year they are not increasing their prices for the 2011-2012 season.



Additionally, we also have received positive feedback from last year's customers. Here are Brushhill's prices:

- 2"-4" Accumulation \$37.50
- 4.1"-7" \$48.75
- 7.1-12" \$70.00
- 12.1" and over \$6.00 per inch

You may call Jack or Jeff directly at 732-329-9090 for the contract to review or if you have questions you can call Caryl Greenberg at 732-329-4000 ext 7212 or [cgreenbe@sbtnj.net](mailto:cgreenbe@sbtnj.net)

Please make arrangements for snow shoveling before the winter season hits-peace of mind is priceless!

### Book Fair

Have books you no longer want? Bring them in to our Book Sale! Looking for a good deal on a recent best-seller? Shop the book tables in Hubbard Hall! Prices are 50 cents for paperbacks, and \$1.00 for hard-covers. Please place any unwanted books you have on the tables. If you are purchasing, please put the money in the plastic jar. Be sure to check out the selection frequently, as people will bring in new books each week. The book sale will continue through December 11<sup>th</sup>.



# December

## Blessings on your special day!!

### Birthdays

Dorothy Hamby	12/1
David Garrin	12/3
Kirt Wedemeyer	12/3
David Carey	12/4
Michael Moreno	12/5
Chidera Ilogu	12/6
Mary Ezzo	12/7
John Gosner	12/8
Marion Pritchard	12/9
Erin Carroll	12/11
Laurie Soriano	12/11
Kathleen Herbach	12/12
Noel Ilogu	12/15
Keith Tagoe, Jr.	12/16
Nick Hague	12/19
Isis Dwyer	12/20
Briana Gonzales	12/31
Jennifer Herbach	12/31

### Baptismal Anniversaries:

Eugenia Turkson	12/1
Ammon Barksdale	12/3
Kenneth Gibbons	12/6
Rev. Valerie Balling	12/9
Jason Louison	12/9
Bill Gonzales	12/15
Anthony Pinto	12/20
Bob Stevenson	12/20
Stephanie Carr	12/21
Anson Devonish	12/27
Luisa Maria Hill	12/31

### Wedding Anniversaries:

Stephanie & Tom Carr	12/6
Gordon & Nneka Ilogu	12/8
Martisha & Radcliffe Dwyer	12/10
Arend & Pam Lubbers	12/29
David & Gail Fildes	12/31

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If your special day is missing from this list please email Kitty at [kitty@stbarnabas-sbnj.org](mailto:kitty@stbarnabas-sbnj.org)  
or call the church office at 732-297-4607.