



Annual Report for 2025
November 23, 2025

Senior Warden's Report

Our parish community at St. Barnabas has joined together in 2025 in worship, service and fellowship.

Our Rector John+, seminarians Nathan and Joshua and our friend Father James have led us in worship. I am thankful for the many people in our congregation who supported the altar guild, or served as chalicists, acolytes, or lectors. We have continued to offer our services on YouTube for those who are not able to join us in person. Our Christian Education programs for children and adults have thrived thanks to the efforts of many volunteers, and our nursery is staffed by dedicated volunteers. A highlight of the year was the Journey to Adulthood youth pilgrimage to Arizona. Our interim music minister Nancy MacLachlan has led our music program, supported by the adult, youth and cherub choirs and guest musicians from the parish.

St. Barnabas' continued its active support for parishioner care and outreach activities in the community. The Caritas Team continued its work of care for all within the parish. We prepared and delivered hot meals to community members through FACETS and supported ACCA programs through home repair, food donations and other service actions. We hosted the Annandale Safe Youth Program tutoring led by Second Story for at-risk youth. Parish members donated funds and supplies for our sister church in Palma Soriano, Cuba. Parishioners participated in the Fairfax pride parade. The church building was used by community groups providing opportunities for mutual support, cultural enrichment, musical education and performances and civic engagement. We invited the community to participate in special activities for children.

We have joined in fellowship for coffee hours, TGIF social gatherings; the Shrine Mont retreat; the ski trip to Canaan Valley, game night the 20's and 30's group gatherings, and the Women of St. Barnabas' brunch, tea, bazaar and Barnabees craft group.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as your senior warden. I appreciate the support of our clergy, vestry, and the many volunteers who have served St. Barnabas'.

Respectfully,

Camille Mittelholtz
Senior Warden

Junior Wardens and Building & Grounds Committee

The Junior Warden managed the church building and grounds in collaboration with the Building and Grounds Committee, Parish Administrator and Vestry. A new water fountain was installed in early 2025, completing restoration of damage by the previous malfunctioning water fountain. The Junior Warden planned, obtained vestry approval and oversaw establishment of a new Godly Play classroom in the Education Wing and reorganized the Administration Wing offices to allow for the music minister's office in the Administration Wing. The Junior Warden coordinated preventive maintenance contracts for heating and air conditioning, lawn mowing, pest control and snow removal. The Committee continued work to control invasive plants on our grounds and collaborated with Eileen Parlow about continued work to restore the St. Francis garden and nearby areas. The Committee coordinated purchase of new outside benches and repaired kitchen cabinets.

The Committee and Junior Wardens organized parish workdays in March, September, October and November to help clean up the grounds and buildings.

Respectfully,

Leigh Kennedy,
Junior Warden

Ken and Camille Mittelholtz
Building and Grounds Committee

Music Ministry

St. Barnabas' Music Ministry is a place where parishioners can come together to share their talents and love of music, to offer their gifts in worship, and to deepen our common life through song. It is a ministry rooted in community: people of all ages learning together, supporting one another, and lifting our voices in praise.

Although the number of adult members has decreased in recent years, the children's Cherub Choir is happily on the rebound. The introduction of Orff instruments has been especially encouraging, giving our youngest singers a hands-on way to explore rhythm, melody, and harmony. These simple but expressive instruments foster musical confidence and help children discover the joy of making music as part of a group.

I attended the annual Church Musicians Retreat, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, on September 5th and 6th at the Claggett Retreat Center in Adamstown, Maryland. It was a wonderful opportunity to make music with colleagues from across the diocese, exchange ideas, and reflect on the ways music shapes our spiritual lives. The retreat offered workshops, conversations, and shared worship that re-energized my own sense of call to this work. I returned inspired, grateful, and reminded once again that

music is not simply an adornment to our liturgy; it is a ministry at the heart of who we are as a church.

Nancy MacLachlan
Interim Music Minister

Adult Christian Education

Adult Forum discussions give everyone an opportunity to share, learn, and grow in faith and in the activities and functions of our church. The Forum series this year has included sessions on encouraging faith in our daily lives, Bible Study, seasonally appropriate topics focused on the liturgical calendar, and the many outreach activities of St. Barnabas' community. Our sessions have been held in-person at the church with a hybrid component for those attending virtually, ensuring widest possible participation. We look forward to continuing these sessions over the coming year, including supporting a series on Greek and Hebrew with Father James Hughes.

Contacts: Cindy McLaughlin, Jeff Schaefer

Altar Guild

The St Barnabas' Altar Guild has provided dedicated service in 2025 to further the smooth running of all church services: Sunday services, whether indoor or outdoor; funerals and baptisms, and all services during Holy Week. We always made sure that the altar was correctly set up and supplies were provided, that vestments were ready, and that linens and vessels were clean and ready for use.

The constant willingness to serve and cheerful volunteer spirit of all the members of the Altar Guild has been a shining light at the heart of St Barnabas'. We celebrate the current members of the guild: Kirsten Anderson, Behn Ayala, Maria Bottlick, Beth Crutchley, Sheena Friend, Betty Jo Fortune, Sharon Jones, Jocelyn Leatherwood, Grace Robbins, and Mary Yeaman. We welcome anyone who would like to join us!

Molly Newling,
Chair

St Barnabas Arts Committee

The Arts Committee was formed after The Rev. Shellito noted that St Barnabas could benefit from more visual art. To support this vision, the committee proposed replacing the old, cumbersome method of hanging artwork with a professional hanging system. After consulting with Frank Spink, the most suitable system was selected, ordered, and installed in the Narthex hallway by PJ Kenedy and Ken Mittelholtz.

St Barnabas Gallery Exhibits

Since its inception, the Arts Committee has curated six exhibitions in what is now known as the St Barnabas Gallery. Highlights include a vibrant show featuring paintings by children and young adults. Currently on display is a special exhibit honoring Frank Spink, showcasing his artwork and celebrating his many contributions to the church. A reception was held during Coffee Hour to mark the opening, attended by Frank's daughter Susan Younger and her husband Eric. This exhibit will remain up through January 2026.

Community Paint Days

The committee hosted two painting days—one for younger children and another for young adults. Supplies were generously donated, and the resulting artwork was proudly displayed in the Gallery.

Icon Workshop During Lent

During Lent, the committee sponsored an Icon Painting Workshop led by George Ziobro, running from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon. Participants learned traditional iconography techniques. Mr. Ziobro's own icons were exhibited in the Gallery. The workshop welcomed four parishioners and three guests from outside the church. A modest fee helped cover supplies and provided a small honorarium for Mr. Ziobro.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Arts Committee is excited to continue its mission in 2026 with plans for new exhibits, adult workshops, and more paint days for children and young adults.

Budget & Donations

The committee's only expense to date has been the hanging system, which cost just over \$300. All other costs—including art supplies and reception refreshments—have been covered through generous donations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen Stark, Chair
Beth Harper
Grace Robbins

Our generous helpers: Mark Patterson
PJ Kennedy
Ken Mittelholtz
Jeff Schaefer

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) and Heritage Mission Center

ACCA - the Annandale Christian Community for Action- works to provide social services for our neighbors in the Annandale and Bailey's Crossroads area. ACCA continued to receive a high volume of requests for emergency help with rent, utilities and

food in 2025. The ACCA Child Development Center delivered high quality education and care for infants and preschoolers from mostly low-income families.

St. Barnabas' has been an ACCA member church since ACCA's founding in 1967 and the church continues to provide financial and volunteer support for several ACCA programs including the food pantry, furniture, and home repair programs. ACCA sponsored two home repair projects through the 2025 Rebuilding Together National Rebuilding Day; St. Barnabas' donated to ACCA to help cover costs of sponsorship and seven St. Barnabas' volunteers helped repair a home in Annandale. St. Barnabas' volunteers served the ACCA furniture ministry, which delivers furniture to needy households and picks up donations of gently used furniture. St. Barnabas' collected about 1000 pounds of donated nonperishable food and hygiene and cleaning products for the ACCA food pantry. Twelve walkers and volunteers from St. Barnabas' participated in the Annandale CROP Hunger Walk and parish members made donations. The walk raises funds for Church World Service hunger and disaster relief programs and ACCA receives part of the funds raised. Children and youth made posters for the CROP Hunger Walk.

St. Barnabas' also collected about 700 pounds of donated food for the Heritage Mission Center food distribution program operated by ACCA member church Annandale United Methodist.

Respectfully,

Camille and Ken Mittelholtz

Annandale Safe Youth Project (ASYP)

ASYP has been as busy as it has ever been, with the highest average attendance that I have seen. The summer program was fruitful, with a focus on math and reading practice to prepare them for this school year. They spent two weeks at Creative Cauldron practicing their acting and improv skills. Fairfax county's park service came to the program twice to teach the kids about bugs and how to identify birds. David Palmer continues to be a blessing, both with helping students with homework and giving music lessons at least once a month.

We were able this fall to find four monarch caterpillars, one chrysalis and two adults. We again reviewed their life cycle and their unique migration behavior. Someone was kind enough to donate a microscope, combined with the one I bring in, we now can have two slides prepared at a time. On the botany side, we have looked at roots, leaves, petals and pollen grains under the microscope, while reviewing each of their functions. water from the birdbath from outside the Richardson room has continued to provide numerous microbes, from ciliates to stentors. We've had them draw what they see while going over what creatures they have spotted.

At this current time of year, our major focus is homework and preparing for tests. I am very pleased to say that every time we have prepared for a test, the student has reported back that they aced the test. With the influx of new students, we could use volunteer help more than ever. If you know anyone interested in helping, please let me know. The time that we need help the most is between 4:30-5:30.

Randy Jones
ASYP Coordinator

Caritas

The St. Barnabas' Caritas Team was formed to do neighborly acts of love within the parish. Caritas Team ministries include organizing meals for parishioners, making phone calls to shut-ins, and sending cards of get well wishes, good news, and condolences.

The Parish Administrator can inform the Caritas Team when the need for one of these ministries arises, or anyone desiring one of these ministries for themselves, a friend, or a family member can contact the team member on call (published weekly).

The Caritas Team: Beth Harper, Molly Newling, Grace Robbins, and Kathy Schaefer

Cuba Mission

In addition to expanding our support for the ongoing ministries of our partners in Cuba.

Our friend Yumilka Galván had been appointed the Lay Minister for our sister church San Juan Bautista. With our support she has instituted monthly gathering of seniors in the community with speakers on topics such as elder law and the need to maintain friendships. The church is now providing a small breakfast before worship services. Because of the food shortages in the community, they have had people pass out during services. The daily hot meals program is doubling the number of vulnerable that they serve to 20.

This September the Diocese of Cuba installed a new bishop. He is Ángel Rodríguez from the Diocese of Puerto Rico. Bishop Ángel has promoted our partner Archdeacon Halbert Pons to be the Dean of the cathedral in Havana. He will be replaced by Rev. Yordanis Acosta. Rev. Yordanis has been the Archdeacon for Las Tunas and is highly regarded in the diocese.

There was a mission team from the Diocese of Maryland going to Santiago the week after Hurricane Melissa struck. We took advantage of some extra space in their luggage to send some of the supplies that we had collected down early. San Juan Bautista and the three churches served by Rev. Halbert in Santiago all suffered some roof damage, but none was catastrophic. We will proceed with our planned mission trip to Cuba in early December.

We will adjust the supplies that we take and our activities as our Cuba partners assess the damage and determine their needs.

Len LeRoy

FACETS

The FACETS Hot Meals Ministry at St Barnabas' continued to cook, deliver and serve hot meals to our homeless and food-challenged neighbors in 2025.

As in 2024, the demand for this service has continued to be high, with many families turning out for meals. From January to November 2025 we distributed 1273 meals to 1211 clients. We have stretched ourselves both financially and in personnel in order to meet this need, and to be sure that no one goes to bed hungry. We keep adding one more box of pasta to the pot and purchasing increased amounts of bread and applesauce to fill our bags. We have tried to be creative to meet the need, purchasing canned ready to eat meals to distribute when we run out of hot food, as we often do.

We wish to extend a huge thank you to those faithful helpers who come every first Sunday of the month to make sure that this program is successful. They are:

Behn Ayala, John Bolin Shellito, James Carroll, Margo Donnelly, Michael Dugger, Simone Dugger, Librada Estrada, Sheena Friend, Aaron Friend, Diana Greer, Beth Harper, Linda Hartman, Megan Jackson, Randy Jones, PJ Kennedy, Ken Mittelholtz, Camille Mittelholtz, Mark Patterson, Nancy Peyton, Norma Ricketts, Grace Robbins, Cy Tamanaha, Wendy Williams, and Marilyn White.

Thank you for your support,

Molly Newling

Hypothermia Shelter

We support the hypothermia shelter by providing meals last year to approximately 55 individuals. We provided the meals at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Falls Church.

Parishioners at St. Barnabas provided meals either bought or homemade from (Sunday Night) through Saturday night. Sunday night the first night is typically the night that the youth of the parish provide a pasta meal to include bread, salad and dessert.

Each year is just a little different but last year we provided new clean socks, toothbrushes and breakfast bags (put together by the youth and youngers of the parish along with a note to each of the attendees.

We will be participating in this program again this year at a date to be announced but anticipated to be in February 2026. Sign-up genius will go out for people to be able to sign up for what they were bringing, and if they are volunteering.

So many thanks to all of those who have given their time and talents in past years. It's a true blessing.

Cindy McLaughlin
Hypothermia Shelter Coordinator

Stewardship

As of Ingathering Sunday, November 16th, we have received pledges covering 70% of the anticipated budget for 2026. One-third of 2025 pledgers have not yet responded. Pledge forms are available in the church vestibule for those who have yet to make a commitment.

Please consider what the church means to you. St. Barnabas' needs your support.

Edwin Ing and Grace Robbins
Stewardship Committee Chairs

Women of St. Barnabas' (WOSB)

The Women of St. Barnabas' enjoy fellowship, service, and an opportunity to work together to raise funds to support programs at St. Barnabas' and selected charities; all women of the congregation are invited to be members. The WOSB raises funds through donations, our annual Christmas bazaar and a spring tea party. The Women of St. Barnabas' hosted receptions after celebration of life services - one in December 2024 and six in 2025. We decided upon 2025 donations at our fellowship brunch in January. WOSB gave \$1950 to St. Barnabas' -funds were designated for the Rector's Discretionary Fund, and the FACETS, the J2A mission trip and AYSF funds. WOSB donated a total of \$3750 to international, Virginia and local charities, including Episcopal Relief and Development, Episcopal Church Women (DOV), Grace Inside Prison Ministry, ACCA, and NOVA Mental Health Institute. Our Mad Hatter's Tea held in May was enjoyed by all who attended. The Barnabees' craft group met weekly in summer and fall months to plan, make crafts, and price gently used donated items for sale at the Christmas Bazaar. The 2025 bazaar on November 15 had a European holiday market theme.

Respectfully, Camille Mittelholtz, for the WOSB officers

Youth Committee

The Youth Committee organizes Children's Chapel, Sunday School, and the Youth Group. Sunday School offerings include Christian formation for children of all ages. During the 2024-2025 program year, the Youth Committee sponsored a number of events, including making cards of encouragement for the Hypothermia Shelter program, intergenerational games night, an Easter egg hunt, Trunk 'n' Treat for Halloween, Breakfast with Santa for the community, and cookie baking/card making for parishioners unable to make it to services during Advent. The committee received many positive responses to these events and had a good turn out from the community.

Classes are offered in the Education Wing on Sunday mornings. The programs provide the children and youth of our parish an opportunity to learn more about their Christianity in a nurturing setting. St. Barnabas' utilizes curricula including Godly Play Foundation's materials, Weaving God's Promises, and Journey to Adulthood. Teachers are required to complete Safe Church training. Children's Chapel is offered during the 10:15 a.m. church service for younger children, providing them an opportunity to connect with the liturgy in a meaningful way. This year was a milestone year for some of our youth parishioners. The Journey to Adulthood (J2A) class and chaperones went to northern Arizona for their pilgrimage April 12-18, 2025, combining spiritual activities with amazing sightseeing and fellowship opportunities "to see God everywhere, big and small." Upon return, they shared their experience with the St. Barnabas community during the Adult Forum. The Rite 13 class celebrated their spiritual rite of passage in their journey to adulthood during the Sunday service on May 4, 2025.

The Youth Group, including students in fifth grade through high school, meets for fun and service. The Youth Group provided several opportunities for our older youth to connect over food and fun during Parish Workdays throughout the year, including making dinner for the Hypothermia Shelter program, a pool party, and supporting committee events. The Youth Group also led activities filled with fun, fellowship, service, and reflection during our annual Parish Retreat to Shrine Mont.

Katie Westerlund
Youth Committee Chair

Rector's Report

I am so thankful for the many good things we have been able to accomplish together this past liturgical year.

It feels like a lifetime ago that (the now Rev.) Nathan Harpine was Ordained a Priest – but that did happen in the spring of this year. It was an honor and a privilege that St. Barnabas' could support him in his journey as a Seminarian. His assistance with the St. Barnabas' Confirmation class reminded me of my instruction of his Confirmation class back in 2013 and 2014 when I was newly Ordained myself – and, I also believe that Rev. Harpine's positive experience here helped Mr. Joshua Duncan to feel comfortable enough to select St. Barnabas' as his Seminarian placement for this academic year (through May of 2026). We aren't Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill – Seminarians aren't just going to "wander in" – St. Barnabas' is honored to be one of a select number of congregations in the DMV graced with a Seminarian this year, and we are blessed by Mr. Duncan's preaching and singing.

Supporting Seminarians has also reminded me of some aspects of my own call to Seminary – I volunteered as an intern at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility in my first year of Seminary in part because I had been influenced by some of the strong rhetoric in the news and in academia about the importance of creation care in response to alarming reports about climate change in the early 2000s, when I was in high school and early college.

Following the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 and 2009, some of my more left-leaning classmates began to spend a lot of time volunteering as chaplains in the "Occupy Wall Street" protests. Churches and individuals alike were navigating a more difficult labor market than before, loans to many companies were not being repaid, and people were upset about government bailouts for Wall Street companies when the benefits to individuals and families were not always directly clear.

But even before my call to Seminary, my first sense of call in college was to be a Christian, and to practice my faith in a congregation with others – so that I would have an opportunity to honor God's presence in the interwoven interconnectedness of human souls. Congregational worship is also an opportunity to reflect on how I am practicing my faith with others.

After Seminary, as I was being trained and formed as a chaplain resident in a hospital for nine months, I started to realize more and more how healthy boundaries can allow space for God's grace to be at work in our lives and in the lives of others. I know that I am still figuring this out, even after Ordination, because I am still an imperfect human living life in the midst of a lot of sickness, counterproductive violence, and simply bad advice that is still circulating out there in the world. Those things hurt our church, too.

But the Body of Christ continues to rise from the tomb, Sunday after Sunday, and part of the Misconduct Prevention training required of Vestry members and other leaders within our church is to emphasize that we can continue to learn about what a healthy and robust faith means and involves. By grace, we can continue to practice and improve.

Boundaries are part of why St. Barnabas' has a procedure for its alms ministry for those outside of our congregation – even as we recognize that our Alms ministry always has to be dependent on the availability of funds. I am very thankful for the many times in 2025 in which the generosity of countless St. Barnabasians has allowed the Rector's Discretionary Fund to assist those who might otherwise have to leave their home or have their utilities cut off. I remain grateful for the ways in which the ACCA Furniture Ministry, the ACCA Food Pantry, the FACETs ministry, and the Hypothermia shelter ministry have helped to feed and house individuals who might otherwise have been hungry and/or cold.

I am also thankful that I have been able to continue to study Greek and Hebrew Scriptures with others, learning from their wisdom, so that we can continue to grapple with the question of what the original meaning and context of those Scripture might have been, and what that might mean for us in our practice of faith today.

I am also thankful for the other part of my continuing education in 2025 – learning in an interfaith group setting, as a part of the weeklong congregational leaders program at the Holocaust Museum. Learning about the Rohingya community's experience of exile in Bangladesh gave me a deeper understanding of what it means that most of our Scriptures were composed or compiled in exile outside of Jerusalem – with much of the Hebrew Bible codified in Babylon and most (if not all) of our Christian Scriptures written and codified across the Mediterranean, under the Pax Romana. I am thankful for the UN and the Islamic practice of Zakat, as I believe they have both been helpful in supporting the Rohingya community through their experience of exile, as they wait to return home. And, if circumstances do require a more permanent departure from Bangladesh or elsewhere, the value of natural and entirely man-made storm barriers such as those already in place in Venice, St. Petersburg, and New Orleans will only increase.

While we are already well-positioned here for the future here in Annandale, I am thankful for the resilience of our congregation on the whole, and our continuing ministries to assist one another and others outside of our congregation.

I am thankful for Caritas, our Prayer Chain, and our Prayer List. I am appreciative of Nancy MacLachlan's leadership as our Interim Music Minister from fall of 2024 and throughout this year. She has been so generous with her time, her energy, her gifted musicianship, and her amazing teaching expertise. I am also thankful for Fiona Agnew's powerful leadership and her willingness to step up this summer and serve as our permanent Parish Administrator, supporting parishioners of all ages – I am especially

appreciative of her willingness to take that step after she had filled in for almost a year as our Interim Parish Administrator starting in August of 2024.

There is much to give thanks for in our congregational life, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's ultimate authority as the King of Kings at the conclusion of the liturgical year this upcoming Sunday. I am very thankful for all the individuals and Committees and ministries who have helped to make 2025 so meaningful and inspired.

St. Barnabas could not be what it is today without you.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Bolin Shellito". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some capitalization.

The Reverend John Bolin Shellito, Rector

Land Acknowledgement Statement
Approved by the Vestry October 18, 2023

We remember and honor the Indigenous people of the world, especially the Piscataway Conoy Nation, whose land we now occupy in this region that was once their home, and that was taken from them. We give thanks for them and their care for this land. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us; rather, we are charged with stewardship of the Earth, and are all members of our Creator's family. We ask God to help us learn from our past mistakes and be instruments of justice and peace for all people, particularly the original Indigenous inhabitants.

St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church
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