

The St. Barnabas' Reporter



Fellowship Divine

Dear St. Barnabasians,

Just the other day, I noticed a leaf falling from a tree—the first I'd seen of the approaching season—and even if it was just a fluke, I still appreciated it as a reminder, that in terms of the liturgical year, the end is not so far away as we might like to think. The “Christmas in August” rehearsal is another reminder.

With this quarterly Reporter named for Michael the Archangel and All Saints, I am reminded, (once again) that even if the saints and angels might feel otherworldly sometimes, learning more about them is an invitation to renewal. We can consider the heavenly realm every time we pray “thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”

A long time ago, I read *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom, and it had a powerful influence on me. I also appreciated reading first-person accounts of near-death experiences. Both have encouraged me to learn more about the mystical side of life.

Even more recently, some of the seemingly “forgotten” corners of the Book of Common Prayer have brought me face to face with gems of wisdom that have been sitting there, heretofore unread. In terms of heaven, the first prayer following the Rite II burial liturgy affirms that “the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity” (p. 503). Death doesn't get the last word. Church teaching holds that the saints already in heaven are the “church triumphant” above— and Scripture reminds us that they are a part of that “great cloud of witnesses,” cheering us on in our race of faith here on earth (in Hebrews chapter 12). Years ago, in a discussion about goals, one St. Barnabas' Vestry member suggested that we could ask ourselves, how many people are “heaven-ready”? Preparing for heaven could be part of our mission as a congregation.

And yet, I find myself puzzled at times by the dramatically different roles that some of the angels and saints seem to fulfill in heaven. At times I feel like even my own understanding of heaven changes dramatically depending on whether I'm thinking of the eternally resident angels, or the redeemed saints who are there celebrating God with them.

Angels are awesome in the archaic sense of the word because they are agents of the Source of all life, wherever that abundant life is to be found in the universe. I still feel overwhelmed by even the idea of angelic visitation because the possibility of their intervention here on earth feels like such a direct challenge to the more passive “deus ex machina” theologies of simply “waiting around” for God to intervene at the end of time and set everything to

(continued next page)

The Rev. John Bolin Shellito
Rector

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Stewardship Statement of the Vestry*
- *A Letter From Our '26-'27 Seminarian*
- *The History of All Saints' Sunday in the Episcopal Church*
- *Ski Trip Reminder*
- *Music at St. Barnabas'*
- *Upcoming Events*

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**St. Barnabas'
Episcopal Church**

4801 Ravensworth Road
Annandale, VA 22003
703-941-2922

Clergy and Staff

Fiona Agnew
Parish Administrator

Wayne Bottlick
Interim Contributions
Recorder

Randolph Jones
ASYP Tutor Coordinator

Linda Hayes Bennett
Music Minister

The Rev. John Bolin
Shellito
Rector

Vestry Members

Camille Mittelholtz
Senior Warden

Theresa Merchant
Junior Warden

Meagan Morrison-Crabill

Nancy MacLachlan

Eileen Parlow

Kathleen Stark

Katie Westerlund

Parish Officers

PJ Kennedy
Treasurer

John Westerlund
Assistant Treasurer

Dave Wright
Register

Molly Newling
Membership Secretary

Worship Schedule

8 a.m. Sunday Holy
Eucharist

10:15 a.m. Sunday Holy
Eucharist

Fellowship Divine *(continued from p. 1)*

rights. To acknowledge angelic messengers here on earth is to at least acknowledge the possibility of the miraculous in our midst—even if it leaves us with questions about why and how God is at work in our world. Grief and loss have been a part of the human experience throughout history, alongside grace and peace—and the angels seem to invite us to take a different angle on life and its challenge, to engage in a different way with adversity—and to recognize God's transformation, sometimes through a process of imperceptibly small steps. Both Galilee and God's House are places where we go to seek God—and Bishop Shannon was the one who said "I cannot deny that prayer changes things, including me."

The apostle Paul describes the pains of this world as the birth pangs that are also a har-binger of a new reality. The congregation I served as a Seminarian had the words of Revelation inscribed over the chancel: "Michael and his angels fought against the dragon"—from chapter twelve. Even in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus gave witness to the power of the heavenly host—indeed, that twelve legions of angels were ready to fly forth at his command. The archangel Michael is known as the strength of God, a leader of the heavenly host. And, the angels are still weaving their way between heaven and earth.

When we sing verse 3 of "For All the Saints" we are singing:

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!*

I wonder if Heaven is about sharing this same divine fellowship with the angels and archangels, also, as we anticipate joining them in singing "Holy, Holy, Holy."

Peace and Grace,
John+

Shrinemont Registration Open Now!

Registration is now open for our annual Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont in Orkney Springs, Virginia, taking place **October 2–4**.

This year's retreat, led by The Rev. Bruce Stewart, will explore *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, using C.S. Lewis's beloved story as a springboard for reflection, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

Registration forms are due **September 1** and they are available in the Narthex. Please leave completed forms outside the parish office and send an email to stbarnabasoffice@outlook.com to ensure no registration forms are lost or otherwise unaccounted for. The church does not want finances to be a barrier to anyone's participation: please talk to the Rev. John Shellito if financial assistance would be helpful. For those who can afford to pay, fees can be paid by check or through Realm. Please indicate *Parish Retreat Fee (Shrine Mont)* in the memo line of your check, or if using Realm, please select *Giving > + Give > Parish Retreat Fee (Shrine Mont)*.

Vestry Highlights

The Vestry met June 22 and approved a Vestry Stewardship Statement as part of this fall's stewardship campaign for 2027 (see the statement on page 7). The Vestry approved an audio refresh proposal that includes updated microphones and related equipment, pending Finance Committee identification of the appropriate source of funding (the Finance Committee later did identify funding). The Vestry considered hosting of a baby grand piano owned by the MacLachlan-Agnew family at St. Barnabas.' Nancy MacLachlan proposed that having a piano at St. Barnabas' will provide a much-needed resource in the community for spaces for piano recitals. Action is planned at the August Vestry meeting, when the Vestry expects to review a proposed agreement. Senior Warden Camille Mittelholtz updated the Vestry on the new copier lease agreement for the church. The Rev. Shellito updated the Vestry on Second Story's decision to discontinue the Annandale Safe Youth Program and its other after school centers, following their loss of grant funding from the government. By fall 2026, all interested ASYP students are expected to be able to continue with the Annandale Boys and Girls Club at the Heritage Community Center, and Randy Jones will continue as St. Barnabas' liaison and as the tutor coordinator for our partnership there.

FACETS Backpack Appeal

FACETS is one of Fairfax County's largest social safety nets, helping families, children, and individuals move from crisis to stability. There are an estimated 45,000 low-income households in Fairfax County Public Schools. One of FACETS' missions is to help FCPS schoolchildren be prepared for the year ahead by providing a fully-stocked backpack in a child's hands before the first bell rings. Because FACETS buys in bulk, your dollars go further. A donation of \$200 can equip a child in need with supplies for a full academic year. All donations, no matter the size, are welcome.

To donate, please follow this link: <https://form-renderer-app.donorperfect.io/give/facets/facets-donation-form>

FACETS Hot Meals Program

St. Barnabas' and FACETS have seen a significant rise in the number of individuals and families turning to us during our monthly **food distribution**. This increase in need is deeply felt across our entire volunteer team who continue to rise to the challenge with generosity and dedication. While we are doing all we can, we are beginning to feel the pressure of meeting every request with the fullness of care and dignity our mission calls for.

When we joined the **Hot Meals Program** many years ago, we made a promise: to provide every person who came to us not only with a warm, nourishing meal, but also with extras such as a piece of bread, a serving of applesauce, and a small treat: a simple gesture of kindness that reminds each recipient that they are seen, valued, and not alone.

Thanks to the incredible support from the St. Barnabas' community, we have been able to honor that commitment year after year. We have worked hard never to turn anyone away, and it is our deepest hope to continue fulfilling that promise, even as the need around us grows.

If you have questions about any aspects of the program or would like to volunteer, please contact Molly Newling at mnewling42@gmail.com.

Remembering the Saints: *All Saints' Day* in the Episcopal Church

On the first Sunday of November, many Episcopal churches celebrate one of the most moving services of the year. During the Prayers of the People, the names of parishioners and loved ones who have died are read aloud, sometimes accompanied by the tolling of a bell at intervals.

Observed on November 1, or the following Sunday, *All Saints' Day* is one of the Episcopal Church's seven Principal Feasts. It celebrates the whole communion of saints: not only the well-known figures of Christian history, but also the countless ordinary people whose lives quietly reflected the love of Christ. It is a reminder that holiness is not reserved for a select few. Throughout the New Testament, the word *saints* simply refers to God's faithful people, and the Episcopal Church continues to embrace that broad understanding today.

Closely following *All Saints' Day* is *All Souls' Day* on November 2. While the two observances have distinct histories, they have become closely connected in the life of many Episcopal churches. *All Saints' Day* gives thanks for the witness of all the saints, while *All Souls' Day* offers a special opportunity to remember all the faithful departed, especially those whose loss is still fresh in our hearts.

The roots of these observances stretch back to the early centuries of Christianity. As Christians remembered martyrs who had given their lives for the faith, the Church eventually established a single annual feast to honor all the saints. By the ninth century, November 1 had become the customary date throughout much of the Western Church. A century later, monasteries began observing November 2 as a day of remembrance for all who had died in Christ, a practice that gradually spread throughout Europe.

Following the English Reformation, the Book of Common Prayer simplified the Church calendar while preserving *All Saints' Day* as one of its great feasts. Although *All Souls' Day* was not included in the earliest Books of Common Prayer following the English Reformation, many Anglican and Episcopal churches gradually restored its observance as a pastoral occasion for remembering the faithful departed in the light of Christ's resurrection.

These observances speak to something deeply human. We all carry the memory of people who have shaped us: parents and grandparents, teachers and friends, longtime parishioners whose faith quietly strengthened our own. Most will never have churches named after them or feast days dedicated in their honor, yet their lives bear witness to God's grace just as surely as the saints commemorated on the Church calendar.

These feasts also offer a gentle but profound response to a culture that often avoids talking about death. Our faith proclaims that death is not the end of the story. Each time the Church gathers around the Lord's Table, we are reminded that Christ has conquered death and opened the way to eternal life. Remembering those who have gone before us becomes an expression of hope rather than despair. Perhaps that is why *All Saints' Sunday* is such a beloved celebration in Episcopal parishes. It invites us to look backward with gratitude, inward with humility, and forward with confidence. We remember those who have handed the faith on to us, we give thanks for God's work in their lives, and we renew our own commitment to follow Christ.

In the end, *All Saints' Day* and *All Souls' Day* are not simply about those who have died. They are about the living faith that binds Christians together across generations. As we remember the saints, we are reminded that we, too, are called to become faithful witnesses to God's love—leaving a legacy of hope for those who will one day remember us.

ALMIGHTY GOD, YOU HAVE KNIT TOGETHER YOUR ELECT IN ONE
COMMUNION AND FELLOWSHIP IN THE MYSTICAL BODY OF YOUR SON
CHRIST OUR LORD: GIVE US GRACE SO TO FOLLOW YOUR BLESSED SAINTS
IN ALL VIRTUOUS AND GODLY LIVING, THAT WE MAY COME TO THOSE
INEFFABLE JOYS THAT YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO TRULY LOVE
YOU; THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD, WHO WITH YOU AND THE HOLY
SPIRIT LIVES AND REIGNS, ONE GOD, IN GLORY EVERLASTING. **AMEN.**

ACCA News ▪ *Annandale Christian Community for Action*

ACCA is a church-related organization providing rental assistance, food, furniture and other services to low-income families in the Annandale/Baileys Crossroads area, as well as day care.

The 2026 Annandale CROP Hunger Walk will be on **Saturday October 10 at Lake Accotink Park, 8 a.m.** The CROP Hunger Walk raises money for Church World Service programs to fight poverty and hunger, respond to disasters and assist refugees. Church World Service shares part of the funds raised by the Annandale walk with ACCA to help fight hunger and poverty locally. You can support the CROP Walk by walking, donating and/or volunteering for the CROP Walk.

In memory of ACCA founders Emily and Fred Ruffing, ACCA awards a scholarship each July to a graduating high school senior who has worked to overcome disabilities or challenges. The Ruffing Scholar for 2026 is Cindy Gamboa, a recent graduate of Falls Church High School. Cindy will be attending James Madison University to major in Nursing, with a goal of becoming a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist. During high school, Cindy was an active volunteer and participated in traditional Bolivian folk dancing, soccer and other activities.

The ACCA Child Development Center has openings for children 2½ to 5 years old. The center provides an NAEYC-accredited early childhood education program. For more information, please see www.accacdc.org or call (703) 256-0100.

In June, ACCA's Family Emergency program provided rental assistance to help prevent eviction for four households and helped four households avoid electricity cutoff. ACCA Food Pantry volunteers delivered 7-10 days of urgently needed food to 112 families in June. The pantry purchases fresh food with donated and grant funds. The pantry needs donations of nonperishable food and personal hygiene products for the pantry. Donations can be left in the narthex basket.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- ACCA seeks an IT-Operations Liaison Volunteer to act as the primary bridge between the operational staff and the IT consultant. This remote role (5-10 hours per week) ensures that technical needs are clearly communicated to the IT team, while IT protocols are accurately implemented. The volunteer will help streamline processes and troubleshoot issues.
- ACCA is seeking drivers to deliver food in the Annandale/Bailey's Crossroads area. Drivers can work as it suits their schedules by between 1:30 and about 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, by responding to a survey. Drivers receive food referrals, contact the client to ensure they will be home, pick up pre-packed food at the pantry, and drive to the client's residence.
- ACCA partners with the Shepherd Center of Annandale/Springfield to provide critical transportation. We need volunteer drivers to drive local seniors to medical appointments during the week and grocery shopping on weekends. You determine when and how often you drive.

Heritage Food Site

Annandale United Methodist Church's Heritage Mission Center distributes food every Thursday to families who need food. St. Barnabas' collects donations of nonperishable food for the program. Please leave your gift in the narthex basket. For more information on ACCA, the CROP Walk or the Heritage Food site, please contact Camille or Ken Mittelholtz. ACCA's website is www.accacares.org

Fall Birthdays

Fiona Agnew
 Connie Badger
 Jonathan Barber
 Haley Bolin Shellito
 Charles Camp
 Hailey Cannon
 Leigh Ann Caulkins
 Simone Dugger
 Cyrus Elliot
 Sheena Friend
 Janet George
 Art Hamerschlag
 Sharon Jones
 Joy Lyles
 Bob Macfarlane
 Nancy MacLachlan
 Helen Mosher
 Molly Newling
 Eileen Parlow
 Desiree Rampersaud
 Ellen Riddle
 Barbara Rigden
 Mary Riggs
 Dawn Schaefer
 Noah Schaefer
 Jack Verstandig
 Scott Verstandig

Participant Schedule September through November

Sunday	Usher	Coffee Hour	Counters	Caritas
30-Aug	K. Mittelholtz	M&W Bottlick	J. Westerlund, N. Ricketts	M. Newling
6-Sep	PJ Kennedy	L. Verstandig, L. Strange	M. Crabill, S. Batten	K. Stark
13-Sep	R. Erskine	M. Donnelley, C. Mittelholtz	K. Westerlund, E. Ing	K. Schaefer
20-Sep	T. Greer	N&K Peyton, L. Hartman	R. Erskine	B. Harper
27-Sep	J. Westerlund	T. Merchant & Godly Play	A. Hamerschlag, K. Mittelholtz	G. Robbins
4-Oct	K. Mittelholtz	D&T Greer	J. Westerlund, N. Ricketts	K. Stark
11-Oct	PJ Kennedy	C&K Mittelholtz	M. Crabill, S. Batten	M. Newling
18-Oct	R. Erskine	M. Newling, B. Harper	K. Westerlund, E. Ing	K. Schaefer
25-Oct	T. Greer	B&D Crutchley	R. Erskine	B. Harper
1-Nov	J. Westerlund	K&K Lauderdale	A. Hamerschlag, K. Mittelholtz	K. Schaefer
8-Nov	K. Mittelholtz	M&W Bottlick	J. Westerlund, N. Ricketts	K. Stark
15-Nov	PJ Kennedy	L. Verstandig, L. Strange	M. Crabill, S. Batten	G. Robbins
22-Nov	R. Erskine	T. Merchant & Godly Play	K. Westerlund, E. Ing	M. Newling
29-Nov	T. Greer	C&K Mittelholtz	R. Erskine	TBD
6-Dec	J. Westerlund	M. Donnelley, C. Mittelholtz	A. Hamerschlag, K. Mittelholtz	TBD

10:15a.m. Lectors/Chalicists Schedule

Sunday	Lectors	Chalicists
30-Aug	L. Strange, K. Lauderdale	M. Dugger, C. McLaughlin
6-Sep	C. McLaughlin, E. Riddle	C. McLaughlin, E. Riddle
13-Sep	H. Agnew, M. Newling	M. Dugger, C. McLaughlin
20-Sep	C. Mittelholtz, H. Agnew	M. Dugger, B. Harper
27-Sep	E. Riddle, B. Harper	T. Merchant, M. Dugger
4-Oct	L. Strange, K. Lauderdale	M. Dugger, C. McLaughlin
11-Oct	H. Agnew, K. Lauderdale	M. Dugger, C. McLaughlin
18-Oct	E. Riddle, B. Harper	B. Harper, E. Riddle
25-Oct	L. Strange, C. Mittelholtz	T. Merchant, M. Dugger
1-Nov	E. Riddle, M. Newling	M. Dugger, E. Riddle
8-Nov	L. Strange, E. Riddle	C. McLaughlin, B. Harper
15-Nov	L. Strange, C. Mittelholtz	B. Harper, E. Riddle
22-Nov	E. Riddle, B. Harper	E. Riddle, B. Harper
29-Nov	L. Strange, M. Newling	C. McLaughlin, E. Riddle
6-Dec	TBD	TBD



A Liturgical Photo

Submitted by Leigh Kennedy

AT YOUR COMMAND ALL THINGS CAME
 TO BE: THE VAST EXPANSE OF
 INTERSTELLAR SPACE, GALAXIES,
 SUNS, THE PLANETS IN THEIR COURSES,
 AND THIS FRAGILE EARTH, OUR
ISLAND HOME.
*BY YOUR WILL THEY WERE CREATED
 AND HAVE THEIR BEING.*

(EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C, BCP PG. 370)

Women of St. Barnabas' (WOSB) Dates

The WOSB will host a bazaar on **Saturday, November 14**, open 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Come join the fun and support WOSB fund-raising. The WOSB uses funds to support church programs and charities chosen by WOSB members. The bazaar will offer a lunch, beverages, crafts, sales of “white elegants” used household items, and other items.

The WOSB business meetings will resume **Tuesday, September 8**, at 10 a.m. We will discuss bazaar planning and other WOSB business. The Barnabees' craft group will begin meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. to prepare for the bazaar.

ACCA Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service | Nov. 24

Each year, the Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) brings together churches from across our community for an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service: an annual opportunity to worship together across denominational borders, give thanks for God's blessings, and celebrate the ways our congregations work together to serve our neighbors in the greater Annandale area.

This year's service will be hosted by **Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church** (6477 Lincolnia RD, Alexandria VA 22312) on **Tuesday, November 24, 2026**. Members of St. Barnabas' are warmly invited to join our siblings from ACCA congregations throughout Annandale for this annual celebration.

Stewardship Statement of the Vestry

WE BELIEVE

As the elected vestry of St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, we bear witness to the importance of stewardship in our lives. Stewardship is using God's gifts of time, talent, and treasure for the work we have been called to do. We believe that God is the true giver of all, and we are accountable for the gifts entrusted to us. We affirm the Biblical tithe as the time-tested ideal for a Christian practice of generosity—with time, talent, and treasure each being equally important. Some of us are tithing now, and some of us are praying and working toward the goal of tithing in the future.

WE COMMIT

We will work toward this goal of prayerfully giving ten percent of our income, talent, and time to fulfill our understanding of God's purpose in the world each year. We will share our experience of steadfastly endeavoring to achieve this goal with others.

WE COMMEND

We commend this statement of commitment to you, the members of our congregation, and we invite you to join us in prayer for the advance of God's reign.

We ask you to join us in moving toward deeper gratitude for God's gifts, deeper celebration of God's profound creative abundance, and deeper awareness of God's presence with us at all times. We invite you to join in the goal of moving toward tithing if tithing is not already an established practice.

We encourage you to join us also in recalling and sharing experiences of giving, compassion, and generosity, that we may be the heart and hands of God in the world.

A Letter from our Seminarian, Debora Okoth

It is truly an honor and a privilege to serve my Contextual Education (CXM) placement at St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church during the 2026–2027 program year. I come from the Diocese of Mara, Tanzania, currently pursuing formation for ordained ministry at Virginia Theological Seminary. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to grow in ministry here.

I recently completed my four-week Summer Intensive, running from June through July, and it was a truly wonderful experience. On July 12th, I had the privilege of preaching the Gospel to the congregation for the first time here—a moment I will always treasure. I also had the opportunity to serve in Adult Tutoring and to join in visiting parishioners who are homebound, in the hospital, and in rehabilitation centers. These visits reminded me of the sacred calling to walk alongside people in every season of their lives.

I was blessed to lead Children's Chapel, take part in the Faith in Action outreach program, and attend the Youth event on July 20th. Each of these experiences has deepened my sense of call and given me a fuller picture of what parish ministry looks like in practice.

Being part of the St. Barnabas' community has been a true blessing. From my very first day, I was received with such warmth by my Supervisor, the congregation, and my lay support team. Their support, patience, and encouragement have made me feel remarkably close to home, even though home is thousands of miles away in Tanzania. I am so thankful for this community and for the way you have welcomed me into your life together.

I look forward to returning for the Fall and Spring semesters, and to continuing to grow alongside all of you in faith and ministry.

With deep gratitude,

Debora Okoth

Building and Grounds Committee/Parish Workdays

Workdays are scheduled in the fall to provide key yard and grounds maintenance work not performed by our lawn maintenance contractor. The Junior Warden and members of the Building and Grounds Committee invite you to join us to rake leaves, organize the sheds, clear brush, and other tasks. The first parish workday will be on **Saturday September 26**, 9 a.m. to noon. Later workdays are tentatively scheduled for **Saturday October 24**, 9 a.m. – noon, **Sunday November 8** following the 10:15 a.m. service and **Sunday December 6** following the 10:15 a.m. service.

The Building and Grounds Committee has been reviewing possible options for modest improvement of the Memorial Garden to increase the capacity for standees at burial portions of funeral services and celebrations of life. We believe that an effective low-cost solution would be to expand the walkway between the Zanin bench and the Memorial Garden burial area. In addition, new plantings are needed to replace invasive and/or dead plants; a plan is being developed. The Building and Grounds Committee plans opportunities for congregation members to provide input to the planning for these improvements, potentially at an adult forum this fall.



Pastoral Care

For urgent pastoral or prayer concerns, whether for yourself or others, in addition to Caritas, please feel free to contact the Rev. John Bolin Shellito directly at (571) 402-2218.

Music at St. Barnabas': A Joyful Year Ahead

By Dr. Linda Bennett, Music Minister

As Minister of Music at St. Barnabas, I look forward with great enthusiasm to an exciting, creative, and fruitful year for musicians of every age in our church. Music offers us a wonderful way to deepen our worship, strengthen our community, and share our faith through sound, beauty, fellowship, and joyful participation.

Our adult choir will begin the season with "Christmas in August", a special half-day music festival on **Saturday, August 29**, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This gathering will give choir members an opportunity to reconnect after the summer, enjoy fellowship, and prepare for the busy fall and Christmas seasons. We welcome current, prospective, "special guest" singers to join in this special event.

During the first part of the morning, we will review our fall anthems, work on sight-reading and vocal technique, explore rhythm and musical expression, and preview upcoming worship music. Following lunch, we will begin rehearsing our Christmas music through both sectional and full-choir work. The day will also include refreshments, musical activities (percussion, other instruments), prayers, and some time with our guitars and autoharps. It promises to be a joyful combination of serious preparation, laughter, good food, and beautiful music.

Our young musicians will also have a special opportunity this fall through the Youth Choir One-Day Music Fest on **Monday, September 21**. This event is designed to welcome young people into the life of the church through music, friendship, faith, and fun. Participants will sing familiar and uplifting songs from popular musicals, films, and contemporary music, including solos, duets, group sing and music selections such as Count on Me, A Million Dreams, This Is Me, You Raise Me Up, Seasons of Love, For Good, The Impossible Dream, and What a Wonderful World. The youth music festival will include singing, games, lunch, fellowship, and movement activities. Our hope is that every young person who attends will feel welcomed, valued, and encouraged to let their light shine. Musical experience is not required—only an open heart and a willingness to participate.

Our Children's Choir will begin meeting after Labor Day on Sundays following the worship service. The children will sing, explore rhythm, work with instruments, and prepare music to share in worship approximately once each month. We were delighted by the children's enthusiasm for the autoharps recently. These and other colorful, accessible instruments will return as part of our musical activities. The autoharps allow children to experience harmony and accompaniment immediately, helping them discover the joy of making music together.

Throughout the year, we hope to create opportunities for adult singers, children, youth, instrumentalists, and members of the congregation to contribute their gifts. Whether through traditional hymns, choir anthems, seasonal cantatas, instrumental music, or collaborative presentations, our goal is to support worship and nurture a vibrant musical community here at St Barnabas.

There is a place for everyone in the music ministry of St. Barnabas. Some may be experienced singers or instrumentalists, while others may simply love music and wish to participate for the first time. All voices are welcome.

Together, we will prepare, rehearse, worship, learn, and celebrate. I look forward to making beautiful music with the St. Barnabas community throughout the coming year.

Canaan Valley Ski Weekend 2027

Planning has already started for our parish ski weekend at Canaan Valley State Park Resort. The weekend will be Presidents' Day Weekend, **February 12-15 2027**. The resort is holding a block of rooms for St. Barnabas for us, with option for a few rooms on February 11 or 16. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship and winter sports. Please contact Camille or Ken Mittelholtz for more information.

Thanks and More Thanks

- For the Vestry.
- For the imperfect faith of the sinners and saints who keep showing up for God, trying to make a positive difference this side of heaven.
- For those who have wrestled in their faith.
- For this summer's lay preachers.
- For the songs, poetry, and prose that helps us consider Heaven.
- For the "Christmas in August" choir preparations.
- For the St. Barnabas' Music Minister.
- For the Parish Administrator.
- For the Contributions Recorder.
- For the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer.
- For the St. Barnabas' Building and Grounds Committee.
- For the St. Barnabas' Finance Committee.
- For the St. Barnabas' Youth Committee.



The St. Barnabas' Reporter for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphanytide

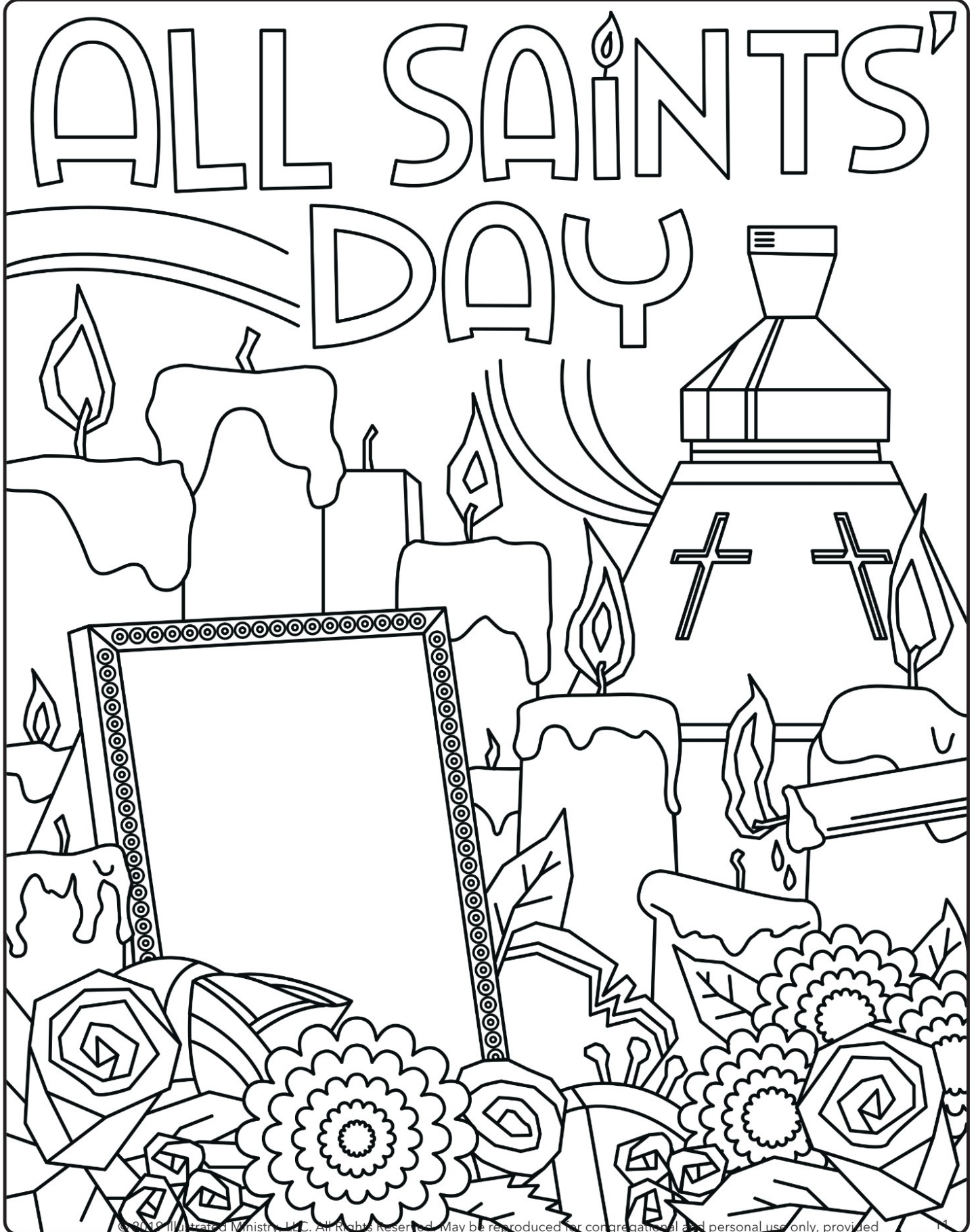
The deadline for submissions to the Winter 2026-2027 issue for *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphanytide* is **Monday, November 2nd**. We welcome a variety of content, including announcements, ministry updates, personal reflections, and event photos that reflect our parish life during this sacred season. Please consider how your contributions can enrich our collective story during the summer months. To contribute, please email your announcements, photos, or other items to the Parish Office at stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com. Alternatively, hard copies of your submissions can also be dropped off at the office.

In the Presence of God

We pray for God's strength and healing for ... Bernard Blair, Charles Camp, Cricket Camp, Margot Donnelly, Charlie Flaherty, Rotha Frye, Joan Gibbs, Beth Harper, James Harris, Barry Hayhurst, Roger Hefferan, James Hughes, Gertrude Jones, Sharon Jones, Joy Lyles, Tom Lyles, Bob Macfarlane, Maria Macfarlane, Cindy McLaughlin, Theresa Merchant, Jack Miller, Helen Mosher, Val Nelson, Linda Pettit-Waldner, Alice Phillips, Anne Radway, Grace Rampersaud, Norma Ricketts, Ellen Riddle, Barbara Rigden, Mary Riggs, Grace Robbins, Trisha Serven, Kathleen Stark, Larry Stark, Karen Steidel, Samuel Tonge, Dana Wiseman, Dave Wright, Mary Yeaman.

For the Church ... the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Rev. Dame Sarah Elisabeth Mullally; our Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Sean Walter Rowe; and our Diocesan Bishops, the Rt. Rev. Mark E. Stevenson, Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Assistant Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Mark A. Bourlakas, Assistant Bishop; and their families. For our Rector, the Rev. John Bolin Shellito, and his family; for Cindy McLaughlin (in discernment), for our Seminarian Joshua Duncan; for our Vestry, Wardens, and staff; and for the work and ministry of our sister parish of San Juan Bautista in Palma Soriano, Cuba and for the Archdeaconate of Eastern Cuba.

KIDS' COLORING PAGE





**ST. BARNABAS'
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 23rd

During the 10:00 am service

9:30am Sunday School, 8am and 10:15am Services Resume Sunday, September 13th

Shrine Mont Retreat October 2nd-4th

Registrations due September 1st

One combined 10:00am service held at St. Barnabas' on 10/4

Blessing of the Animals Sunday, October 11th

Bring your pet for 10:15 am outdoor service (weather permitting)

Trunk N Treat Sunday, October 25th

From 4:30pm-5:30pm

WOSB Bazaar Saturday, November 14th

From 10:00am-2:00pm

Annual Meeting 9:15am Sunday, November 22nd