

The Banner



St. Barnabas Anglican, Peterborough ON Since 1958
REACHING OUT, WELCOMING, NURTURING ALL IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST



Issue: Advent Christmas 2011

Editor: Pat Plow

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER EUGENE

The first Sunday in Advent marks the beginning of the church's new year. Throughout Advent the scriptures will speak of PROMISE, PREPARATION, HOPE AND ANTICIPATION. We watch and wait for the birth of the Christ Child. We watch and wait for our Lord's coming again.

But, how do we watch and wait? How do we carry out this waiting? Do we sit and twiddle our thumbs waiting for the Messiah to tap us on the shoulder and say, **here I am**? So, how do we wait?

Waiting. We all know what it is like to be waiting for something or someone. There is an uncertainty in waiting, wondering if and when it will happen. What will be the outcome? Working at a job these days certainly has its uncertainties and some fear about one's future. Living with health problems and waiting for some positive results can also be times of anxiety and uncertainties. People and families who find themselves homeless are truly living in great expectation of being saved from their plight. The act of waiting for some people is an exercise in hope of deliverance. This waiting is an exercise of faith in waiting for a redeeming God who at times seems missing. Yet, in all these situations, there is hope. So how do we wait for God?

In the pregnancy of a woman, there is a waiting for that moment when the child is born. But, does the pregnant woman sit and wait for the child to be born? Of course not. She stays engaged with her daily life. She also lives daily and is constantly reminded of the life within her. She does things that strengthen her and the life she carries. She prepares herself and her surroundings, and in her preparation waits for new life to happen. Yet it is in her daily living, that she expresses her love and appreciation of the new life she is waiting for. The whole pregnancy is a journey in waiting and once this new life happens the waiting is over and a new journey begins.

And so it is with us. God is alive in us. He is the life within us wanting and waiting to be born again. What can we do to make this happen? Do we **wait** in hope? Or, do we **live** in hope, waiting and wanting it to happen?

It is my prayer and wish that the gift of Jesus Christ be born in you again and he bless you with the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

Have a blessed and safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year from our family to yours!
Fr Eugene

Advent and Christmas Season



Advent 1, November 27, 10am

Advent 2, December 4, 10am

Advent 3, December 11, 10am

Pageant, December 18, 10am

Christmas Eve, December 24

7pm Family service, 10pm Candlelight

Christmas Day, December 25, 10am

Sunday of the Epiphany, January 8, 10 am

BANNER MESSAGE FROM FR EUGENE

WILL THERE BE A FUTURE FOR ST. BARNABAS CHURCH?

I ask this question of myself and of you. I ask this, because the future of the church is always in question. Because, its future depends on its people. You! While our situation at St Barnabas has been secure and we have experienced some growth, we have limited resources when it comes to "people". Our age group falls on the side of 60 plus. These same people have faithfully supported the church with their many talents and resources. This is one reason why we are still here. On Sunday, November 6, Peter Misiaszek from the Diocesan Planning and Development Committee gave us a sermon/talk on

stewardship. It was interesting and informative. Peter stated that money is not the only gift we can offer to help build up the church and take it into the future. He is certainly right. He also stated that St. Barnabas was unique and that it has shown continued growth over the last ten years. Great news, but can we continue this growth pattern when most churches are on the decline? What will be the future of St. Barnabas Church?

Who holds the answer to this foreboding and challenging question? I say again, You, the people do!!! When I refer to 'you' I do mean everyone who chooses to "participate" in the life and ministry of this church. But we are missing that younger generation. That missing younger generation, are the only ones who can ensure that the church will carry on into the future. This is a hard and true fact for all churches.

My question then is to you, this younger generation. Will you take the responsibility of building a stronger faith community, a church that will continue Christ's work. To continue Christ's command to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick and those in prison, give shelter to those who are homeless and love those who are left feeling unwanted? Someone must take over this responsibility. The fact that this church is here, is evidence that your parents followed the command and tended to the needs of others in the name of Christ. Their faith has brought Good News to those in the past who were in need of it. It is now your turn to do the same. It must be your faith in Christ that will carry on this gift and give it a new life now and in the days to come.

Will there be a future for St. Barnabas Church? I truly hope and pray it will continue to do the great ministry it has had over the last 54 years. But, this legacy must be in the hands of the next generation, for our time is now limited.

All of us, of all ages, must remind ourselves of the vows we make or have made at baptism, those of our children, strangers or friends:
to continue the apostle's teaching, in fellowship, in the breaking of bread, in prayers;
to proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ;
to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to love neighbour as yourself;
to strive for justice, peace, respect and dignity for every human being.

I will with God's help!

Will there be a future for St. Barnabas Church?

There will be with God's help and yours!

A DEACON SPEAKS

Advent is a time of waiting. As a Christian community we are waiting for Christmas, a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ, the expected one. In the hustle and bustle of the commercialized time of "Seasons Greetings", when Christmas lights are glowing in our neighbourhoods in the middle of November, and carols begin to waft across the airwaves, Christians have a difficult time focusing on the "Reason for the Season".

When I worked for Boot's Drug Stores we began our Christmas stock deliveries in August and by Christmas Eve we were so tired of Christmas that we wanted to escape to some quiet place void of any reference to the hectic season. The true season of Christmas has been hijacked by commercialism. How can we observe the waiting and anticipation when we are bombarded continually with pleas to spend, spend, spend.

As I think of the waiting my thoughts move to the ministries I'm engaged in. Certainly waiting is the main occupation in the prison. Inmates are waiting for the day that they are released from jail. They count the days, and some, the hours and minutes until release. For them the waiting is difficult. However, waiting can be a productive time, a time when they can contemplate living a life that is fulfilling and one that will not lead them back to prison. Many of the ones who come to chapel do think about turning their life around and make plans to alter their behaviours to be sure that they are never "inside" again.

Another of my ministries is that of being an Ambassador of Reconciliation for the National Church. As a member of the Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group I attend meetings that include First Nations and non-First Nations members. I hear stories of the impact of the Residential School Program fallout that will affect generations to come. My Aboriginal sisters and brothers are also waiting. They are waiting for justice, for fair treatment, for hope for a better future. They have been waiting for centuries, since the first arrival of Europeans. One of the sad parts of this waiting is that they want to share their culture, a culture that resists the hoopla that the rest of us embrace as a path to the meaning of Christmas.

As I anticipate the season of Advent my prayer is that I will be able, like the inmate at the Central East Correctional Centre, to wisely focus on the birth of the Son of God and the impact that has changed the world. In the busyness of my life I often fail to take

the time to connect with our Saviour. As the inmate put it when we were talking about making choices, “I think about that. Making the right choice is difficult. I think it’s like a jig-saw puzzle. I have the pieces I’m trying to fit together, but God has the box with the picture on it.”

My prayer, as we enter this Advent season, is that I use the waiting to connect, in prayer, to God who has the box with the picture of my life on it. May we sense the waiting time as a time to connect with God and to truly await the arrival of the Christ child in our lives.

Deacon Frank

school. We hear of young people hurrying home to study at night. We hear of children proudly wearing new uniforms and of teachers taking personal time to make sure our family members catch up to the rest of the class. We see photos of a student showing off a new uniform shirt and pants. We get emails of extravagant thanks and praise.

The people of St. Barnabas are helping to transform lives – just as you have helped me get through a rough time. As the Christmas season approaches, I hope we will all remember that the gift of ourselves is the greatest gift we can give. Make that call, write that note, send that card, issue that invitation, pray that prayer. They are pearls beyond price.

My prayer for you is a blessed and happy Christmas season.
Deacon Bev

KENYAN OUTREACH

This is the time of graduations for the family of eight AIDS orphans that the people of St. Barnabas are helping to educate.

Bethsalem, 18, is graduating high school this December with high hopes of entering university. His choice of career is still up in the air but his marks at the elite national high school he has been attending have been excellent (last term he stood 12th out of a class of 249). And so we wait for the results of Beth’s final exams and his choice of university.

The two eldest orphans – Anne and Melinda – wrote the exams for their KCPE (Grade 8) certificate earlier this month. Their marks too have been high since they started attending adult education classes and we hope they will start computer courses in January. In Kenya, Grade 8 graduation opens doors to higher education. It is also the minimum qualification demanded by many employers.

New Year’s marks the first anniversary of our three-year commitment to these children – the son and extended family members of our own Pam Wyldes, who sings in the St. Barnabas choir. And it is hard to underestimate what our support has meant.

Primary school education in Kenya is free – provided you can supply uniforms and pay other fees, like those charged to write exams. There are fees for secondary school – plus uniforms, books and the mattresses and storage trunks required of boarding

May your anticipation
during Advent
lead you to the manger at Christmas.

“MISSING IN ACTION”

As most of you know by now, I’ve been “missing in action” after a pelvis-cracking fall in Algonquin Park this September. My recovery has not gone as quickly as I had hoped. My husband Art has been pressed into service as chief cook and bottle washer and a good one at that. All your cards, phone calls and other kindnesses have helped sustain me through what became a very trying time. Thank you for that.

One thing about being laid up, you have plenty of time to think. And I’ve been mulling over the impact of that personal contact. As Christians, our first resource is prayer. But God’s agents here on earth are human beings just like you and I. We see this very clearly in our parish helping to educate eight AIDS orphans living in Nairobi, Kenya.

The seven members of the Kenyan Outreach Committee, the Outreach Committee at St. Paul’s, Lindsay and our private sponsors provide much of the basic support. But when we write to different members of the family and to their guardian, Pam Wyldes’ sister Risper, it is on behalf of the people of St. Barnabas parish. Those letters are cherished and we are beginning to see the rich harvest of such Christ-centered human contact.

The children have flowered into good students getting good marks and looking forward to the possibilities open to them as they advance through

students (the majority of high school students in Kenya are boarders)

All our AIDS orphans have blossomed because of parish support. Now they know their school costs will be kept up to date. These costs are minor for Canadians (an average of \$1,000 per term to educate eight students) but a huge burden on Kenyan families earning as little as \$1 a day. As an added incentive, committee members also send words of encouragement via email.

Committee members – Father Eugene, LouAnn Carey, Doug and Eileen Moulton, Kim Orchard, Helen Perkins and Deacon Bev – this year welcomed the support of the Outreach Committee of St. Paul's, Lindsay which has agreed to sponsor Anne and Melinda. Two other students also have private sponsors. And there is always room for more, especially for Bethsalem whose parish support ends with high school graduation.

For further information, please check the Outreach bulletin board in Groombridge Hall or ask a committee member.

Coming soon in February – the annual potluck dinner and dessert auction sponsored by the Kenyan Outreach Committee. Watch for further details in The Banner and in the Sunday bulletin.

FROM THE WARDENS: As the fairly new People's Warden, I am enjoying my time learning my role. It is an exciting time for St. Barnabas with lots of events, fund-raising and fellowship.

Please don't forget we have a number of coupons left. They are for discounts at various stores in the area. The nice thing is, there is a \$10.00 coupon for Rona. You get your money back using just that one. Please see either Cathy, Norm or myself, we would be happy to share. Brenda Lunn

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. BARNABAS

Advent Study and Prayer Rev. Ruth Adams invites you to gather **10:45 - 12 noon, Wednesdays** in the church (following the Eucharist) or on **Wednesday evenings, 7 - 8pm** in her home, 660 Ross Street. These studies will commence November 16 and run through December 14. This is a time to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus. Please contact Ruth at 705-741-0509 for directions.

Buy your **Poinsettias** through **Sidney Turner** and your church. These plants make great gifts for family, friends, or the Chancel Guild. Delivery will be in plenty of time for Christmas. There are order forms at the church. If you are giving to the Chancel Guild please indicate that on the form.

Tourtieres are still available, \$12 each. They make great gifts. Please speak to Trish Murphy or contact her at 705-749-5078.

The 2012 Canadian Church Calendar features photos of churches throughout Canada. The theme is "How lovely is thy dwelling place" Psalm 84. They may be purchased for \$7 from any choir member.

St. Barnabas will host a concert by **Allison Lynn and her husband Gerald Fleming on Friday, December 2, 7 pm**, followed by refreshments. They are headlined as **"Infinitely More"**, and strive to create a fresh new sound for the ancient church, blending Gospel, Praise & Worship, Country, and Jazz. Tickets are \$15 per person. 50% of proceeds towards St. Barnabas Outreach.

There will **not** be a soup luncheon in **December**. The next one is **January 8, 2012**. To sign up for soup, rolls or goodies, please contact Jennifer Crowe, 705-876-9831. You can sign up and will be reminded the week before the luncheon. Thanks for your help.

The Duplicate Bridge Club meets next on November 27 at 6:30. We will not meet in December. The first game in 2012 is Sunday, January 22 at 6:30 in Groombridge Hall. This is a "friendly" game of Duplicate Bridge for players new and experienced. We meet the 4th Sunday of each month, except December. All proceeds (\$5/pp) go towards the Ugandan Well Outreach project at St. Barnabas. If you would like to join us, please call Eileen 705-748-4884 or demoulton@sympatico.ca

SAVE SOME CHRISTMAS SPIRIT for Saturday, January 14, 2012, 7pm, when St. Barnabas Choir will present a musical **"Farewell to Christmas"**, at the church. Come and enjoy a presentation of seasonal music and anthems. The evening will feature a variety of choral music that many may not have heard at Christmas Eve services in recent years. As well there will be solos, instrumental presentations and a sing along of carols and Christmas songs. A freewill offering will be used to support the Outreach and Music Ministries at St. Barnabas. Refreshments to follow.

Sobeys Tapes and Campbell Soup labels. Nancy and Al Mason would like to remind you to continue to save them and place them in the box by the elevator.



HELP US PUT A WELL INTO:
Buzimwa-Katuuso Village
Central Uganda

WE ARE CLOSE TO HALF-WAY THERE! Thanks to the success of the Talent Auction and the generosity of individual donors, we have about \$3800 towards the cost of drilling a hole in Uganda for fresh, clean water. This water will be shared, free-of-charge, with an entire community (over 500 people) and can prevent water-borne illnesses and potentially save many lives. We are so fortunate to live in a country where fresh water is abundant and not a daily worry. Donating what you can afford is something concrete that we can do to help people on the other side of the globe. It will make their lives easier and at such a small cost to us! Please check out "UGANDA" on the bulletin board in the church hall. You can make a donation to the "**Ugandan Well**" and put it on the collection plate or use the envelope and form available on the bulletin board downstairs. Either way, your donation will receive a charitable income tax receipt. ...e.g. You could ask someone close to you to give you "a well donation" (in lieu of another scarf) for Christmas!! Please think about it!

ACW UPDATE

The Anglican Church Workers have been busy this Fall. We hosted a sandwich and cake party (to go with the soup lunch) to send off the Orchard family. We also had a great bake sale and tourtiere sale. A lot of time and hard work went into organizing the tourtieres (our biggest fundraiser) and we are thankful to Trish Murphy for taking that project on this fall. Thanks Trish! Thank you to all our parishioner who brought in baked goods to our bake table. It was a lovely table and sold really well. The final totals will be announced at our last meeting for 2011, to be held on December 16th. We hope to have a pot luck and sing along. Details will be posted in the bulletin . We also are very grateful to LouAnn , who gets all our messages into email and the bulletin for us.

The next project will be to prepare Christmas gifts for our shut-ins. Joyce Kane is looking after the gifts for about 17 parishioners and has made them suitable

for each individual recipient. They will be delivered shortly before Christmas . Thanks to Joyce for taking on this very important job. Our parishioners who can't get to Church really love the thought and the visit.

Our front entrance cross and lighting got fixed this fall with funds from the ACW and we really want to thank Fred Olson and Stan Carey for doing the work involved. Thanks Fred and Stan. What a great year!

Ruth Spencley, secretary

I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus is sung to a traditional folk tune from India (ASSAM), and it is named after the northeastern Indian state once home to tribes known as "head-hunters" due to their custom of collecting heads and hanging them on their walls. In his book *Why, God Why?*, Dr. P. Job reports that 150 years ago a Welsh missionary converted a man, his wife, and his children to Christianity. After the village chief demanded that the man renounce his faith, he spontaneously sang the now-famous words, "I have decided to follow Jesus." Reportedly, the chief ordered his archers to kill the man's two children, threatening to kill his wife as well; but the man sang, "Though no one joins me, still I will follow." The archers shot his wife, but still the man refused to deny Christ, and he was executed while singing: "The cross before me, the world behind me." Allegedly, the chief was so moved that he declared, "I too belong to Jesus Christ!" and the entire village converted.

Indian Christians still sing this hymn to proclaim their commitment to Christ. In America, it has been popularized by composer and hymn editor William Jensen Reynolds' arrangement, which first appeared in the 1959 *Assembly Songbook*. This version was frequently used at Billy Graham's crusade meetings.

Credit "Christian Classics Ethereal Library", The CCEL Times.

PWRDF

A cracked pelvis prevented me from preaching the Sunday after Thanksgiving – PWRDF Sunday at St. Barnabas. I understand Father Eugene did an excellent job in my stead and that you received lots of information about the work of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

News about the famine and drought in the Horn of Africa has however, faded from the front pages of the

newspapers and from the TV news. And that is where PWRDF has been very active through its partners in Action by Churches Together.

Drought and famine is still claiming lives in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in Somalia. It is also affecting the people of neighbouring Kenya and not just those living near the bulging refugee camps in the east. The price of the maize (white corn) meal so basic to the Kenyan diet has tripled in price. The high school students we are helping to educate were sent home early in the spring term because their school had run out of food for boarding students. Nairobi is bursting with refugees fleeing violence and famine in neighbouring countries. There is a shortage of gasoline and the cost of bus transportation has also risen sharply.

Please remember the people of the Horn of Africa and others around the world and in Canada who are being assisted by PWRDF. And please remember that the work of educating Anglicans about the needs and situations of people around the world and in Canada goes on year-round. For further information, see the website www.pwrdf.org.

Deacon Bev Thompson, PWRDF rep.

CHEROKEE PARABLE

A Cherokee elder was teaching his grandchildren about life. He said to them, "A fight is going on inside me. It is a terrible fight, and it is between two wolves.

One wolf represents fear, anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, jealousy and lies.

The other wolf stands for **joy, peace, love, hope**, sharing, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, friendship, empathy, generosity, truth and compassion. This same fight is going on inside of you and every other person too."

The children thought about it for a minute and then one child asked his grandfather, "Which wolf will win?" The wise one simply replied: "The one you feed."

From Restoring Hope: Appreciative Strategies To Resolve Grief and Resentment, by Robert J. Voyle.



FLAME is a retreat weekend for Anglican men held annually at the Salvation Army Conference Centre at Jackson's Point on Lake

Simcoe.

This year five men from our parish attended: Mike Gildon, Stan Hampton, John Horvath, Jerry Raper and David Rook-Green. We came so close to winning the award for most participants but were edged out by our friends from St. John's, Ida who had six. Next year!!

The get-away follows an established and successful program of guest speaker, small study groups, plenary sessions, high energy contemporary music, super fellowship, prayerful spiritual food for personal growth and great meals. The lake-side setting is truly beautiful and peaceful and heightens one's awareness of God's creation.

Dr. John Stevenson, formerly of St. John's, delivered four powerful sessions on "Amazing Grace" and his talks were amazing. In small groups we dissected his words and ideas and shared strategies for our own journey with Christ.

David takes part in the music and praise team and we are very happy that he will be on the organizing committee next year. Men, please consider joining us next year. Submitted by Jerry Raper



PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

On October 21st many of our St. Barnabas family set out on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Having been there myself with Fr. Eugene as spiritual leader and Dianne as tour coordinator I know the journey was memorable. I interviewed these folks to get their personal impressions.



Dianne this is your fourth trip, three of those leading a tour. On this trip there were fourteen family members with you. How was this trip different?

“Watching my children connect with my heritage. They had always known their German family but because my parents and grandparents were gone they did not have the same connection with their Jewish heritage. And, finally being able to find and acknowledge my Aunt and Uncles final resting place. I was very close to my Aunt when I was growing up and this was very important to me.” *(Editor note: Dianne has searched for many years for her Aunt and Uncles grave in Israel. This past September she finally received the information she needed and it was at Netanya, the first stop on the trip.)*

“Our boat trip on the Sea of Galilee was the best I have experienced. It was an older style boat, more like the ones from Jesus time, and the operator played good Christian music. He drew the boat close to Capernaum, cut the engine and let us drift peacefully. It was special to watch the different reactions on peoples faces.”

Brenda (Hawthorne) was there something in particular that stood out for you?

“There were so many moments, but I was particularly in awe of Beth Shan an archeological dig. The beautiful mosaics that have been unearthed at a monastery, a working toilet and most of all the Roman amphitheater which is still in use. In fact they were preparing for a performance when we were there. Our boat trip on the Sea of Galilee reminded me of the Sunday school children because the operator was playing songs the children have sung. For example, Put your hand in the hand. The Garden Tomb was such a peaceful setting. We arrived late in the day and there was no one else there. It was a

very special place to have communion. Another special time was walking the Via Dolorosa in the old city of Jerusalem, and visualizing that Jesus walked this way.”

Tammy (and Fred Delahey) was there a special moment for you and Fred?

“To be able to make this trip with Fr. Eugene and Dianne and their family was very special and to renew our Baptismal vows at the Jordan river. I have a new respect for Jesus and the time it took him to travel from place to place. The terrain is very rugged and realizing that Jesus walked most of the time was humbling. I also was interested in the fact that many of the churches are still in use today for religious services. At a Greek Orthodox church a funeral took place while we were there. On the obverse I was overwhelmed by the commercialism at religious sites in Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Overall I feel a sense of renewal and I know that now the Bible will come “alive” for me because I have seen so much of it first hand.”

LouAnn (and Stan Carey) is there a special memory for you?

“The Dead Sea and its buoyancy. I could not get my feet under me. It was difficult to stand up. Also the archeological dig at Massada which overlooks the Dead Sea. There is so much history there.”

“Part of Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, is devoted to the children who died. To hear all the names read and to know that there are only four lights representing them and the overall illusion is done with mirrors, was very moving.” *(Editors note: The origin of the name is from a Biblical verse: "And to them will I give in my house and within my walls a memorial and a name (Yad Vashem) that shall not be cut off".)*

“To stand on the Mount of Olives and look out over the city of Jerusalem and realize that below us was probably the path Jesus took on Palm Sunday. The memory will stay with me a long time.”

Amy (Hickson) I understand that you saw many changes since your first trip in 1999.

“Yes, in particular the Dead Sea. When we were there eleven years ago we walked from the spa along a short ramp and we were in the sea. Today people take a shuttle train to get to the sea which is now 160

feet from the original beach. It is receding about 3 metres a year. You can see hotels on the Jordan side that have been abandoned because they no longer have access.” *(Editors note: Israel, Jordan and Syria are all responsible for the Northern Dead Seas dramatic shrinkage by redirecting the Jordan river and its tributaries to use for irrigation and drinking water.)*

“My special moment was bonding with my family, especially my cousins. My cousins and I only get together a couple times a year for family gatherings so it was nice to spend time with them.”

Joy (Cooper) was there a disappointment on this trip?

“I was disappointed in Bethlehem. It was not at all as I envisioned. There is so much commercialism and rubble and destruction. I realize it is Palestinian territory and many battles have been fought here but I did not realize it would look so bad. Also, there were such long lines to descend to Jesus’ birth place in the cave below the Church of the Nativity. We waited two hours. However, there were many memorable moments, being baptized in the river Jordan, floating in the Dead Sea and riding a camel to Abrahams Tent in the heart of the Judean desert. I really enjoyed the food at Abrahams Tent.”

“It was special to be included in the family memorial at the cemetery. That time was very special to Dianne and her family and I am grateful to have been a part of that. Now that I am home and looking at my pictures and reliving the journey I realize that Pilgrimage means a deep sense of renewal for me.”

Travis (Berlenbach) did you enjoy your trip?

“It was awesome! I wasn’t sure what to expect but I was impressed by the history, especially Beth Shan. Mick and I climbed to the top of the amphitheater to get an overall view of the dig. We saw the tree that was depicted in the movie Jesus Christ Superstar. It is basically a dead tree held up by steel posts. At Massada we walked down instead of taking the cable car. In our sandals it was rough going but the views were amazing. You could see out over the Dead Sea and observe that it is actually cut in two. You could walk across it. I have great pictures.”

“I found Abrahams Tent a bit touristy but the performance was great. Very good acting by the cast and the food was great. I found many of the religious

sites very touristy and that disappointed me. We had a great guide, Vared, and she got us going early so that we were usually ahead of the crowds.”

“Yad Vashem was a heavy experience. It was started as a memorial to the children who died in the Holocaust. There was a world wide competition for the design and a Canadian Jewish architect was chosen. His design was a dark room lit by four candles that reflected off many mirrors giving the appearance of hundreds of stars representing the children. He was later hired to design the new museum which is shaped like a triangle or half of the Star of David.” *(Editors note: The impressive building, dedicated in 2005, was designed by the world acclaimed Canadian-Israeli architect, Moshe Safdie. For an amazing aerial view go to www.msafdie.com)*

“At the Mount of the Beatitudes I spent most of my time outside, alone and I felt at peace. Overall, this first hand experience caused me to realize that yes, I have Jewish roots. I will go again and I have friends that would like to go also.”

Laurel (Keith Jones) I understand that Keith has been to Israel before and that this was your first trip.

“Yes, Keith was there several times in connection with his work, but that was thirty years ago and he was interested in seeing what changes had taken place. He had always wanted me to go and I am very glad I did. Keith remembered the country being very arid and barren thirty years ago and he was surprised to see how green and lush it looks today. There were also more soldiers visible as he remembers and the Bedouin seemed more intense, today they have a more modern appearance.”

“For myself, I found the Mount of the Beatitudes so peaceful and beautiful. The Sea of Galilee was another calm and beautiful place but I am concerned about the drop in the water level. There places that the boats cannot go any more.”

“The historical sites like Massada, which was awesome, Caesaria Phillippi depicting 2000 years of history and Beth Shan where the archeologists are uncovering clues to how people used to live, were all impressive.”

“We visited the Shrine of the Book and were able to walk around the model of Jerusalem which gave me a better perspective of the overall scene as it was in Jesus time. Our guide Vared was very good. She

explained why certain sites were thought to be the place of a particular event, rather than stating categorically that something took place there. That gave me the chance to decide for myself, to see both perspectives.”

Pat (Bradley) what impressions have you brought back from Israel?

“I feel that I have made a stronger connection to the Old Testament and how it is the roots of Christianity. The country was very different than I had imagined. I was taken by a little girl calling to her father in Hebrew saying, ‘Abbah, Abbah’. I had forgotten that even though this is the word for father it refers to everyday life not just to God. I was also reminded of my own father when I saw how the hotels dealt with Shebat. My father used to work for Jewish families who were not allowed to work on the Sabbath, doing their chores for them. In the hotels the elevators would automatically stop at every floor so that people did not need to push buttons.”

“I found the singing of O’ Canada, on the ship on the Galilee, very moving. I did not expect that nor the fervor with which everyone sang. Another very moving experience was sharing with Dianne and her family the experience at the cemetery in Netanya.”

“At Yad Vashem I was overcome emotionally at the childrens’ memorial. I was reminded of a neighbour I had known years ago who was a survivor of the Holocaust. We became very good friends and she had told me her story of survival so I felt a deep connection to her when I heard all the names of the children read out.”

“I enjoyed the food, there was so much of it, but I didn’t enjoy being in the Dead Sea because I didn’t seem to have any control over where I was floating. It was difficult to stand up. Going in the cable car to Massada was another terrifying time. I am afraid of heights but was determined to go and I made it. I’m very glad I did.”

“Dianne and Fr. Eugene made the trip special because they are so detail oriented. Our guide Vared also made small details her priority. Overall I had the sense that it didn’t matter if the sites were actual or probable. I knew that Jesus had lived and taught in the area and that was enough.”

“The most spiritual moment was the communion service at the Chapel of the Primacy of St. Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. We stood in a circle on the shores of the Galilee, where Jesus did so

much of his ministry, and passed the bread and wine. This was incredibly special.”

Jennifer (and Mick Gillard and Zoe) was there anything special for you on this journey?

“Yes, I grew up with German as my background and never had a desire to explore my mom’s background. She convinced me to make this journey and I am so glad she did. For the first time I now feel my Jewish roots and have a better understanding of the things she talks about. When we were at the cemetery and shared with her the discovery of her aunt and uncle and a Cantor sang Psalms in Hebrew, that was very emotional. Making this journey with my daughter Zoe was also special. I feel a deeper connection to her and she has a better understanding of her roots also. The visit to Yad Vashem gave me another connection with both sides of my heritage. I found it profoundly overwhelming as I started to identify with my history.”

“Zoe really enjoyed the Dead Sea and the market places. She tried all the different foods and enjoyed them”

“My favorite place was Capernaum. There is so much to see that relates to Jesus ministry and it is called the ‘Town that Jesus Loved’.”



I would like to thank everyone for their time and participation in my “interview”. I have tried to transcribe your thoughts as closely as I could. I hope our readers have enjoyed this insight and will make their own pilgrimage by attending Advent and Christmas services.
Pat Plow

NEWS FROM THE ST. BARNABAS CHURCH DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The St. Barnabas Church Development Advisory Committee was formed in 2011 to make recommendations to St. Barnabas Advisory Committee, Corporation and Hillmar Board.

The committee will also communicate updates of the proposed Hillmar/St. Barnabas building project to St. Barnabas congregation and those involved.

It was agreed following a meeting in June, 2011 that the plans submitted by the Hillmar Board of directors for the construction of additional senior apartments should be further explored by a newly formed

committee. The St. Barnabas Church Development Advisory Committee includes Doug Moulton (chair), Gerry Turner (vice chair), Jerry Raper (secretary), Cathy Brunger, Fr. Eugene, Brenda Lunn, Dorothy Macdonald, Cathy Stone, and Brian Webb.

The proposed expansion of Hillmar on St. Barnabas property was presented and approved at St. Barnabas Vestry in Feb., 2011. The proposal was then sent to the Diocese for approval. Fr. Eugene has advised the committee that questions about the project are currently being reviewed at the Diocese.

After all approvals by the Diocese, the City of Peterborough and community, the congregation of St. Barnabas will have the opportunity to review and approve the project.

Please contact any members of this committee if you have any questions or concerns about this project. We will do our best to keep you fully informed.

Doug Moulton
Chairperson
705-748-4884

What Was that 'Survey' About?



On Sunday November 6, following the church service, a cross section of 30 parishioners completed the NCD [Natural Church Development] survey. This survey is the first phase of a journey that has been used by over 40,000 Christian churches of various denominations worldwide that were seeking to make their church community healthier.

The NCD process was initiated in Europe by an academic theologian interested in church growth – i.e. why do some churches grow and others decline? The initial international research identified characteristics or principles that all successful churches have in common. From this beginning, surveys have been developed and refined for churches in individual countries so we at St. Barnabas' participated in the Canadian survey on November 6.

The survey is a bit like a thermometer that can reveal the health of the patient. It is just a beginning point

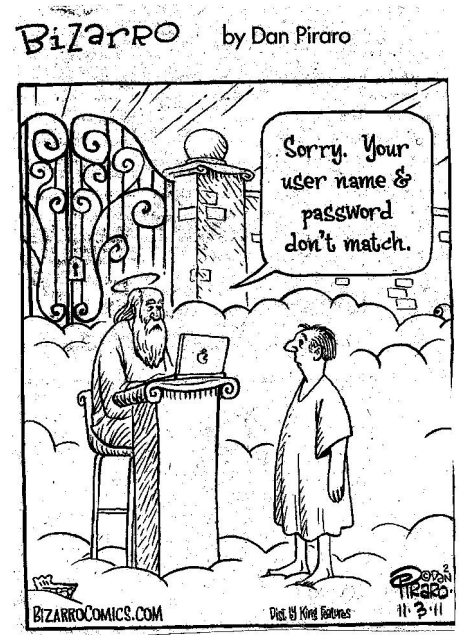
for this journey or process known as NCD. There is no application form, registration, nor fees - just a willingness to look at our own parish with the hope of making it more effective both to our personal lives and to the life of our church.

Earlier this year, Father Eugene Berlenbach asked a small team to plan and shepherd the first leg of this process. (The NCD Team consists of Helen Perkins, Anne Graham, Joy Cooper, Suzanne Yip Choy, Deacon Frank Tyrrell and Fr. Eugene.) Bill Hooper, an Anglican lay person from the area, experienced in the NCD process in other parishes, is the 'coach' for the Team. The Team chose November 6, 2011 as the survey date and identified a cross section of parishioners to complete this first survey.

The completed anonymous surveys were sent away (to Germany) for collation. Results will be returned and reviewed by Fr. Eugene, then the NCD Team, November 23. Based on the results, the Team will design questions for focus group meetings with survey participants to help us understand the results and what initiatives might be undertaken to address the lowest characteristics. With this information the Team will develop an Action Plan for the Advisory Board and Clergy to consider.

By the way, if you did not participate in this first survey, there will be other opportunities as approximately yearly we will resurvey parishioners to assess progress for as long as we feel it's useful. Stay tuned for the results and the plans ahead! It's an exciting time.

Helen Perkins



Teach the Children I had just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed, when I heard a noise in the front of the house. I opened the door to the front room and to my surprise, Santa himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his finger over his mouth so I would not cry out.



"What are you doing?" I started to ask. The words choked up in my throat, and I saw he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone. Gone was the eager, boisterous character we all know. He then answered me with a simple statement. "Teach the Children!"

I was puzzled; what did he mean? He guessed my question, and with one quick movement pulled a miniature toy bag from behind the tree. As I stood puzzled, Santa said, "Teach the children! Teach them the old meaning of Christmas. The meaning that now-a-days Christmas has forgotten."

Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a FIR TREE and placed it in front of the fire place. "Teach the children that the pure green colour of the stately fir tree remains green all year round, representing the everlasting hope of mankind, all the needles point heavenward, making it a symbol of man's thoughts turning toward heaven."

He again reached into his bag and pulled out a brilliant STAR "Teach the children that the star was the heavenly sign of promises long ago. God promised a Saviour for the world, and the star was the sign of fulfillment of His promise."

He then reached into his bag and pulled out a CANDLE. "Teach the children that the candle symbolizes that Christ is the light of the world, and when we see this great light we are reminded of Jesus who fills our lives with light."

Once again he reached into his bag and removed a WREATH and placed it on the tree. "Teach the children that the wreath symbolizes the real nature of love. Real love never ceases, like Gods love which has no beginning or end."



He then pulled from his bag an ornament of HIMSELF. "Teach the children that I, Santa Clause symbolize the generosity and kindness we feel during the month of December."

He then brought out a HOLLY LEAF. "Teach the children that the holly plant represents immortality. It represents the crown of thorns worn by our Saviour. The red holly represents the blood shed by Him."

Next he pulled from his bag a GIFT and said, "Teach the children that God so loved the world that HE gave us HIS only SON... We thank God for his very special gift."

"Teach the children that the wise men bowed before the Holy Baby and gave HIM gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We should always give gifts in the same spirit of the wise men."



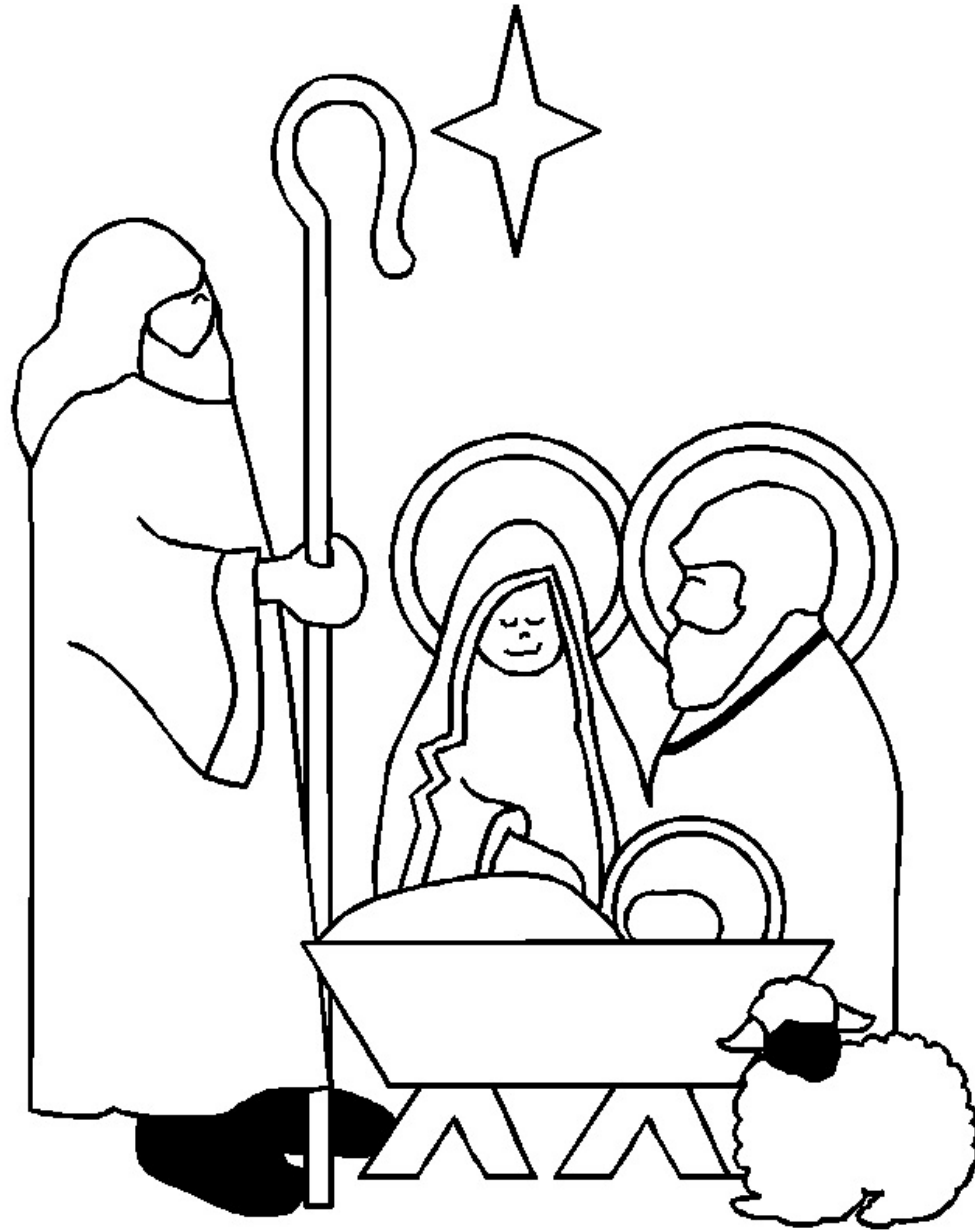
Santa then reached in his bag and pulled out a SUGAR CANE and hung it on the tree. "Teach the children that the sugar cane represents the shepherd's crook. The crook on the staff helps to bring back lost sheep to the flock."

He reached in again and pulled out an ANGEL. "Teach the children that it was the angels that announced the glorious news of the Saviour's birth. The angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace and good will toward men.'"

Suddenly, I heard a soft tinkling sound, and from his bag he pulled out a BELL. "Teach the children that as the lost sheep are found by the sound of the bell, it should ring to guide us to God. The bell symbolizes guidance and return. It reminds us that we are all precious in the eyes of God."

Santa looked back and was pleased. I saw the twinkle in his eyes as he said: "Remember, teach the children the true meaning of Christmas and do not put me in the centre, for I am but an humble servant of the One that is, and I bow down to worship HIM, our LORD, our GOD."

~Author Unknown ~ Adapted by Woodlands Junior School



**And they came with haste, and found
Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying
in a manger.**

Luke 2:16