

Vestry Report for 2009
St. Barnabas Anglican Church
The Church in the Marketplace
Embracing the Community

Let us faithfully witness to the Risen Jesus, giving generously of our lives and substance for the relief of the poor and the sharing of the gospel, bringing encouragement to all.

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St. Barnabas (Chester) Anglican Church
The Church in the Marketplace, Embracing the Community
Annual Vestry Meeting
Sunday, February 7, 2010

AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Prayer
Appointment of the Vestry Clerk
Adoption of the Minutes

Diocesan Bishop's Pastoral Letter
Clergy Report
Leadership Team's Report
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Accessibility Update

New Business
Closing Prayer
Motion to Adjourn

St. Barnabas (Chester) Anglican Church
The Church in the Marketplace, Embracing the Community

NOMINATIONS

Leadership Team: Jan Booker, Gary Davenport, Lynette Inniss,
Everod Miller, Neville Reid, Jane Smith

Treasurer: Jan Booker

Signing Officers: The Leadership Team

Envelope Secretary: Barbara Parks

Lay Member to Synod

Alternative Member to Synod: Maryclare Lambden

Ministry Chairs

Advertising: Sue Ann Elite

Advisory Board: Maryclare Lambden

Bazaar: Janet Booker, Jenny Reid

Bible Study: Grace Caldwell-Hill

Chancel Guild: Teresa Johnson

Children's Day Care Board: Lynda and Gary Davenport, Jane Smith

Church School: Emma Connell, Michael Koscec

Coffee Hour: Helen Taylor

Flower Coordinator: Kathleen Callaghan

Intercessor Coordinator

Lay Pastoral Visitors: Barbara Wilkins

Library: Jodi Joyce

Nomination Committee: The Leadership Team

Outreach Ministry: Sue Ann Elite, Maryclare Lambden, L.E. Wakelin,
Sheila Cram

Pancake Supper: Eleanor Morgan

Prayer Chain: Grace Caldwell-Hill

Readers: Esma Brathwaite

Sides Team: Art Lowe

Social Convenors: Janet Booker, Lynda Davenport, Helen Taylor

Taizé: Fiona Strachan

Archbishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2010

to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish's annual vestry meeting

To the Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of our Holy God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As you gather for your annual vestry meeting, the College of Bishops of Toronto offers you our prayerful support and good wishes for the year ahead, the beginning of a new decade. We are profoundly thankful to all of you for your faithfulness and commitment to worship, work and witness to the Christian faith as members of the Anglican Church in Canada.

I am humbled by the number who called, wrote or in person offered me good wishes and prayers on my assumption of new ministry as Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. How grateful we bishops are for the prayers offered week by week in the churches of the diocese that sustain and encourage us in our work!

The past year was filled with uncertainty and challenge as many individuals and businesses felt the impact of the poor economy and financial loss. For some the impact has been slight but for others it meant loss of income and jobs. However, as we embark on the year that is before us, there is cautious optimism that financial recovery is on the way. How does all of this speak to us in the context of our faith?

As a community of faith, hope plays an important part as we look to the future. It is not a groundless hope but one born of a deep conviction that God is very present in our daily lives and that God invites us to trust that in the future we walk daily with Him as our companion. I said in my sermon at the Levee in the Cathedral on January 1 that we are a covenant people in relationship with God who has been and will ever be faithful to the relationship He has with us. This faithfulness does not mean the absence of difficulty but rather assurance of His abiding and transfiguring presence even when we are confronted by these trials.

Many in our communities live with misfortune as their daily companion: the homeless and the under-housed, those living with HIV/AIDS, a parent unable to care for a child, the unemployed, the abused, and so many others. I continue to encourage Anglicans across our Diocese to be advocates for and supporters of these persons. You can be an agent of hope and a sign of God's presence. We must do our part while also inviting others to do theirs. I thank those parishes and individuals who have been engaging their MPP's, civic leaders and their own communities to find ways to address these concerns. Thanks, too, to those parishes engaged in meaningful outreach ministry to the poor and marginalized in your local community and beyond, both by your direct involvement and through your support of FaithWorks.

We are living in exciting times in the midst of challenge and uncertainty. We are living in a post-Christendom era but not a post-Christian one – Christ is still alive and active in this world. As a Diocese we are intentionally working to be shaped for mission in response to what we believe God is already doing, and what God is calling us to be and do with Him. Our Synod last May explored what it might mean to be a Mission-Shaped Church (not a church-shaped mission!) This will include both fostering excellence in our traditional ways of parish life and trying innovative ways of reaching out to those who are outside our doors. In this Diocese, we are investing in people, programs and ministries to do both. We are building healthy, vibrant communities of faith that can both attract and welcome many and have the imagination to reach out effectively to others with the Good News of Christ. I thank those, both clergy and laity, who have been taking the lead in this, for their dedication and able leadership.

Once more, on behalf of the College of Bishops, I express our profound thanks and appreciation to the clergy of our Diocese, and to the churchwardens and lay leaders of our parishes for the work that you do so faithfully and tirelessly for Christ's beloved Church.

I wish each and every one of you every blessing in the year before us.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Reverend Colin R. Johnson, Archbishop of Toronto

INCUMBENT

I read an interesting sign the other day just outside the main doors of one of our local grocery stores. The sign read, “We sell real Canadian water” and underneath was printed, in a smaller print, “24 bottles for,” I forget the price. I reread this sign after purchasing a few items and began to think, what is real Canadian water?

I am sure that those within our parish family who are deeply concerned about social justice issues and those who are concerned about environmental issues would have trouble with the thought that one bought “real Canadian water” in plastic bottles. We have stopped long ago serving bottles of water in our parish for these very social justice and environmental reasons. However, I could not stop reflecting on “real Canadian water.” I wondered if the water that comes out of our taps at home could be called real Canadian water or if it was someone else’s water. I then began to wonder what is real Canadian water. There have been a lot of discussions and articles written about Canadian identity or the lack of it, so I suppose whether or not there is real Canadian water is a logical continuation of the same discussion.

Now I am quite sure that all of you know where I am going with this train of thought, seeing that this is my Clergy report for Vestry. The questions it raised for me are these: What is a real church? Is St. Barnabas a real church? These are two very interesting questions that probably will stimulate some very interesting responses. Yet I am aware that I must be careful, as this is a report and not a homily.

The one thing I have experienced throughout the years is that being a Christian is risky business. One never knows where you will end up walking once you have made that decision to be a Christian and allowed the Holy Spirit to guide you. The Holy Spirit that is the voice of the Christian G.P.S. system. God’s word, the bible, becomes the map that shows us how we can reach our real identity and home as Christians, followers of Christ, and be a real church. I personally need this Christian G.P.S. system because all too often, in my life, I easily can get lost. One of the gifts that I did not receive was a sense of direction. I also need a real church, to be part of a Christian community who are following the same map. A Christian group who ask real questions, are willing to share

their real concerns while at the same time are willing to “radically trust, offer radical hospitality, and radically love,” as Sister Elizabeth shared with us at our Advent retreat.

What I am talking about is faith. Let me give you an example closer to home. Our outside sign reads, **“The Church in the Marketplace, Embracing the Community.”** The second part of the way we describe ourselves, “embracing the community,” is a recent addition that came from our outreach ministry, and even though I agreed, I had absolutely no idea whether God would agree. One Thursday, which happens to be the only weekday that our front doors are open, Susan Baker walked in looking to see if St. Barnabas would be open to being the new home for the **Riverdale Share Concert** in December. This is a concert that is financially supported by local businesses, raises money for the Riverdale community and has been a seasonal highlight for many local families for many years. This has all taken place while our **new wheelchair lift** has been under construction, allowing those who need assistance to enter our church. For the first time this fall we held a **“Community Closet”** event. I am beginning to think that our outside sign is a true and real description of who we are as a church.

You may or may not know about our newest ministry. We now have a **canine ministry** at St. Barnabas. One of our members, while out walking his dog, picks up the empty beer cans and wine bottles that clutter the neighbourhood. He returns them to the liquor store and with the cash he receives for them buys gift cards at a local coffee shop. These gift cards are then passed on to me and they have become part of our **Deacon’s Cupboard Ministry**.

Are we a real church? I am confident that the answer is yes. We are a community of real people who both individually and collectively have chosen to follow the Christian G.P.S. This is the first and only step we need to take – a step, or in some cases, a leap in faith – “radically trusting” in God. It is when we put God into the very core of our being, both personally and collectively, that we are able to share God’s love within the neighbourhood in a variety of different and creative ways.

Being a real church brings with it real people who do real ministry. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Leadership Team for all that they have done over this past year. I am also very pleased to report that each person on our Team has agreed to

serve for another year. A special thank you goes to Jan Booker who not only keeps us on track with our finances but is also the person who spends endless hours at St. Barnabas solving so many challenges, from floods in our boiler room to internet problems, and yet still manages to represent us by being the person up front when groups like Riverdale Share arrive. Thank you to all the chair people of our various ministry groups through whom our ministry as a church is able to continue and grow. Thank you also to Mary and Eugene who each play an important part within St. Barnabas. I would also like to thank Brian Dench who creatively designed our website, one of the best if I do say so myself, and who each week updates our site so that the message gets out about what is actually happening in our church.

To each of you who come Sunday after Sunday, thank you for sharing your faith and being part of the community. Together we are becoming a real church in the marketplace, embracing the community.

Let us remember St. Paul's words: *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be people of courage; be strong. Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:13*

A Real Motion to Vestry

We have for the last year begun to actively discern whether we as a parish are being called to have a permanent deacon. This discernment process has included inviting guest deacons to join us during our Sunday morning worship celebrations, forming a parish discernment group who work with a diaconate facilitator, sharing the role of a deacon through our printed announcements and children's focuses, all culminating in an information event. Now it is time to ask vestry a question, in the form of a motion to vestry.

Motion to Vestry:

Does this parish support, in every way and with enthusiasm, the concept of a deacon in our midst to model baptismal and diaconal ministry in the world and as a person who will lead and explain to our community its own baptismal ministry?

From Our Registers

Baptisms

Edward Piché, Oliver Thomas John Omazic, Amaliya Thandive Jacques-Saburi,
Ray Adam Miller, Sarah Ashleigh Anderson, Sheila Miller and Chad Dempster
Robert Mutchler

Those Saints Who Are Resting in Christ

Phyllis Dorothy Godwin
Harry Cuthbert Broadhead
Glen Johnston Day

Prayerfully submitted –Deborah Koscec

CHURCHWARDENS

The Wardens are very pleased to report another positive year of accomplishments for all of us here at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, The Church in the Marketplace where we embrace the community. Please find below a brief update on some of the highlights for our 151st year of operation.

From a financial perspective, we have been able to maintain our investment levels with Scotia McLeod despite the recession and the drop in the markets. We did not emphasize special campaigns as much as we have done in the past years. However, parishioners have continued to be generous with their support of the church, and there has also been some growth in our congregation. In addition, we were successful in getting some external grants for our Accessibility Project (\$16,500) and we were fortunate to receive a large bequest from the estate of Phyllis Godwin (\$76,500). As a result, 2009 has been a very good year for us, as you will see in the details of the Financial Reports.

We have been able to maintain the existing tenants at the Rectory and by doing so have been able to cut the costs of finding new tenants. This income helps to offset the costs of the housing allowance for our Incumbent and pay for any maintenance/repair costs to the Rectory. We have only had to do some relatively minor repairs this past year.

Our current tenants have committed to remain until June of 2010 when we will once again need to consider our options for the future.

Maintenance of the church this past year has included a number of smaller repair items, including the roof and the heating system. We also removed the pews in front of the baptismal font to make room for the baby grand piano that was recently donated to the church. In early 2010, we will be repairing the plaster and repainting the interior wall in the south east corner of the church.

In terms of our Accessibility Project, we have split the project into two distinct phases. Phase 1 is being done in conjunction with Children's Circle Day Care and will provide elevator access to the Upper and Lower Halls off the playground. It also includes a much-needed upgrade of the electrical system in the Parish Hall. Phase 2 will be for the Main Entrance and will provide ramp access into the church with some reconstruction of the interior building to provide upgraded washroom and kitchen facilities. This will help open up the church for even more community events like the Riverdale Share Concert so we truly can be the Church in the Marketplace where we embrace the community. In this regard, Brent Whitby has continued to serve as our architect and has provided his expertise and many hours of his personal time in helping make our vision for improved accessibility a reality.

Construction for Phase 1 of the Accessibility Project is well underway as we write this report and is expected to be completed very soon. As discussed at our Special Vestry Meeting in June 2009, the funding plan is already in place between the Church and the Day Care for this phase, but we are continuing in our efforts to seek external grants to help offset the need to use our investments. We would like to thank Michael Koscec for his dedicated efforts to help with the funding for this project. In 2010, we will start to consider our plans for Phase 2 of the Accessibility Project and will provide more of an update at the Vestry Meeting in February.

With this Vestry Report, the Wardens would like to once again recognize the fantastic work that our Controller and Leadership Team Member, Jan Booker, does on behalf of the church. Without his skills and expertise on so many different fronts, it is

hard to imagine how anything would actually get done. His ongoing ministry and devotion to our church are truly remarkable.

We would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to both Mary Ranni, our Parish Administrator, and to Dr. Eugene Gates, our Choir Master and Organist, for their dedication and service to our church.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the leadership and friendship of the Reverend Debby Koscec. Her passion, commitment, knowledge, guidance and above all her support once again this past year have continued to be very positive factors in the growth of the church.

As we look ahead to 2010, given some of the challenges that we will collectively be facing, each of the Wardens has once again decided to remain on the Leadership Team to serve our church for the coming year. We look forward to continuing to work as a team with you for the greater glory of God and for the best interest of our Christian community. Thank you for your support.

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." Hebrews 10: 23

Gary Davenport, Jane Smith, Lyn Inniss, Neville Reid and Everod Miller

ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board brings the views of the congregation to the whole Leadership Team. Our monthly meetings provide an opportunity for the Leadership Team (the incumbent, wardens and treasurer) to discuss new ideas, major spending plans, new approaches to liturgy and outreach with a group representing the congregation. It also provides an opportunity for the congregation to bring concerns and new ideas to the leadership.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month, from September until June, at 7:30 p.m. in the Incumbent's study. We are always looking for new members, so that we do honestly represent the entire congregation, including newer and younger members. Please consider joining this group; we would be very glad to see you.

Maryclare Lambden

A.C.W. FINANCIAL STATEMENT TO DECEMBER 31, 2009

Receipts

Bank Balance – Jan. 1, 2009	\$4, 948.43
Sale of church calendars	315.00
Proceeds – Pancake Supper	776.00
Proceeds – Christmas Bazaar	4,310.45
Bank Interest	<u>2.92</u>
	\$10,352.80

Disbursements

Purchase of church calendars	214.20
Expenses – Pancake Supper	160.40
Extra Janitorial Expense – Christmas Bazaar	60.00
Social Events	157.72
St. Barnabas Church – Chancel Flowers	50.00
– Donations*	<u>5,000.00</u>
	5,642.32
Bank Balance, Dec. 31, 2009	<u>4,710.48</u>
	\$10,352.80

*Includes \$4,310.45 in bazaar receipts.

Eleanor Morgan

Treasurer

BAZAAR RECEIPTS 2009

Lunch Room	\$410.05
Jams & Pickles	471.00
Bake Sale	1101.05
Jewellery	219.56
Men's Booth	278.90
Choir Table	452.40
Yesterday's Treasures	150.00
Friendship Circle	417.50
Christmas Decorations	86.01
Toys	52.90
Books	81.65
Linens	28.50
Kitties' Corner	23.50
Videos	242.80
Wooden Toys	30.00
Stocking Stuffers	<u>264.63</u>
Total	\$4,310.45

ART SHOW

The 21st annual St. Barnabas Art Show, Riverdale Art 2009, was held on Friday evening, 16 October and all day Saturday, 17 October 2009. Sales were somewhat depressed in comparison with recent years, hardly surprising in light of the prevailing economic gloom. Nevertheless, over \$1100 was raised for the church, and all participants and visitors enjoyed the show.

Thanks go to all who helped make the show possible, with a special mention for Alan Finlayson, one of the artists, who headed up the organisation this year.

Jenny Reid

BOOK CLUB

Our St. Barnabas Book Club had a good and rewarding year. We have covered many topics and have actually learned a few things. This year two new members joined our group of regular attendees. Books covered included the following: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, *Book of Negroes*, *The Shack* (exceptional), *3 Cups of Tea*, *Oryx and Crake*, *Three Day Road*, *World Without End*, *No Time for Goodbye* and *Change of Heart*. Some of these are Canadian award-winners and others are quite topical for this period.

Please come out to join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in Debby's office. You will enjoy it.

Kathleen Callaghan

CHANCEL GUILD

I would like to start off my report with my personal thanks to all the faithful, dedicated and hardworking members of the Chancel Guild who willingly give of their time and talents. This is a special behind-the-scenes ministry of our church. We are a small but active ministry and are always willing to welcome new people to serve.

The Chancel Guild takes care of the articles needed for use in the services. The members clean the brass and silver as well as make sure there are flowers on the altar. We change the frontals on the altars as the seasons of the Church change; we also decorate the church for special festival services. The members are usually on duty just

once a month. We as a group also try to meet at least twice a year and try to attend the fall diocesan chancel guild meeting. The Chancel Guild met as a group in September 2009. We discussed a request to put fresh flowers on the chapel altar for the 9 a.m. service and hope this will start in 2010. We also welcomed one new member in the fall of this year.

I find this ministry a blessing to me as it gives me quiet time with God as well as a small way in which I can serve him. If you would like to find out more about this ministry, please speak with me after the service.

Teresa Johnson

CHOIR

The choir rehearses Thursday nights from 8:00 to 10:00, September to June. There are now 15 regular choristers, and new members are always welcome. Some music-reading ability is required. Besides providing music for the regular Sunday services, Good Friday and Christmas Eve, the choir presented Buxtehude's sacred cantata *Every Word and Thought* on the Sunday before Palm Sunday, and a service of lessons and carols on the second Sunday in Advent.

My thanks to all our choristers and to section leaders Fiona Strachan, Virginia Wright, Carlos Congote and Ross Hewitt for their dedication and support. A special word of appreciation must also go to choir librarian Jenny Reid and to Peter Dunphy, who substituted for me at the organ during my summer vacation.

I also wish to thank all those who contributed to the choir fund. Your generosity allows us to continue providing the high standard of music that has long been associated with St. Barnabas Church

Eugene Gates, Organist and Choirmaster

CHURCH SCHOOL

This past year we continued to follow the weekly liturgical readings as closely as possible. We typically start with the Lord's Prayer, and most of the children are reaching the point where they know the Lord's Prayer by heart. Following the discussion of the weekly reading, the children prepare a poster to depict the main theme of the lesson. We keep the better posters and these are hung up in various locations around the church.

We ran a few plays this year and are still planning to continue with the plays, because they are excellent teaching tools. We frequently devote the last twenty minutes of our sessions to viewing part of a cartoon disc that depicts one of the Old Testament stories or one of a number of New Testament stories.

Emma Connell

Michael Koscec

ENVELOPE SECRETARY

The following table compares 2009 with the two preceding years by showing the total number of boxes of envelopes distributed in the course of the year. The chart shows new subscribers (or re-activated users), the number of envelopes not used and the number of envelopes that became inactive due to people moving away or death. To summarize, row 6 indicates the total number of envelopes used during the year and row 7 shows the number of active users at year's end.

	2009	2008	2007
1 Total distributed in course of year	103	100	109
2 New subscribers during year	12	4	5
3 Envelopes not used (or under \$10.00)	12	7	14
4 Deceased during the year (used part of year)	1	2	0
5 Moved/left during year (used part of year)	2	1	3
6 Total used in course of year (over \$10.00)	91	93	93
7 Active subscribers at Dec. 31, 2009	89	91	96

In addition to regular envelope subscribers there were 7 occasional identifiable givers (more than \$10.00) compared to 12 in 2008 and 10 in 2007.

By using offertory envelopes, you are then provided with an income tax receipt at the end of the year. All information concerning envelope offerings are confidential.

Barbara Parks
(Envelope Secretary)

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle is a women's group that has met for over 60 years. The ladies have worked on crafts and enjoyed each others' friendship. We have helped with the Pancake Supper, St. Barnabas day and the Christmas Bazaar. Unfortunately, over the past two years we have lost several of our members who were so talented with crafts. Our last official participation in the bazaar was in November 2009. We will continue to meet in 2010, but only once a month. *Where there is charity and loving friendship there is God.*

Noreen Clement

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE FINANCIAL STATEMENT – 2009

Receipts

Bank Balance – Jan. 1, 2009	\$254.93
Cash on hand	42.19
Group Donation	73.81
Sale of crafts	123.00
Christmas Bazaar (craft table)	417.50
Bank interest	<u>.05</u>
Total Receipts	\$911.48

Disbursements

Bank charges	3.27
Memorial Flowers	42.00
Supplies	18.00
Donations	
– Bazaar	417.50
– St. Barnabas Church	100.00
– Mission to Seafarers	25.00
Bank Balance	209.71
Cash on hand	<u>96.00</u>
	\$911.48

Joyce Connell, Treasurer

INTERCESSORS GROUP

At present, four parishioners serve St. Barnabas Church through the Intercessors group. Each week a different member of the group thoughtfully and prayerfully develops and prays the *Prayers of the People* for our 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service.

Due to a variety of life changes, the Intercessors group is currently smaller than usual and we are seeking people who may be called to this ministry. As part of the liturgical team, Intercessors are appointed by the incumbent, so I would encourage you to explore with Debby whether this is a ministry to which you may be called.

For 2010, a one-day retreat to explore prayer and intercession more deeply is under consideration. This quiet day would be similar to the one held in 2008 at St. John's Convent and would be open to all interested parishioners.

On behalf of the Intercessors Group, thank you to The Rev. Deborah Koscec for her continued support and care.

Karen Hunter

LAY MEMBER OF SYNOD

The 153rd regular session of Synod was held in two parts in 2009. The opening session was a residential synod gathering at Durham College in Oshawa between May 29 and 30, 2009. The closing session was held at St. Paul, Bloor Street on November 21, 2009.

The theme of this year's synod gathering was *Building Communities of Hope and Compassion through Healthy Vibrant Parish Ministries*. The guest speaker was the Rev. Canon Philip Potter, Director of Pioneer Ministries in the Diocese of Liverpool, who spoke about change and the nature of mission-shaped church. He introduced *Fresh Expressions* as new missional creations which start small (often one or two people with passion), growing out of and supported by existing parishes.

Synod used a process called *Indaba*, "which is a Zulu word meaning 'gathering for purposeful discussion'". The process was originally used at the 2008 Lambeth Conference "as an alternative to voting on formal resolutions." The indaba process was used three times during the weekend, with the 600 or so clergy and lay members of synod being divided into facilitated groups of about 40 people. The larger group size

encourages people to listen more than speak. Each of the three sessions considered specific questions around one particular issue. At one indaba session, we were asked to provide feedback on an interim pastoral response to the issue of same-sex blessings, proposed by the bishops.

The fall session of synod was primarily finance and governance oriented and included passage of the budget and changes to several canons. Maryclare Lambden, Alternate Lay Member to Synod, and I shared responsibility for this session. I attended the pre-synod meeting and Maryclare generously agreed to attend the synod meeting at St. Paul, Bloor Street.

Karen Hunter

LAY PASTORAL VISITORS

Forty people attended our Thanksgiving Tea on October 3rd. Thank you to everybody who helped to set up the beautiful room and to everybody who made the delicious food that made the day memorable. Thank you to Fiona Strachan for the wonderful flute music and to all the people who offered to pick up and take home our guests.

The Easter baskets and poinsettias were delivered to 13 people. Our dedicated Lay Pastoral Visitors delivered the gifts and received a warm welcome from those receiving them.

Our team continues to visit Nisbet Lodge bi-monthly and 10 to 18 people attend the worship service. Thank you, Deborah, for your continuing support to this ministry

Thank you to all the Lay Pastoral Visitors for your ministry and consistent hard work.

Barbara Wilkins

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

May God's grace be upon these shawls, warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing. May they be a mantle, a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well being - sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one who receives a shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in love, in Jesus name we pray.

The above blessing is said over each Prayer Shawl before it is passed on to someone who may be experiencing either a difficult time or a good time in life. Our shawls are knitted with love and in prayer, allowing the receiver to experience 'a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well being.' The last request for a shawl was made by a parishioner for a four-year-old girl with leukemia who is not a member of St. Barnabas. It has become her special blanket. If you know of anyone who you think would appreciate a Prayer Shawl, please speak with either Rev. Deb or Joyce Smith. Our thanks go to all our Prayer Shawl knitters.

Rev. Deb

LIBRARY

It has been noted that our present library will move once the new access project is fully completed. However, we are interested in overhauling our system of cataloguing books now since our library is becoming quite diverse in its offerings. Look for a slightly expanded cataloguing system in the New Year.

Jodi Joyce.

MID-WEEK SERVICE

There is a faithful little group that regularly attends the Thursday service. Thanks to our gifted choir lead, Fiona, classical flute pieces are now being enjoyed at the beginning and end of the service. This is a perfect way to quiet your mind and listen for the leading of the Spirit. A guitar accompaniment is provided for a hymn sung by all while Debby sets the table for communion. We find it a great way to refocus on Christ midweek. Debby's homily is encouraging. It is especially cheering to get together midweek during the bleak winter months. Please join us if you can.

Jodi Joyce

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE-STUDY GROUP

Each Monday at 7:30 p.m., a dozen of us meet at the home of Grace Caldwell-Hill for a study group led by Grace. This year we focused on the books of Deuteronomy and Joshua and explored the two very different styles of leadership of Moses and his successor, Joshua. Grace draws on a number of biblical commentaries, providing historical background and visual aids such as maps where necessary. We open and close with prayer, and the sessions last roughly an hour. After the closing prayers, we enjoy a short time of fellowship with refreshments.

The year is punctuated with two social gatherings: a pot-luck supper at the beginning of Advent (roast turkey with all the trimmings) and a summer barbecue. We are a close group, serious, prayerful and fun-loving, and welcome anyone who wishes to deepen their understanding of the Word of God. We extend our sincere thanks to Grace for her spiritual leadership

Fiona Strachan

OUTREACH MINISTRY

In 2009, the Outreach Ministry adopted as its theme **“Social Justice, the Economy and the Effect on the Community.”**

Our **Speaker’s List** gave the congregation an opportunity to hear first hand about various community groups and their efforts to deal with these issues. The guest speaker in October was Jonah Schein, Civic Engagement Coordinator of The Stop Community Food Centre. The Stop works with community members on the root-causes of poverty and hunger by providing a facility where they can have access to healthy food while maintaining dignity, building community and challenging inequality. Their programs include community kitchens and dining, urban agriculture, a food bank, drop-ins, civic engagement and pre- and post-natal nutrition and support. The Stop also plays a key role in leading the “Put Food in the Budget” campaign.

In November, our guest speaker was Anthony Stewart, General Manager of Touchstone Youth Centre. Touchstone is a 32-bed emergency shelter for 16-24 year old homeless and at risk youth. In addition to shelter, they address the many issues of

homeless youth by offering an Employment Program, Housing Help, a Drop-In Centre and Outreach Workers.

In January, our guest speaker was Vida Stevens, a Registered Dietitian, Public Health Nutritionist and Family Health Manager with the Toronto Public Health Peer Nutrition Program. She has had extensive experience working with Aboriginal, ethno-cultural communities, parents, families, children and seniors in nutrition, healthy eating, poverty and food-security issues and has developed several training programs for peer and community workers. Her focus was her work in the troubled Malvern community with parent, senior and youth education programs and the African & Caribbean Diabetes Prevention and Heart Health Education Program. We look forward to hearing our guest speaker on April 17: Gail Turner, Sub-Regional Representative, Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Co-coordinating Committee of KAIROS who will talk about the Kyoto-Plus initiative and climate change. This will mark the beginning of Earth Week.

Two major campaigns dominated much of our effort during the summer: Put Food on the Table/Do the Math and Kyoto-Plus: Creating a New Global Climate Protection Covenant. In August, we highlighted these causes at our **Taste of the Danforth Open House**. As usual, our church was visited by over 100 people, many of whom took away the Do the Math surveys and signed the KAIROS Kyoto Plus petition. We would like to thank the team of volunteers who helped show people what the “church in the marketplace embracing the community” does.

The Diocese of Toronto took an active role in promoting the **Put Food on the Table/Do the Math** campaign. Bishop Colin Johnson published a letter in the Toronto Star urging the government to address the food insecurity that people on social assistance experience and he asked the public and politicians to “Do the Math” on social assistance benefits. In response to this, 42 members of our congregation took the survey and wrote letters to various government officials. In August, we arranged and attended two meetings with local MPPs, Peter Tabuns and Michael Prue. In attendance on August 24 at the Peter Tabuns meeting were Murray MacAdam (Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant, Anglican Diocese of Toronto) Susan Bender (Community Engagement

Officer, South Riverdale Community Health Centre), Phil Nazar (Housing Manager, Toronto Christian Resource Centre and on the Board of the Daily Bread Foodbank), Mike Nevin (Foodshare, Inc./resident of the Bain Co-Op), Janis Clennett, Jodi Joyce and I representing St. Barnabas. On August 27 at the Michael Prue meeting were Robyn Peterson and Marnie Saskin (Shoelace Collective), Murray MacAdam, Sheila Cram and I. These meetings yielded extremely positive results. Sheila Cram attended the December meeting in Hamilton, representing both St. Barnabas and the Health and Strength Action Group. This group consists of more than 10 community members who are associated with the South Riverdale Community Health Centre and are either recipients of social assistance or are neighbourhood activists and are interested in addressing the unresolved issues of poverty. Sheila will continue to represent both these groups as the campaign continues in the future.

September brought another community initiative: **The Community Closet**. Initially, “the closet” was scheduled to be open to our congregation exclusively on September 27; however, when the Diocese scheduled Back to Church Sunday on the same day, we extended the invitation to anyone who was in attendance. Members of the congregation were asked, in early July, to donate any unused clothing they had that was in good condition and, during the summer, the clothes were sorted, ironed and hung up. On the 27th, after the service, the doors of the closet were opened. The event was free – no money was exchanged and many people enjoyed the same environmentally and financially positive experience that many other groups all over the continent had witnessed. Any items that remained were donated to Out of the Cold, Value Village and to Dress for Success, an organization that provides office wear to low income people. Our thanks to all those who donated, participated and assisted with the project, and to the Rosedale Heights students and to Mary Roycroft Ranni.

This year the **KAIROS** initiatives centred on environmental issues. In an attempt to engage attendance from people of other denominations, KAIROS events were held in venues other than St. Barnabas. On April 18, Toronto East KAIROS Committee presented Greening the Ontario Grid: Considerations for a Renewable Energy Future at Holy Name Roman Catholic Church. The speakers were Judith Lipp, Toronto

Renewable Energy Co-Operative and Jack Gibbons, Ontario Clean Air Alliance. On October 17, TEKC sponsored A Time to Speak of Poverty and Climate Change: a Discussion with Professor Stephen Scharper at Danforth Baptist Church. Our congregation actively participated in the letter-writing campaign and petition signing in support of the Kyoto-Plus initiative.

Each week, refreshments are provided during **Coffee Hour** after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. L.E. Wakelin and Helen Taylor share this ministry and report, *“We want to thank all of those who have helped the coffee hour by providing refreshments and assisting in set-up and clean-up. This is an important time for members of the congregation to connect and develop our mutual support of each other. We also thank those who provide financial support in the basket and **Mac the Sock**, which enables us to buy Fair Trade coffee from Ten Thousand Villages, and socks and toiletries for the Out of the Cold program at Eastminster. We welcome two new helpers in Marina and Reuben, and we thank our other faithful assistants - we do appreciate you!”*

Sheila Cram, another member of the Outreach Ministry who has been responsible for the **“150 Remembrances Project”** which began last year, reports that *“at the Taste of the Danforth Open House, more than 20 persons made inquiries of the records and hands-on display of World War 1 and 2 archives. Records of over 150 enlisted parishioners who died during the two wars have been saved in hardcopy by downloading their military records from the Veterans Affairs website. As a community service, 60 letters and attached copies of archived documents were sent to the present day occupants at the home addresses of soldiers from the parish that had died. The home addresses were available from the soldier’s enlistment records. The committee continues to look for ways to share the research collected.”*

She also reports that, *“The church continued the tradition of a Remembrance Service on the Sunday before Remembrance Day. Two members of the congregation, Harold Sanders and Arthur Lowe, who participated in WW 2 spoke of their experiences. Another member of the congregation, Sheila Ford, the granddaughter of a World War 1 soldier, who was a fatality, brought a collection of family artifacts, including a large portrait, and read the last letter of this soldier to his wife to the congregation.”*

Another aspect of the Outreach Ministry is the participation in the “**Out of the Cold**” program located at Eastminster United Church. We are now fortunate to have two representatives from this church for this program, Janis Clennett, who is helping in the kitchen, and L.E. Wakelin. L.E. writes that *“The Out of the Cold program began again on Friday, November 6, 2009, and I helped supervise the breakfast and clean-up on Saturday morning, November 7th. St. Barnabas has provided 3 dozen pairs of socks, and some breakfast cereal, so far, for guests of the program, as well as some very-much-appreciated warm winter clothing. “Mac the Sock” collections have funded this up to now, so we still have the money that was budgeted by St. Barnabas for socks, underwear and toiletries. I will be attending the monthly committee meetings and consulting with Bridget North, the clothing room co-coordinator, to see what might be needed. Thank you to those who have donated clothing and things like the little shampoo and conditioner bottles that you get when travelling.*

I have joined the diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy Committee (SJAC), in the Housing sub-committee, and attended the "Making Housing Happen" workshop at St. Luke's on May 2, 2009, as well as committee meetings throughout the year. We are seeing some encouraging legislation making its way through federal and provincial Houses, and want to keep the pressure on to ensure its passing. Please visit Toronto Diocese at www.anglican.ca, Advocacy & Justice Initiatives, to see how you can assist these initiatives. For example, we support Member of Parliament Libby Davies' Bill C-304 which would establish a national housing strategy for Canada. Please urge your MP to support it, as well. On the provincial level, we are following the Bill brought forward by Cheri DiNovo, and urging MPP's support to bring it to third reading and passage.

In June, Sue Ann and I met with Anthony Stewart, General Manager of Touchstone Youth Centre to offer assistance to the Touchstone residents to develop lobbying skills and arrange a meeting with Case Ootes (Touchstone is still gathering information from neighbours.) I enjoy working with the Social Justice and Advocacy Consultant, Murray MacAdam, at Toronto diocese – especially pizza lunches and desserts! Anyone who is interested in the issues is welcome to join us on the third Wednesday of the month (except March this year) at 12:30 at the diocesan offices.

I want to thank those who have signed petitions or written letters to aid our efforts on this committee. Although results seem few at this time, I see many small signs of gathering support for our aims. Keep up the good work!"

Another important part of our Outreach Ministry reflects our global concern for others. We sponsor the **Phalanyane Family of Botswana**, a family of five children who are orphans, living near the capital city of Gaborone. Maryclare Lamden, a member of our Outreach Ministry writes, *"We began to foster this family in Botswana in 2001, soon after the mother of the family was murdered. The several children were very young then. The family has managed to stick together, with one adult sister, Ntebaleng, as the central care-giver and organizer. Their grandmother, quite elderly now, has also been very active in caring for the youngest children. The cathedral church in Gaborone has also provided guidance and some financial support. And now several of the children are young adults, three have finished junior high school and Hellen has actually graduated from senior high school, an enormous achievement in her family and society. The young adults have had only temporary jobs this year. But there is a new hospital opening in their village, on the outskirts of the capital city Gaborone, and several family members have high hopes of solid employment at the new hospital. Please keep them in your prayers."*

Maryclare is also our representative on the **East End Refugee Committee**. She writes, *"The Muradi family arrived in mid-2008 and are now well-settled in Toronto. In a few weeks the Al Sama'neh family will be arriving. They are a couple with eight children. The family is originally from Palestine. They have been living for several years in a refugee camp in Syria. The EERC has just found suitable housing for the family, probably the most difficult part of the job; but obviously there will be many other practical problems to be resolved. If St. Barnabas is to continue to be a member of the EERC we need a representative who is interested and able to help with these practical jobs. I do recommend it, but it is not something I can do anymore. There is a special thrill to showing a couple of teenage boys how to get on and off an escalator for the first time. Is anyone interested in taking this on? If not, then St. Barnabas will have to end its membership in the EERC."*

Once again, it is with the COLLECT for ST. BARNABAS deeply in our thoughts that the members of the Ministry go forth in 2010, “giving generously of our lives and substance for the relief of the poor and the sharing of the Gospel, bringing encouragement to all”.

Sue Ann Elite, on behalf of the Outreach Ministry Members: Sheila Cram, Janis Clennett, Maryclare Lambden, L.E. Wakelin, Helen Taylor and Rev. Deborah Koscec

PRAYER CHAIN

This ministry is still going strong after five years. It consists of eight members of the parish who volunteer to pray for anyone who needs prayer at any time. The prayer request is made via telephone and is relayed to the prayer team, who will hold up the person(s) or situation in prayer as long as it is necessary. The members of the prayer team are Grace Caldwell-Hill, Vivien Rodney, Barbara Parks, Lyn & Doug Inniss, Joyce Connell, Winnie Williams and Debby Koscec. God has been guiding and strengthening us in this ministry, which can be overwhelming at times, but very rewarding. We have witnessed God’s mercy and love as we have prayed for God’s hand on all the prayer requests. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please speak to Debby Koscec.

Grace Caldwell-Hill

READERS

Once again I would like to thank all those who do such a wonderful job of reading the lessons on Sundays. We’ve welcomed new members to the group this year and look forward to their continued faithful service.

Esma Brathwaite

SIDES TEAMS

It is the warm smile and friendly greeting of a sides person that is most often a newcomer’s initial experience of St. Barnabas. Because first impressions are so important and can determine whether a person feels welcome and at home at church, this is indeed a very special ministry. Many thanks to all the members of the sides teams, especially the wardens, team captains, and deputy captains. These parishioners greet old friends and

new folks at the front door, hand out worship materials, answer questions, and take up the offering and the elements. They also count, record, and bank the collection. Although we have lost some of our members recently, we've been blessed to welcome three new parishioners to our teams. We could still use some additional volunteers, so please talk to me if you're interested. Thank you all. You are especially appreciated.

Art Lowe

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The Social Committee is a very small but dedicated group that works together to enhance important events in our church life with food and beverages. None of the events would have been possible without the support of many in the congregation.

Millie and I would like to thank you all for your support and assistance in making 2009 another successful year for the Social Committee. We are always looking for new members.

Lynda Davenport

Millie Lowe

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER GROUP

The Sunday Morning Prayer Group meets every Sunday between 10 and 10:15. About four or five members gather in a room off the Upper hall to pray for the various needs of the parish, for individual needs, for our community and for situations in our country and the larger world. All are welcome to join; even if you would just like to be present and not pray, you are welcome to be a part of this ministry whenever you are able.

Grace Caldwell-Hill

TAIZÉ

In November I read a book about the Taizé community in France in which one of the Taizé brothers, Brother John, says the following: “Taizé is an ecumenical monastic community that wishes, through worship and community life, to help young adults discover Jesus Christ as a source of reconciliation for divided Christians and as a promise of peace in the human family.”

The church at Taizé is in fact named the “Church of Reconciliation” - reconciliation with God, with others and with ourselves. The ecumenism of which Brother John speaks is acceptance of another Christian’s ecclesial tradition, which makes reconciliation in Christ possible. To cultivate acceptance, we must see Christ when we see our neighbour, regardless of their ecclesial tradition, nationality or economic status.

Reconciliation is one of the three theological themes of Taizé, the other two being freedom and trust. The young people at Taizé experience freedom as freedom from bondage and sin and are free to embrace others because Christ freely embraced us. We at St. Barnabas are focusing on “Embracing the Community.” The natural outcome of this freedom is peace. Regarding trust, at Taizé trust and responsibility are given, not earned. The prayers connect people to God while the shared communal work connects them to each other and gives them a sense of belonging.

Reconciliation. Freedom. Trust. This is the essence of what lies behind the Taizé prayers. Please come and join us from October to June on the third Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Fiona Strachan