

# The St. Barnabas' Reporter



## For an Election

Dear St. Barnabasians,

As I write this in mid-October, I am finding myself praying the prayer “For an Election” more often than I would like (it is on page 822 for all those interested). I also find myself wondering at times about those who are watching our electoral process from outside the United States—are they wondering how their country would do if they had the idiosyncrasies of our current electoral college system? Are they thankful to not have to deal with “battleground states” or, God forbid, an extended time of election litigation? Perhaps some others are longing for these kinds of “first world problems” and would be thrilled to approach them as a bold goal for the not-too distant future. I’ve heard it said that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the other forms of government. And, I also still wonder in our modern era, if any gathering of citizens will be able to help their country become a model for others across the world, in terms of the most effective way to conduct an election.

And, whenever the results of the election become clear, I also wonder if it is possible that a significant proportion of our country could be feeling a little bit like those early Israelites who were carried off into Exile in Babylon. Regardless of which way the election goes, it is likely that some number of people are going to be feeling like they have been carried into a foreign and unfamiliar land that is not of their choosing. As I remember the refreshment of our Parish Retreat to Shrine Mont, I’m reminded that that was the single Sunday morning opportunity our Lectionary gives us, every three years, for hearing the Book of Esther in church (for churches using alternating tracks, the frequency would be one Sunday morning every six years). And it occurred to me that while it might be a bit extreme to describe the book of Esther as a story of human trafficking, it is certainly one of many biblical stories of people who were pursuing the abundant life God promises in the midst of limited circumstances. Esther and Mordecai persevered, despite the obstacles they faced in the unfamiliar land and culture in which they found themselves.

I was reminded by a St. Barnabasian recently, of the key importance of the Exile as an emotional, physical, spiritual, and moral context for the compilation as well as for a portion of the composition of most of our Hebrew Bible. And, for the most of recorded biblical history, the Israelites were not the ones who were politically “on top of the heap” as it were. Most of the time, they were navigating their way in the midst of various other earthly principalities and

*(continued next page)*

The Rev. John Bolin Shellito  
Rector

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *2025 Stewardship Appeal*
- *WOSB Bazaar*
- *UTO Ingathering*
- *Thanksgiving TGIF*
- *ACCA News and FACETS*
- *Breakfast with Santa*
- *Adult Christian Education*
- *The Ordination of Nathan Harpine*
- *Christmas Music*
- *January Chili Night*
- *Caritas Ministry*
- *Who Was “Good King Wenceslas?”*
- *Annual Ski Trip to Canaan Valley, WV*
- *Parish Calendar*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Stewardship Appeal	2
WOSB	3
UTO Ingathering	4
ACCA	6
Adult Forum	8
Parish Calendar	13

**St. Barnabas'  
Episcopal Church**

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

**Clergy and Staff**

Fiona Agnew  
*Interim Parish Administrator*

Wayne Bottlick  
*Interim Contributions Recorder*

Nathan Harpine  
*Seminarian*

Randolph Jones  
*ASYP Tutor Coordinator*

The Rev. John Bolin  
Shellito  
*Rector*

**Parish Officers**

Mark Patterson  
*Senior Warden*

Leigh Kennedy  
*Junior Warden*

Sam Batten

Michael Dugger

Beth Harper

Linda Hartman

Camille Mittelholtz

Jeff Schaefer

Katie Westerlund  
*Parish Officers*

PJ Kennedy  
*Treasurer*

John Westerlund  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Ann Sayles  
*Register*

Molly Newling  
*Membership Secretary*

**Worship Schedule**

8 a.m. Sunday Holy  
Eucharist

10:15 a.m. Sunday Holy  
Eucharist

10 a.m. Wednesday Worship

**For an Election** *(continued from p. 1)*

powers. We could think of Jonah's bitterness, and his reluctance to let the residents of Nineveh hear a word from God—after all, Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian empire that had taken innumerable numbers of individuals from the ten “lost tribes of Israel” and spread them across central Asia in a diaspora that predated the Babylonian Exile.

Anytime that humans start to think in terms of group identities, I think it is a natural human temptation to compare the best behavior and highest ideals of our own “in-group,” to the worst behavior and lowest ideals of another outside group. I can understand Jonah participating in this bad habit because often the best leaders from within our own “in-group” present us with an inspiring example of our highest ideals and best behavior—while the pain resulting from bad behavior by members of an outside group is often all too clear to us. This is especially true if the altruism of an outside group isn't clearly being directed towards us, or if opinions about the most altruistic shared path are not all in alignment with those from another group. And, for Esther and Mordecai, the path Haman and his henchmen had planned was actually precisely the opposite of altruism. And, while I'm thankful that our election is not as dire as the circumstances in the Book of Esther, I do still feel the need to pray:

*Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States (and of this community) in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

God's Peace and Grace,  
John+

**St. Barnabas' 2025 Stewardship Appeal**

As with many organizations and families in Northern Virginia, St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church is experiencing increased costs in several areas: utilities, liability insurance, diocesan assessments, supplies, and staff salaries. These rising expenses are part of the growing challenge to maintain the vital ministries, programs, and services that have long supported our congregation and the wider community.

To ensure that we can continue to offer vibrant worship, meaningful outreach, and a welcoming space for spiritual growth, your Stewardship Committee humbly asks for your ongoing financial support. If you are in a position to do so, we invite you to consider increasing your pledge for 2025.

Advance pledging is crucial, as it enables the Vestry, Rector, and Finance Committee to plan and prepare a realistic and responsible budget for the coming year. A well-supported budget helps us maintain not only the daily operations of the church but also the ministries that serve our parishioners and the broader community. Your generosity



allows us to continue following Christ's call to love and serve one another, especially during challenging times.

We encourage you to fill out the pledge form, which can be found on the counter in the Narthex or requested through the Parish Office. You can return it by placing it in the Sunday offering plate or mailing it to the church (c/o the Stewardship Committee) by **Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**. By making your pledge now, you help ensure that St. Barnabas' can remain a beacon of hope, faith, and service in the years ahead.

Over the past 60 years, the generosity of this congregation has allowed our church to flourish, creating a space of grace, love, and support for all. With your pledge for 2025, you help ensure that this important work continues. Together, we can meet the challenges of the future with confidence and compassion.

## Mulled Merriment & Mince Tarts ▪ A Festive Preview!

Come join us on **Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>** from 7-9 PM for a cozy evening soirée of mulled cider, mulled wine, mince tarts, and holiday cheer as we kick off the Christmas season! Enjoy a sneak preview of the wonderful items for sale at our upcoming Christmas Bazaar. The delicious mulled cider is *non-alcoholic*: inclusion is important to us and our congregation is strengthened by our shared festive fun.

Donations are welcome and will help support the Women of the St. Barnabas' (WOSB) in their charitable efforts throughout the year. Take in the beauty of our winter decorations, mingle with friends, and get into the holiday spirit! This is a perfect opportunity to support the church, discover unique gifts, and enjoy some festive treats before the big event. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Annual Christmas Bazaar ▪ *Saturday, November 16, 2024*

The Women of St. Barnabas warmly invite you to our Annual Christmas Bazaar, taking place on **Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>** from 10 AM to 2 PM. This year's theme is *Winter Wonderland*, and we're transforming the event space into a magical, snowy scene, filled with festive cheer, handmade crafts, and unique holiday gifts.

Explore a delightful selection of winter-themed Christmas decorations and handmade treasures, perfect for bringing holiday charm to your home or finding that special gift. Be sure to stop by our jewelry table, where you'll find beautiful handmade and vintage pieces that add a touch of sparkle to any outfit or make the perfect present for someone special.

Feeling hungry? Enjoy a hot lunch for sale, prepared and served with love by the Women of St. Barnabas'. And don't miss our bake sale, where you can pick up delicious homemade cookies, cakes, jams, and other sweet treats—ideal for holiday gatherings or just a little indulgence.

Mark your calendars for **November 16<sup>th</sup>**, and bring your family and friends to experience a day of festive fun, shopping, and fellowship. Every purchase helps support St. Barnabas' programs and community outreach efforts. We look forward to celebrating the season with you in our Winter Wonderland!

### Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, November 16th
- **Time:** 10 AM - 2 PM
- **Location:** Richardson Room
- **Address:** St. Barnabas Church  
4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale,  
VA 22003



## Jams and Pickles at the WOSB Bazaar

Join us at this year's WOSB Bazaar for a delightful array of homemade jams and pickles, a highlight of the event for many years now! Arrive early to get the best selection of these small-batch, handcrafted goodies. Whether you're stocking up for yourself or looking for a unique gift, you'll find something special to take home.

Want to ensure you get your favorites before they sell out? You can pre-order directly from Molly Newling by emailing her at [mnewling42@gmail.com](mailto:mnewling42@gmail.com) or catching her at church. Molly's creations are always in high demand, so don't miss out on this opportunity!

Prices remain unchanged from last year, offering unbeatable value: just \$6 for an 8oz jar and \$3 for a 4oz jar. These preserves make perfect holiday gifts or additions to your pantry, and you won't find this quality anywhere else at such an affordable price!

Here's what Molly has to offer this year:

- **Watermelon Pickle**
- **Cranberry Walnut Chutney**
- **Plum Chutney** (available in 8oz & 4oz jars)
- **Peach Chutney**
- **Spiced Cherry Jam**
- **Spiced Peach Jam**
- **Fig & Balsamic Vinegar Jam**
- **Spiced Fig Jam** (available in 8oz & 4oz jars)
- **Stone Fruit Jam**
- **Blueberry Plum Jam**



Be sure to support local artisans and savor these delicious homemade flavors!

## United Thank Offering (UTO) Ingathering ▪ *November 24, 2024*

*By Cricket Camp*



As the United Thank Offering Chairperson, it is my privilege to encourage the Women of St. Barnabas' to take a moment to reflect on their everyday blessings and express their gratitude through a tangible offering at our annual UTO Ingathering on **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**. UTO envelopes will be available in the Narthex, and you can return them at either the 8:00 AM or 10:15 AM service. Please make checks payable to "St.

Barnabas' Church" with "UTO" in the memo line.

I hope that this letter serves as a loving reminder of the impact we can make when we come together to share our blessings. The Women of St. Barnabas' have always responded with generosity to this outreach program, and I am grateful for your continued support of the important work of the UTO.

Yours in thanksgiving,  
Cricket Camp  
UTO Chairperson

## Thanksgiving TGIF ▪ *November 22, 2024*

Looking for a place to celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving? Look no further! On **Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**, St. Barnabas' will be hosting a special Thanksgiving-themed TGIF (Thank God It's Friday) night! Whether you're traveling this year or staying close to home, this is a perfect evening to connect with others and share in gratitude.

We especially encourage those who may *not* be traveling or have family nearby to join us for a night of warmth, friendship, and thankfulness. Our church family is here to welcome everyone—singles, families, and friends! The evening will begin at 6 PM with a potluck-style dinner, followed by fellowship and a time of reflection to express our gratitude for God's many blessings.

We kindly ask people to sign up to bring a dish or volunteer in other ways to make this event extra special. For sign-ups and any volunteer opportunities, please contact our Parish Administrator at [stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com](mailto:stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com), or follow the link below to add your name to the list.

Bring a favorite dish to share and a heart full of gratitude! If you're new or attending solo, don't worry—there will be plenty of friendly faces and delicious food to make you feel right at home. Let's come together for an evening filled with joy, good company, and a spirit of thanksgiving.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

### Event Details

- **Date:** Friday, November 22nd
- **Time:** 6 PM
- **Location:** Richardson Room
- **Address:** 4801 Ravensworth Road, Annandale, VA, 22003

To sign up directly, please visit this link: <https://www.PerfectPotluck.com/XVCS4188>

## Updating the St. Francis Garden

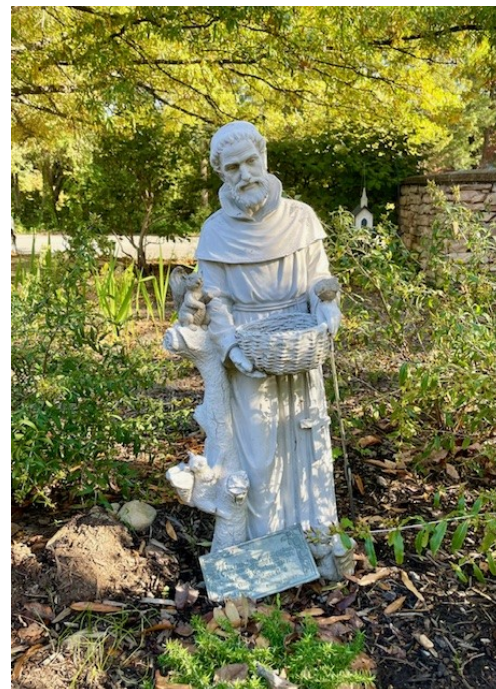
*By Eileen Parlow and Molly Newling*

We're making great progress on the St. Francis Garden! The invasive vinca and ivy have been cleared out, and we're looking at potential native shrubs to install. The nearby planting strip has been cleared of invasive weeds and planted with native blue wood sedge.

We've hired a small woman and minority owned company called "Green Steeze" to clear out invasive plants without harming the roots of the nearby tree.

Keep a lookout for more to come!

I've been funding this beautiful renovation in honor of my much-loved late brother John Thomas Wojno, who was a wonderful gardener and who also loved animals, so my hope is that the St. Francis Garden renovation will be a lasting tribute to my wonderful bother.





**Winter Birthdays**

Pete Badger  
 Beth Crutchley  
 Jacob Dugger  
 Simone Dugger  
 Darcy Elliot  
 Valencia Ewald  
 Sheena Friend  
 Janet George  
 Robert Griffin  
 Art Hamerschlag  
 Ciaran Jackson  
 Ronan Jackson  
 Sharon Jones  
 Blue Kennedy  
 Jordan Kennedy  
 Leigh Kennedy  
 Bernadette Lowry  
 Penelope Lowry  
 Joy Lyles  
 Bob Macfarlane  
 Cindy McLaughlin  
 Jesse Mosher  
 Molly Newling  
 Marie Pannier  
 Desiree Rampersaud  
 William Rhodes  
 Grace Robbins  
 Noah Schaefer  
 Anderson Schottler  
 Lisa Verstandig  
 Leah Westerlund  
 Dave Wright

**ACCA News ■ Annandale Christian Community for Action**

**Annandale CROP Hunger Walk** – Thank you to our St. Barnabas’ team of walkers – the Bolin Shellito family, Hugh Agnew, Diana Greer, and Bob and Connie Gribbin, and our volunteers Grace Robbins, Molly Newling, Scott Cannon and Camille and Ken Mittelholtz. Ten children learned about hunger and the CROP Walk in Children’s Chapel and made posters – Amos, Aurora, Beatrice, Cat, Darcy, Declan, Hailey, Ronan, Samuel, and Taylor. CROP Hunger Walks raise funds for Church World Service, which funds hunger and disaster relief, refugee assistance and sustainable development in other countries and the U.S. ACCA receives part of the funds raised by the Annandale Walk. Please give check donations (payable to CWS/CROP) to Camille or donate online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-barnabas-episcopal-3>).

**Thanksgiving Service** – Please plan to attend an ACCA ecumenical service on Sunday November 24 at 4 p.m. at St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike. John+ plans to be among the ACCA clergy members participating in the service.

**Food Pantry** – At Shrine Mont, the youth made birthday cake kits with supplies for a cake including frosting, candles and pans. The Riddle family delivered the kits to the ACCA pantry for distribution to families in need. Donations of nonperishable food and hygiene products for the ACCA pantry can be left in the basket in the Narthex. You can also support local food drives at the Mason District Government Center (weekdays 9 -5), the Annandale Giant (November 8, 10-1) and the Scouting for Food drive (residential pickups November 9).

**Furniture** – St. Barnabas’ is scheduled to volunteer for the ACCA Furniture Program on Saturday morning December 14, 8 a.m. to about 11:30 a.m. We meet at the furniture warehouse on the grounds of Annandale United Methodist Church, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Through the program, volunteers collect and deliver donated furniture and items such as bedding and lamps to needy families in the Annandale- Bailey’s Crossroads- Lincolnia area.

**Democracy in Action at the Child Development Center** – ACCA CDC children recently learned about participating in an election by choosing favorite Paw Patrol characters. A story about this was on the Associate Press website and was picked up by news outlets nationwide.

**Challenge Campaign** – ACCA’s annual fund-raising project begins in November and continues through January 31, 2025. Donations support ACCA’s programs, including emergency rent and food assistance to neighbors in need and the Child Development Center. To donate, you can send a check (payable to ACCA -please note Challenge Campaign on the memo line) and to ACCA at 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale VA 22003. You can donate to ACCA online via [SpurLocal](https://spurlocal.org/nonprofits/1324/Annandale-Christian-Community-for-Action-ACCA/) (<https://spurlocal.org/nonprofits/1324/Annandale-Christian-Community-for-Action-ACCA/>) or PayPal. You can also designate ACCA in a gift to St. Barnabas’.

**Workplace Giving** – If you give through a workplace giving campaign, please consider designating ACCA to receive your donation. The designation numbers for ACCA are #8058 for United Way Workplace Campaigns and #58934 for the Combined Federal Campaign.

For more information, please contact Ken or Camille Mittelholtz or see <https://accacares.org>.

**Parish Workdays** – Please plan to join the Junior Warden, Building and Grounds Committee members and others for the Parish Workday on Saturday November 23, 9 a.m. -12 noon. We will focus on fall cleanup. Please bring rakes, work gloves and tarps/ leaf collection tools. We appreciate the help from all who volunteered on October 19.

## **Next FACETS Ministry ▪ *Sunday, November 3, 2024 from 4-6 p.m.***

One of St. Barnabas' important outreach opportunities is working with FACETS, one of the largest social safety nets for families, children, and individuals in Fairfax County. "FACETS meets people where they are, usually at the most vulnerable time in their lives, and helps them build stronger futures." ([facetscares.org](https://facetscares.org))

They do this by offering emergency and basic needs assistance along with individualized case management to enable people to become self-sufficient and break the cycle of homelessness, poverty, and hunger.

Since the founding of FACETS, 35 years ago, St Barnabas' has participated in their Hot Meals program, which was their first and keystone outreach activity.

Every **first Sunday of the month**, St. Barnabas' members and friends gather in the Richardson Room and kitchen to cook a hot meal and pack cold sides. Drivers then deliver the food to unhoused or food insecure families in the Fairfax area. We welcome all members and participants of St. Barnabas' to join in this fundamental outreach to our neighbors. The need has increased in recent months; increased participation will help us to meet the need.

For more information about the FACETS program you can go to their website, [facetscares.org](https://facetscares.org), or speak to Molly Newling or Mark Patterson.

## **Breakfast with Santa ▪ *December 7, 2024***



Get ready for some holiday fun at our *Breakfast with Santa* on **Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM!** It's going to be a great morning with yummy food, fun crafts, and of course, a special visit from Santa Claus himself. The kids can meet Santa, tell him their Christmas wishes, and snap a photo to capture the moment. It's the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit with friends and family. Everyone's welcome, so feel free to invite your neighbors and make it a festive morning together!



## Adult Christian Education with the Adult Forum at 9:15 AM

Christian education is a lifelong journey, and we invite you to join us in exploring a variety of faith topics and deepening your understanding. Our Sunday morning Adult Forums are a great opportunity to grow in faith, ask questions, and engage in meaningful conversations. We meet **between services at 9:15 AM**, and our sessions change throughout the year to reflect different themes, seasons, and topics.

Here's what's coming up for the rest of 2024 and into 2025:

- **November 3:** *Ministry of the Diaconate* w/ Nathan Harpine  
Learn about the important role deacons play in the church, their ministry of service, and how they help bridge the church and the world.
- **November 10:** *Veterans Day* (no forum and no Sunday School)  
Our worship service this Sunday is intended to include an opportunity to reflect and give thanks for the service of our veterans.
- **November 17:** *Bible Study* w/ Jeff Schaefer  
Delve into Scripture with a fresh perspective as Jeff leads us in a thoughtful and engaging study.
- **November 24:** *Annual Meeting* (no forum)  
The entire congregation is invited to join us as we discuss church business, celebrate milestones, and look ahead to the future.
- **Advent Series starting December 8:** *Angles on the Arrival* w/ our Rector the Rev. John Bolin Shellito  
*December 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>*. Join for a consideration of what the Holy Nativity was like for the Temple Faithful and the (extended) Holy Family.
- **January 5:** *Epiphany Pageant* (no forum)  
Come enjoy our annual Epiphany Pageant, where we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the world.
- **January 12 & 19: Movie Screening:** *"White Savior: Racism in the American Church"*  
In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, we will host a screening of this 2019 documentary that explores the intersections of race, Christianity, and social justice in the American church.

### Join us in-person or on Zoom!

Whether you prefer to attend in person or participate from the comfort of your home, we would love to have you with us. To join virtually, simply use the Zoom details below:

#### Zoom Meeting Information

Join Zoom Meeting (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81330454185?pwd=UXYycDgxcks4NWZaRWNCaFZrdVpyUT09>)

Meeting ID: 813 3045 4185

Passcode: 706143



## Save the Date for Nathan's Ordination ▪ *December 14, 2024*

With joy and gratitude, we are pleased to announce that, God willing and with the consent of the Bishop and people, our Seminarian, Nathan Harpine, will be Ordained to the Transitional Diaconate on at 11 AM on **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**, at the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore, Maryland.

This is an exciting milestone in Nathan's journey, and we invite you to join us in celebrating this important day. The service will begin promptly at 11 AM, and we encourage *carpooling and early arrival as parking is expected to be limited*. This is a great opportunity to come together as a church family and support Nathan as he takes this significant step in his calling to serve.

As a special blessing to us, *Nathan will serve as Deacon at St. Barnabas' on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>*. We look forward to welcoming him in his new role as Transitional Deacon for this worship service.

Please mark your calendars, and keep Nathan in your prayers as he prepares for this sacred moment. We hope to see many of you there to celebrate alongside him!

### Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, December 14th
- **Time:** 11 AM
- **Location:** The Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation
- **Address:** 4 E University Pkwy, Baltimore, MD 21218

## A Letter to St. Barnabas' from Nathan Harpine

Dear St. Barnabas' Family,

It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served as your Seminarian for roughly the past year and a half. I want to thank you all for the way in which you have welcomed and supported me through this part of my journey, particularly the members of my *Lay Support Team*, led by Cindy McLaughlin. I have been able to spend this time learning with you, in Confirmation Class, in Adult Forum, and in conversation. I have loved spending time with FACETS, the Youth Group, and getting to know the ministry of the people of this congregation.

St. Barnabas' embodies the sense that the church is a family of faith, with each being called to life up one another, whether that be through the kindness shown to one another, ministry out in the world, or taking the time to share perspective with one another. I wish God's guidance on the journey through this next stage of all your journeys and in this community's life; and I ask for your prayers as I move towards ordination.

With love and gratitude,  
Nathan Harpine



## Mark Sirett and “Sweet Was the Song”

By Nancy MacLachlan

I would like to introduce you to a friend and colleague of mine, Mark Sirett, a Canadian composer of choral music of great renown. Mark and I were both born in Kingston, Ontario, in 1952, but because we lived in different subdivisions, we attended different primary schools. We knew each other through the Monday night music recitals held in the library, and eventually attended the same high school and university. At Queens' University we were in the same music program, and were duo piano partners. Mark, at this time, was also the organist and choirmaster of Portsmouth United Methodist Church. He did post-graduate work in Alberta and served as choir director for St Paul's United Church in Edmonton from 1979-1986. He obtained his Masters in 1987 and his Doctorate in 1990 from the University of Iowa, but returned to Kingston in 1990 to become organist at St. George's Anglican Cathedral. In 1996, recognizing that there was a need for choirs available to everyone, not just affiliated with a church, he started Cantabile Choirs. Originally there were just a children's, a girls', and a women's choir, but he soon had to add a young men's, a junior choir, and a senior men's choir.



Mark has published over 200 compositions, mostly choral, ranging from sacred anthems and motets to musical theatre and folk songs. His composition, "Sweet Was the Song the Virgin Sang," uses the text found in William Ballet's lute book in the library of Trinity College, Dublin, around 1600. A harmonization of it by Charles Wood can be found in *The Cowley Carol Book for Christmas, Easter, and Ascensiontide*, first series, 1901. The words are set to a modern, lilting tune, imitating the rocking of a cradle, with soaring peaks of hope and longing in the melody. It is a favorite song with university choirs and small elite groups.

A particularly delicate rendition is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWf0K74uYxI>

St. Barnabas' Adult Choir will be performing “Sweet Was the Song” as the anthem during our Christmas Eve service at 4:30 PM. We invite one and all to attend and hear it live.

In 2022, Mark received the *Order of Canada* for his steadfast commitment to the field of choral music as a renowned composer, conductor, and community leader.

### Schedule of Christmas Services

Join us at St. Barnabas' for our special Christmas services to celebrate the joy and wonder of the season. Whether it's your first time or you've been with us for years, all are welcome to share in the hope and love of Christ's birth.

#### Christmas Eve:

- 4:30 PM

#### Christmas Day:

- 10:15 AM

## Chili Night: A Warm Winter TGIF ▪ *Date TBD*

January can often feel cold, dark, and a bit dreary, so let's shake things up and bring some warmth and excitement to our community! We're thrilled to announce our upcoming Chili Night, a fun-filled event scheduled for later this winter as part of our monthly TGIF get-togethers. The exact date will be determined soon. Let us know which Friday in January works best for you!

Now is the perfect time to dig through your recipe files and find your favorite chili recipe—whether it's a cherished family classic or a trendy new creation you've been itching to try. Feel free to bring any type of chili you like! You can go with the traditional beef chili, opt for a vegetarian version, or even whip up a white chili; the choice is entirely yours!

For those who may not be cooking up a chili, we encourage you to contribute in other delicious ways. Bring sides such as salads, rice, cornbread, or any tasty accompaniments that would complement our chili feast. Desserts and beverages are also greatly appreciated—there's always room for something sweet or a refreshing drink!

To help us plan for this exciting event, please sign up by emailing Molly Newling or the Parish Administrator at [stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com](mailto:stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com). Let us know what you'll be bringing so we can coordinate accordingly!

While we won't be holding a formal vote for the best chili this year, the empty slow cookers will tell the real story of which dishes are the crowd favorites! This event promises to be a delightful way to connect with fellow members of our church community, share recipes, and enjoy a cozy night together.

Mark your calendars and get ready for a fun evening filled with good food and great company! Stay tuned for the final date announcement!

## Caritas Ministry Needs Your Help!

Dear Parish Family,

*Caritas* has received several recent requests for help, particularly with providing meals and offering rides to medical appointments. These are powerful acts of service that bring comfort and relief to many in our community, but right now, the needs are more than our current team of six members can handle on their own.

We are reaching out to you for help. Whether you enjoy cooking, have time to deliver meals, can arrange for a meal to be delivered, or are willing to drive a fellow parishioner to a doctor's appointment, your assistance would make a meaningful difference. Even the smallest gesture of kindness can lighten someone's load!

We're hoping to build a list of volunteers who are willing to lend a hand when needed. This way, when a request comes through, we'll have a pool of generous hearts to reach out to. You don't need to commit to regular service—just let us know if you're able to help out on occasion, and we'll be in touch when there's a need.

If you feel called to assist in any way, please contact the parish office at (703) 941-2922, send an email to [stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com](mailto:stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com), or feel free to speak with any of the members of our *Caritas* team: Cricket Camp, Beth Harper, Molly Newling, Grace Robbins, Kathy Schaefer, or Kathleen Stark.

Your kindness and generosity will not only bless those in need but will strengthen the bonds of care and compassion within our parish. Thank you for considering being part of this important ministry!

With gratitude,

St. Barnabas' *Caritas* Ministry





## Who Was “Good King Wenceslas” and Why Do We Sing About Him?

By Dr. Hugh Agnew

Professor of Eastern European History at GWU

Probably everyone at St. Barnabas has heard or sung the “traditional” Christmas carol “Good King Wenceslas.” But where did it come from, whose tradition is it, and who was this “good king” anyway?

Let’s start with the first question. The carol as we know it was published in 1853 by an Anglican clergyman, John Mason Neale (1818-1866), who was associated with the Oxford (High Church) Movement. The Oxford Movement lamented the state of English churches, both physical (deteriorating architecture, lack of decoration, ugly modern stoves for heating) and in ritual. Especially lacking in their eyes was congregational singing of hymns, nowadays such a part of our worship at St. B’s. Until 1820, the only singing allowed in Anglican churches was metrical settings of the Psalms! Neale and others set out to create hymns for the Church of England.

Neale and his musical collaborator, Thomas Helmore, were given a copy of *Piae Cantiones* (Pious Songs), a collection of songs from a cathedral school in Finland, printed in Germany in 1582. Together they translated some of the Latin texts and made up English words to some of the tunes. “Good King Wenceslas” is a text composed by Neale to the tune from *Piae Cantiones*, “Tempus adest floridum” (Now comes the time of flowers), obviously a Spring carol. So, this song was born in 1853, and set to a tune that was not at all a Christmas song.

So much for tradition!



Detail of the window designed in Art Nouveau style by Alphonse Mucha in Prague’s *St. Vitus Cathedral*. It shows the baptism of Wenceslas’s grandfather by Saints Cyril and Methodius, and his grandmother Ludmila praying with him.

But who was this “good King Wenceslas,” then? Wenceslas (in Czech, Václav) was duke of the Bohemians in the early tenth century. The ruling family had accepted Christianity only two generations earlier, and there was still resistance. Wenceslas’s grandmother, Ludmila, ensured the young heir was raised in the faith, but she was martyred by supporters of the young boy’s mother (who was from a pagan Slavic tribe) when Wenceslas was 13. When he came of age five years later, he sent his mother into retirement and directed the realm until his death. His brother, Boleslav, who disagreed with him over policy towards the neighboring Germans, arranged for Wenceslas’s murder, probably in 935, and seized power in Bohemia in his own name.

Both Ludmila and Wenceslas were venerated as saints shortly after their deaths. Though he was only a duke, Wenceslas was posthumously recognized by the Holy Roman Emperor Otto I as king and saint and added to the Catholic calendar of saints (feast day September 28). Mere decades after his death, at least four versions of his saintly life were circulating, in the Old Slavic and Latin languages. He was especially praised in these hagiographies for his support of the poor, becoming the type of the “Righteous King” whose power came not from his strength but his piety and faith.

Venerated in the Czech lands down to the present day as the patron saint of the Czechs, Wenceslas has now become an inseparable part of Christmas celebrations in the English-speaking world, thanks to a nineteenth-century British clergyman!

## 2025 Charitable Giving

As we enter the last quarter of the calendar year, some parishioners may wish to consider making an initial payment for their 2025 pledge before year end, in order to maximize their 2024 charitable contribution deduction. This can be done by simply noting “2025 Pledge” in the *memo* line of your check.

## Presiding Bishop Investiture: Virtual Options ▪ *November 2, 2024*

To celebrate the **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** investiture service of Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe, all are invited to tune in to the event webpage for the livestream link.

The 11 a.m. ET service will also be livestreamed to **The Episcopal Church’s Facebook page**.

Downloadable materials are now available to support children’s involvement in the churchwide virtual ceremony, among other online resources. The worship booklet will be posted the morning of Nov. 2.

Announced in June, the simpler, scaled-down service to welcome the 28th presiding bishop is ordered around a smaller carbon footprint and increased churchwide virtual participation. Nearly all dioceses sent in video greetings for a special “roll call” that will precede the service at 9:30 a.m. ET and be livestreamed on the event webpage and The Episcopal Church’s Facebook page

A recording of the service inside the Chapel of Christ the Lord in The Episcopal Church Center in New York City—which will include limited in-person attendees—will be posted after the event and shared churchwide.

- **Event webpage:** [https://www.episcopalchurch.org/investiture/?mc\\_cid=aaf806ba2b&mc\\_eid=3ec407e70a](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/investiture/?mc_cid=aaf806ba2b&mc_eid=3ec407e70a)
- **The Episcopal Church’s Facebook page:** [https://www.facebook.com/episcopalian?mc\\_cid=aaf806ba2b&mc\\_eid=3ec407e70a](https://www.facebook.com/episcopalian?mc_cid=aaf806ba2b&mc_eid=3ec407e70a)

## Get Ready for St. Barnabas’ Epiphany Pageant ▪ *January 12, 2025*

Our annual Epiphany Pageant will be held on **Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**, during the 10:15 service. Weekly practices will take place during Godly Play and Children's Chapel time starting in November.

Join us for the *Dress Rehearsal and Pizza Party* on **Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>**, at noon. We’ll kick off with pizza and drinks, followed by a full run-through of the pageant. After dressing in costumes, we’ll go through the performance once more. Then, we’ll enjoy a snack, hand out goody bags, and discuss final preparations for the big day!

### Dress Rehearsal Details

- **Date:** Saturday, January 11
- **Time:** 12 PM
- **Location:** Richardson Room

### Pageant Details

- **Date:** Sunday, January 12
- **Time:** 10:15 AM Service
- **Location:** Sanctuary

If you have any questions, please contact Theresa Merchant.



## St. B's President's Day Weekend Retreat at Canaan Valley Resort

We are excited to invite you to join us for St. Barnabas' annual ski trip, happening over President's Day weekend from **February 14-17, 2025** at the beautiful **Canaan Valley State Park Resort in West Virginia**. This tradition, cherished by our community for over forty years, is an opportunity for winter fun, fellowship, and relaxation. Whether you're a skier, snowboarder, or simply looking to enjoy the winter scenery, there's something for everyone. Feel free to bring along friends, family, or anyone who would enjoy a weekend in the mountains.

### ACCOMMODATIONS AND MEALS

St. Barnabas' has reserved a block of rooms at the lodge, and we ask that you confirm your plans to attend by **January 5, 2025**. Room costs are **\$582** for three nights (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday). Our arrangement includes prepaid lodging, as well as meals at the lodge—**breakfasts** on Saturday through Monday and **dinners** on Saturday and Sunday. These meals will offer hearty and delicious options to fuel your days on the slopes or spent exploring the resort.

#### Meal Costs:

Last year, the costs for two dinners and three breakfasts were approximately:

- Adults: **\$130.25**
- Juniors (ages 6-12): **\$66.80**
- Children 5 and under: **Free**

We expect the costs for 2025 to be similar, with *updated pricing* to be confirmed closer to the event.

### SKIING AND EQUIPMENT

Discounted group rates for lift tickets and equipment rental will be available again this year. Based on 2024 pricing, here's a general idea of what to expect for ski costs:

- 3-Day Adult Lift Ticket: **\$170**
- 2-Day Adult Lift Ticket: **\$130**
- 3-Day Adult Lift & Rental Package: **\$250**
- 2-Day Adult Lift & Rental Package: **\$180**
- 3-Day Junior (ages 6-12) Lift & Rental Package: **\$180**
- 2-Day Junior (ages 6-12) Lift & Rental Package: **\$120**
- Equipment Rental Only (3 days): **\$65**

Skiers aged 70 and over, as well as children 5 and under, ski for free, making this a fantastic option for multi-generational families.

### NON-SKIING ACTIVITIES

For those who prefer non-skiing activities, Canaan Valley offers a variety of winter fun options such as snow tubing, ice skating, and relaxing time by the lodge's cozy fireplaces. Enjoy the beautiful scenery, catch up on some reading, or indulge in the amenities of the lodge.

### HOW TO SIGN UP

Please let Ken or Camille Mittelholtz know if you're interested in attending. We look forward to spending a fantastic weekend with you, building memories with our parish community and embracing all that the winter season has to offer!

## Important Notice Regarding The St. Barnabas' Reporter

With the increased availability of our digital communications, please be advised that *The St. Barnabas' Reporter* is transitioning to a quarterly publication format for this interim time. The upcoming **Spring 2025** issue, themed around *Lent and Eastertide*, will cover the months of February, March, and April. We encourage all members of our community to start planning now if you have any events, announcements, articles, or photos that you would like to include in this issue.

The deadline for submissions to the Spring 2025 issue is **Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**. We welcome a variety of content, including announcements, ministry updates, personal reflections, and event photos that reflect our parish life during this sacred season. Please consider how your contributions can enrich our collective story during Lent and Eastertide. To contribute, please email your announcements, photos, or other items to the Parish Office at [stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com](mailto:stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com). Alternatively, hard copies of your submissions can also be dropped off at the office.

Please note that the Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday from **10 AM to 2 PM** during this interim period. If you need to spend more time in the office for assistance or consultation, please arrange your visit in advance by calling (703) 941-2922 or emailing the office.

This is a wonderful opportunity to share the life and activities of our parish community with one another. We look forward to receiving your submissions and creating a beautiful and meaningful Spring edition of *The Reporter*!

The proposed *Reporter* schedule is as follows:

- **Lent and Eastertide:** February, March, and April
- **Pentecost and Trinity:** May, June, July, and August
- **Michaelmas and All Saints':** September, October, and November
- **Advent, Christmas, and Epiphanytide:** December and January

## In the Presence of God

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

*For the Church ...* the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby; our Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Sean Walter Rowe; and our Diocesan Bishops, the Rt. Rev. Mark E. Stevenson, Bishop; the Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Assistant Bishop; the Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand; and their families. For our Rector, the Rev. John Bolin Shellito, and his family; for our Seminarian, Nathan Harpine and his family; for Cindy McLaughlin (in discernment); for our Vestry, Wardens, and staff; and for the work and ministry of our sister parish of San Juan Bautista in Palma Soriano, Cuba and for the Archdeaconate of Eastern Cuba.

## Pastoral Care

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

## *God's Economy Can Work Miracles*

A reflection by the now Rev. Celal Kamran, from the 2019 Diocese of Virginia Reflections for the Wonder in All Stewardship Campaign. Rev. Celal was a Seminarian at St. Barnabas in winter 2020-2021 and was also a member of St. Barnabas' for several years when he was a child. St. Barnabas' was an important part of his formation. He now serves as a Priest and Multicultural Missioner in Pennsylvania.

*The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' The Lord replied, 'If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.*  
- Luke 17:5-10

Increase our faith Lord, the apostles plea Jesus in our text. They have a deep desire to serve, and that is not always a given. Sometimes, I do not have this desire. Sometimes, I would rather serve myself or material things rather than the living God. This coming from a seminarian, who is devoting himself and his vocation to ministry, must seem odd. But our lives pull us in all sorts of directions, good and bad.

It can be hard to stay centered in God. But I do not think Jesus is asking us for what we might grandly imagine. The disciples might not have the faith they think they need, but they have a deep desire. A fellow seminarian said to me about his prayer life that nothing, absolutely nothing will get done until he has spent time centering himself with God. I loved that statement, and I hated how I fall short of that so many days. Regardless of my inaptitude towards this ideal, I have the desire. The desire for Christ to increase my faith. The desire to be centered in God in everything I do or leave undone.

Jesus responds with a reassurance. Faith like a mustard seed can be miraculous. And I think the disciples have shown their faith with their desire for faith. I am reminded of another text where a man tells Jesus, I believe, help my disbelief. In both narratives, the people want to have faith. In both cases Jesus reassures them.

They do not lack in faith but rather their desire redeems them and moves them closer to what they want. God does not ask for much, maybe just a mustard seed's worth of desire towards faith. So, in this time of annual giving, reflecting on what we imagine we are being called to give, I think our imaginations do not match with what is asked of us. If that was the case, we would all be called to be St. Francis, who gave everything he had. Rather, we are being called to desire faith in what we give. And use that faith, no matter how small, to use the gifts God has given us to do the work God has called us to do. Because God's economy can work miracles, if only we desire it.

### **Reflection Questions**

- What does the desire to serve God look like in your life?
- When has your own stumbling revealed more than your success?
- What would moving the mulberry tree with faith look like in your life and in the life of your community?



**November 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
FACETS Ministry 4-6PM 3	4	<b>Election Day</b> 5 Vote if you can, and pray for our country.	6	7	8	9
10	<b>Veterans' Day</b> 11 With gratitude for all who have served.	12	13	14	Mulled Merriment & Mince Tarts 7-9PM 15	WOSB Bazaar 10AM-2PM 16
Stewardship Ingathering 17	18	19	20	21	Thanksgiving TGIF 6-9PM 22	Parish Workday 9AM-12PM 23
UTO Ingathering 24 <b>Annual Meeting</b> 9:15AM	25	26	27	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b> 28	29	30

**December 2024**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FACETS Ministry 4-6PM 1	2	3	4	5	6	Breakfast with Santa 9AM-12PM 7
8	9	10	11	12	13	Nathan's Ordination 11AM 14 Cookie and Card Decorating 12-2PM
Christmas Caroling 12-3 PM 15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	<b>Christmas Eve</b> 24	<b>Christmas Day</b> 25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

office closed through noon 1/2/25

**January 2025**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
FACETS Ministry 4-6PM 5	<b>The Epiphany</b> 6	7	8	9	10	Epiphany Pageant Pizza Party and Dress Rehearsal 12-3 PM 11
Epiphany Pageant 12	13	14	Deadline for the Spring 2025 issue of the Reporter 15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

## St. Barnabas' Mailing List Update

Your help is needed to ensure we have up-to-date information for future Reporters! As we transfer, update, and confirm everyone's details in our new(ish) *Realm* database—covering postal mail, email, phone, and emergency contacts—we ask for your assistance in this important process.

Our current Reporter address database is housed on an operating system and computer that has served St. Barnabas' for many years. However, it will no longer be updatable or transferable as our oldest desktop computer is expected to become incompatible with a functional internet browser by the end of 2025. This makes it vital for everyone to update their contact information in the new *Realm* system.

### SCAN ME



*Scan here with your smartphone to check and make sure that St. Barnabas' has your current and updated contact info!*

Please take a moment to log in to your *Realm* account, our church's online directory and communication tool, to review and confirm your contact details. Whether it's your **mailing address, phone number, email, or emergency contact**, we need this information updated to keep you informed about church activities, events, and special announcements.

You can quickly update your information by holding your phone's camera up to the QR code and clicking the link provided, or by clicking the following link in the online Reporter: [acstechnologies.com/realm](https://acstechnologies.com/realm). If you cannot verify your information through the link or no longer receive the Reporter due to this computer incompatibility, please reach out to us by phone, postal mail, or email. We'll ensure your updated details are entered into the new *Realm* database.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated as we work to streamline our communications, ensure continued access to church news, and provide better care for all our parishioners. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

## A Reminder to Look for Hope and Life's Blessings

Dear Friends,

Each season of life comes with its own difficulties. Still, there is hope and gladness even in the most challenging of times. Charles has been diagnosed with anemia but is being cared for by a skilled hematology team. Our daughter underwent a successful surgery for a rare autoimmune eye disease. Our granddaughter is holding strong as she juggles mental health struggles and her academics. My brother's bladder cancer was noninvasive and his treatment is looking hopeful. A close friend has been reunited with his estranged son. **I am thankful!**

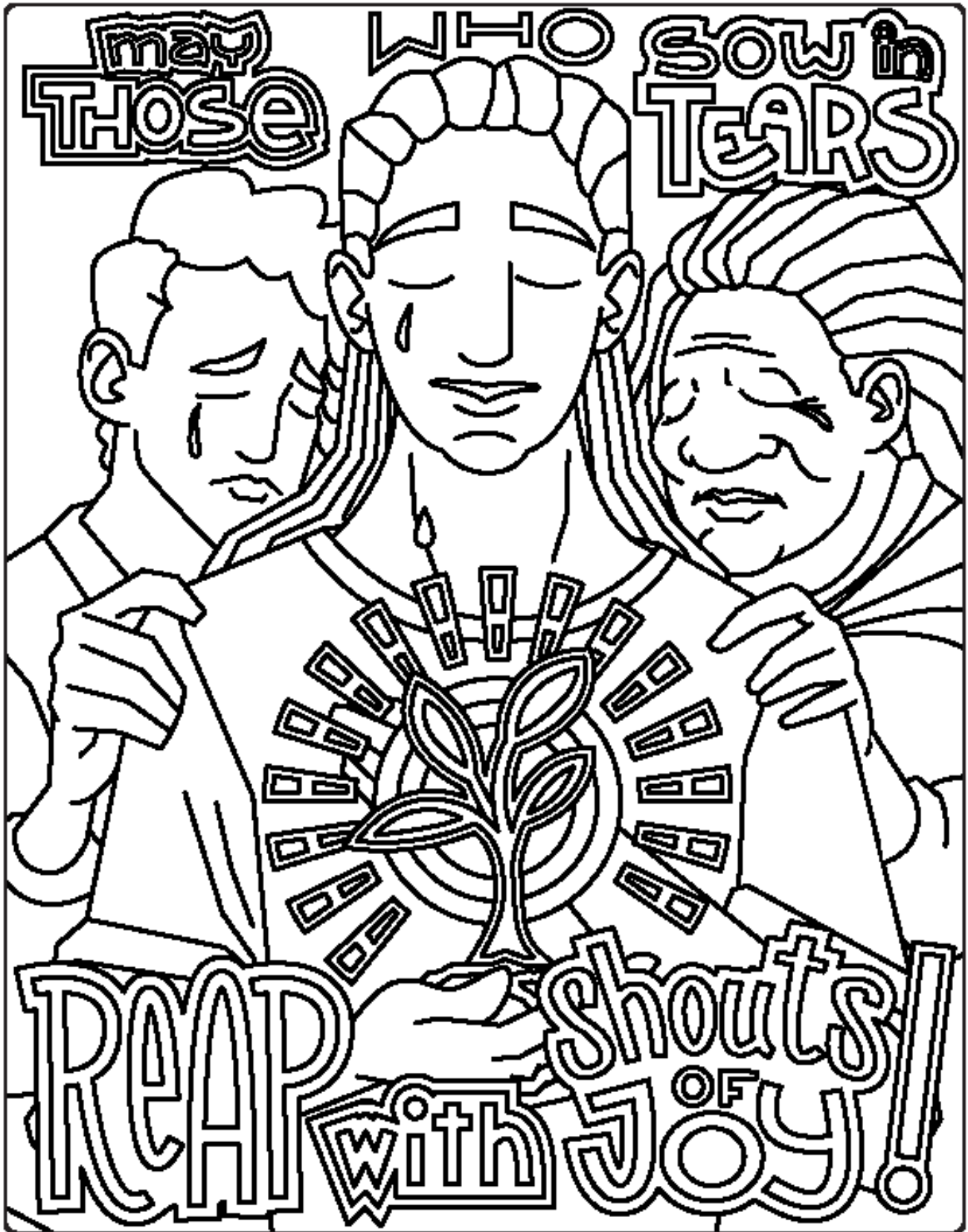
While there is adversity, there is hope and thankfulness. We all have so many blessings in our lives. Continue to count those blessings, my friends, and expand the circle of thankful people around the world!

Yours in thanksgiving,  
Cricket Camp

**St. Barnabas' Mission:**  
**Serving our community, the world, and each other**  
**through the love of Jesus Christ**



KIDS COLORING PAGE





**ST. BARNABAS'  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

4801 Ravensworth Road  
Annandale, VA 22003

facebook.com/StBarnabasEpiscopal  
Instagram: @stbarnabasannandale  
stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com

[www.st-barnabaschurch.org](http://www.st-barnabaschurch.org)

Non Profit  
U.S. Postage  
Merrifield, VA  
Permit #214

**Change Service Requested**

**Emergency Contacts**

*St. Barnabas' is updating our mailing list!*

The church office is combining and updating our mailing lists and systems to streamline our ability to reach each member of our parish. To ensure we have your current contact information, please scan the QR code with you phone camera, or visit <https://onrealm.org/StBarnabasEpisc>. This will allow you to verify and update your details in

*Realm*. If you encounter any difficulties, reach out to the Parish Office for assistance. Help us stay connected and keep you informed about church events and announcements!

