

# Stone Church e-News



December 2017

## From the Rector's Desk

Dear St. Barnabas family,

The four-week season of Advent opens the Church Year and prepares us for Christmas. During the Sundays in Advent, familiar symbols and Scripture readings bring us “the bad news and the good news.” On the one hand, they sharpen our sense of unworthiness and need for redemption. On the other, they stir in us an eager expectation for our promised Savior.

Advent’s somber side reflects its message of repentance: “*Prepare to meet your Maker!*” Advent’s joyful side reflects its message of grace: “*Prepare to receive God’s gift-Himself!*”

Preparation for “Xmas” - the commercial Christmas holiday - usually means hectic planning and much activity. But Advent’s preparation for Jesus’ birthday means time-out and quiet moments.

“Xmas” preparation may be a dreaded burden with high emotional expectations that are seldom met. But Advent’s preparation is God’s work, cleansing our minds, setting our hearts at peace, and fulfilling our innermost longings.

This Advent let God speak to you and satisfy your need for deeply felt celebration.

Come join us this Saturday morning, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon for our pre-Advent Quiet morning to jump start your Advent preparations!!

Yours in Christ,

*Mother Meredith+*

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## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. BARNABAS

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### **EVENSONG – BEGINS ON DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**

Beginning on the first Sunday of Advent and continuing throughout, there will be a 5:00 p.m. Evensong in the church. Please join your St. Barnabas family at these special services.

### **ADVENT QUIET MORNING – DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON**

Join us for a day of quiet reflection as we move into the Advent season. A time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, Advent is the church's way for slowing down from the frenetic pace of the Holidays. Experience silence, prayer, and space to feel God moving with your soul.

#### **FULL SCHEDULE OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

<b>December 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Advent Quiet Morning</b> 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	
<b>December 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday of Advent</b> 5:00 p.m. Evensong	
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> 10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols 5:00 p.m. Evensong	
<b>December 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:00 a.m. Church Sunday School and Forum 10:00 a.m. Rite II, plus Greening of the Church 5:00 p.m. Evensong	
<b>December 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve</b> 8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:00 a.m. Rite II 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service & Pageant 8:00 p.m. Carol Sing and Candlelight Service	
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>First Sunday after Christmas</b> 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols	

### **SYKESVILLE ECUMENICAL SERVICE**

As you know, St. Barnabas hosted this year's Sykesville's Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on Sunday Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>. Members of St. Paul's Methodist, St. Luke's Methodist, Springfield Presbyterian and Gaither Methodist joined us to celebrate Thanksgiving. The service offered worshipers the opportunity to share their thanksgivings and provided music that was so uplifting that it brought tears to my eyes. Thanks to everyone who participated including the altar guild and musicians. Special thanks go to our own Stone Church Pickers who sang the songs "Shall We Gather at the River" and "Alleluia". Also performing were Samantha Teal who played guitar and sang a beautiful solo. Finally, Jason and Jessica Dubbs & family sang a beautiful piece that turned all heads to the balcony. We have so much to be thankful for. I hope your Thanksgiving holiday was special.

### **YOUR VESTRY HAS BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY ON STRAP (STRATEGIC PLANNING)**

Our Strategic Plan process is maturing nicely. We've focused on crystalizing three important topics over the recent months, our MISSION, our VISION and our VALUES. Within our Mission we describe our purpose. Our Vision describes our path, and our Values describe our behaviors. In the near future, we will discuss SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) as well as drill down on the critical few actionable goals for 2018. This brief update is to share our progress to date and help when someone asks "what's special about St. Barnabas?"

#### **Our Mission:**

As part of the Anglican tradition, the Mission of St. Barnabas is to further the kingdom of God with Hearts to Love, Hands to Serve and Minds to Grow.

#### **Our Vision:**

We are devoted to live our lives as an accepting, engaged, passionate and spiritually healthy community.

#### **Our Values:**

- **COMMUNITY** We are dedicated to God, our children, our parish, our country and the world community.
- **FAMILIES** All families will be welcomed and shown how God's love works in our parish. We cherish and support our church family as well as our own diverse families and backgrounds.
- **PARTICIPATION** As followers of Christ, members are encouraged to support God's church and contribute their time, treasure, and talents.
- **WELCOMING** Newcomers are welcomed and valued.
- **WORSHIP** As Episcopalians, our worship is grounded in Scripture, Tradition and Reason. We strive to make these principles relevant in our own lives.
- **YOUTH** Children are valued and welcome in our parish. It is our responsibility to involve, educate, and guide our youth so they can take an active role in the Church.

## MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN (Continued)

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### Our Strategic Objectives:

- **VALUE OUR YOUTH.** Our youth are the leaders of the future. We value our youth in everything we do.
- **ASSURE A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT.** All guests should feel welcome and appreciated.
- **EXTEND OUR PRESENCE IN THE SYKESVILLE COMMUNITY.** We are an asset to our community. We seek to serve and add value at each opportunity.

We appreciate your interest and support as we define how we walk in Jesus' footsteps.

## MESSAGE FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN – Molly McEvoy

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### GOOD NEWS ON THE KITCHEN!



As of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, we have *finally* received all of our permits - the revised building permit and the fire suppression permit for the hood. The electricians and fire suppression contractor are scheduled to install the hood's fire suppression the week of December 4<sup>th</sup>. The contractors for the stove vents and fans are tentatively scheduled for mid-December.

Plumbing for the kitchen has been completed. All the sinks and dishwasher are hooked up and the gas line to the stove has been connected. The Plumbing company is waiting for the final inspection.

The remaining equipment and shelving has been ordered with some having been delivered and we are awaiting the final few more pieces.

Huge thanks to Ollie Hand!! He is doing the dry wall repair in the basement (where plumbing for the kitchen was run).

Slowly but steadily we're approaching completion!!!!

Molly McEvoy,

Junior Warden

**ADULT FORUM**

Sunday morning faith formation for adults  
From 9:00 to 9:45 in Barnabas Hall

Join us on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Inter-Generational Wreath Making Event! (see full announcement below). The December Adult Forum resumes with the Hymns of Advent on December 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be a study of the text, tune, and theology of these well-known Advent songs. The Forum meets in Barnabas Hall from 9:00 - 9:45 a.m.

December 3	Inter-Generational Advent Wreath Making
December 10	No Forum – Advent Lessons and Carols
December 17,	The Hymns of Advent

Forum will not meet on December 24<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup> but will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**INTER-GENERATIONAL ADVENT WREATH MAKING – DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>**



Christmas is only a few weeks away and the First Sunday of Advent is December 3<sup>rd</sup>! Once again this year, we will be making Advent Wreaths and it will be a family fun, parish wide event by being at 9:00 a.m. in Barnabas Hall during the Adult Forum and Sunday School time frame . We will provide a candle ring, if you do not bring one, plus evergreens, beads, ribbon, and things you may need to make a fabulous wreath.

You are encouraged and invited to bring your own items so as to make a personal wreath for your family and join us for this wonderful way to begin the Holiday Season.

**YOUTH GROUP**

The Youth Group is set to meet **3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** in Barnabas Hall on Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> and again on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. **Please note the time change so Youth can attend Evensong.**

**ALTAR GUILD AND CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

**MEMORIALS IN CHRISTMAS BULLETINS – DEADLINE DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**

You are invited and encouraged to remember loved ones with donations to the Altar Guild and memorials in the bulletin for our Christmas services. We will be having two special services on Christmas Eve, in addition to our regular Rite I & Rite II morning Holy Eucharists. We will have flowers, wreaths, trees, ropes of greenery and more, so please submit your donation and honor/memorials to the Parish Office at [parish@stbarnabas.ang-md.org](mailto:parish@stbarnabas.ang-md.org), or dropping a list in the offering plate, or with a call to the Parish Administrator on 410-489-2800 Tuesday through Thursday. Names must be submitted by **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!



## FINANCE

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### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



Thank you for your support all year! We appreciate everyone maintaining their pledge throughout the year and, as a reminder as we approach year-end, you take a moment to insure you are on target with your pledge commitment before the end of December.

Please contact the Parish Administrator any Tuesday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. on 410-489-2800 or send an e-mail to [parish@stbarnabassykesville.org](mailto:parish@stbarnabassykesville.org) to determine the current status of your gifts to pledge. There is also a “Donate” button on the St. Barnabas website for your convenience with regular giving or for your year-end catch up.

### VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

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#### VESTRY MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>

The most recent meeting of the Vestry was held on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. in Barnabas Hall. Minutes and Financial Statements are available at the office, if desired. The meeting included a Review of Norms and a Mutual Ministry Review. The Vestry meets on the second Monday of each month in Barnabas Hall at 7:00 p.m. and all Vestry meetings are open so that members and friends are welcome. The next meeting is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup>.

### OUTREACH

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#### E.S.C.A.P.E. LUNCH PROGRAM

St. Barnabas works with the E.S.C.A.P.E. Program to provide packed lunches for the homeless. This program delivers lunches every month with the help of several local churches. St. Barnabas has been given the schedule for 2018 and we are scheduled to pack 82 lunches on the following days:

February 14

July 11

November 7

#### PANTRY PROJECT THANK YOU



The Thanksgiving Pantry Project was a great success and it is was all due to the caring generosity of you, the people of St. Barnabas. The families that we help are truly grateful and were able to see the Face of God in the material items provided in the form of food and gift cards. Thank you one and all!



### SEEING THE FACE OF GOD IN EACH OTHER

The Seeing the Face of God in Each Other Antiracism Workshop (SFG) is an experiential workshop created by the Episcopal Church. SFG's is open to all Episcopalians. Deadline for registration is one week in advance for facilitators to prepare. Both parts are required to fulfill the requirements. Register with Adam Barner, [abarner@episcopalmaryland.org](mailto:abarner@episcopalmaryland.org). [Learn more about this workshop.](#)

December 2 and January 6 9:00 AM-5:00 PM both days, St. Paul's, Prince Frederick

January 11 and 12, 2018, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM both days, St. James School, Hagerstown, Library

March 2, 5:00-9:00 PM, March 3, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM, St. John's, Ellicott City

April 21 and 28, 2018, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM both days, Diocesan Center, Baltimore

### SOCIAL MEDIA AND CHURCH WORKSHOP –DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>

Gather in the Blue Ridge Room at the Claggett Center, Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Bring your laptop and mobile device and get some hands on experience on using Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch. [Register here.](#)

### CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR SHIP CREWS

Every year the Baltimore International Seafarer's Center collects Christmas boxes. They're distributed to ship crews visiting Baltimore harbor during the Christmas season. [Here's how you can help](#) BISC spread some Christmas joy.

### WINTER RETREATS AT THE CLAGGETT CENTER – JANUARY AND FEBRUARY, 2018

Registration now open for these annual offerings for women and men. Make a resolution you can keep to start the New Year off with reflection, nurturing and self-care.

Women's Retreat: From Strength to Strength: Spiritual Resilience, Jan. 12-14.

The Rev. Adrien Dawson, rector of All Saints' Parish, Frederick, will be the spiritual leader for the weekend. [Learn more and register.](#) Also, please see flyer on the next page.

Weekend for Women: Free & Clear, Jan. 19-21.

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And all of us... are being transformed..." 2 Cor. 3:17-18. Keynote speaker: The Rev. Dina van Klaveren, rector of St. Andrew's, Glenwood. [Learn more and register.](#)

Men's Retreat: Sharing the Light of Christ: Opportunities from Abundance, Feb. 2-4.

Keynote speaker: The Rt. Rev. Robert W. Ihloff, retired Bishop of Maryland. [Learn more and register.](#)

## Women's Retreat 2018



### *From Strength to Strength: Spiritual Resilience*

A multi-parish, multi-denominational, Bible-based, Spirit-filled weekend of reflection and refreshment, music and worship, food, fellowship, and fun — just for women. Researchers point to spirituality as the single most important factor for resilience.

With retreat chaplain **the Rev. Adrien Dawson**, explore what the Bible teaches about resilient spirituality. How can we cultivate resilience as a spiritual practice in our lives and in our communities?

## January 12 – 14, 2018

Friday, 5 PM – Sunday, 11 AM



Lodging in the Christiane Inn at Claggett Center  
Inn Single \$225  
Inn Double with roommate \$205

Register online at <https://www.claggettcenter.org/adult-programs>

For more information, contact Sharon Tillman,  
[stillman@claggettcenter.org](mailto:stillman@claggettcenter.org) or 301-874-5147 X108



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## DIOCESAN NEWS AND EVENTS, Continued

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### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

The next Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is set for January 18-25, 2018. For those planning or who'd like to plan a service with neighboring congregations [here's a resource](#) from the World Council of Churches.

### **CHORISTERS WANTED FOR APRIL 22, 2018**

The Diocesan Worship Team invites all treble choristers to help lead worship for the Diocesan Confirmation Service, April 22, at Cathedral of the Incarnation. The commitment includes attending one rehearsal, either April 14, 15, or 21, (times and locations TBA); and attending the pre-service rehearsal at 2:00 PM at the cathedral prior to the 4:00 PM service. Space is limited. For information contact Cynthia DeDakis, missioner for parish music, [cynthia.dedakis@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.dedakis@gmail.com).

### **HOLY LAND "CHRISTMAS" - JANUARY 2-14, 2019**

Join Bishop Sutton and long-time tour guide, Iyad Qumri, on a pilgrimage to Galilee, Jerusalem, and Bethlehem for Orthodox Christmas on January 6. Pilgrims stay at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem and a guest house in Nazareth's old city. (Ability to navigate cobblestones and steps is a must!). [Learn more here](#). Contact the Rev. Anne Weatherholt, [rector@stmarkslappans.org](mailto:rector@stmarkslappans.org).

## COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS

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### **12 HOURS OF CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Enjoy 12 hours of shopping on Main Street in Sykesville this Friday, December 1st. Specials, refreshments, and merry surprises for you in the middle of jolly Main Street! Stores scheduled to be open 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

### **COOKIES ON MAIN STREET AND MERRY MAIN STREET – DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AND 9<sup>TH</sup>**

More Town of Sykesville fun! Enjoy some cookie deliciousness with your shopping on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> with Cookies on Main Street from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Local shops will have cookie delicacies to offer as you peruse the stores and enjoy the season. Then, on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, you can enjoy more festivities with Merry Main Street. This event will include crafts, storytelling and music.

### **GRACE & ADDICTION SUPPER AT ST. PAUL'S – DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**



**Grace & Addiction Supper**  
Every third Saturday of the month

Saturday, December 16, 2017  
Doors open at 5:30 pm  
Dinner served from 6:00 – 8:00 pm

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
7538 Main St., Sykesville  
(corner of Main & Church Streets)

**Dinner is free.**  
Family and friends are welcome!!!!

## ST. BARNABAS PRAYER LIST

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### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dwight Baglin	Paulette Chabal	Barbara Foxwell	Huston Jacobs
Barbara King	Emily Lewis	Bob Lochran	Rebecca Martinson
Owen McMahan	Jaren Mercer	Fiona Mullen	John Pacak
Sherri Patterson	Jim Peay	James Phelan	Kathy Quick
Steven Simms	Rob Singleton	Peggy Wolf	

### DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ray & Elizabeth Measshick

Ed & Ann Overton

Jack & Jean Redmond

### PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Tammy Andrews	Roy Bozarth	Ashly De'May	Alice Dempsey
Linda Dore	Patti Emery	Michael Grant	Pat Hand
Carol Ketler	Sheldon Lentz	Bob Lochran	Sue Lye
Don May	Fred Mengers	Viviana Mira	Nancy Myers
Dave Patterson	Harold Pipes	Doris Romas	Austin Smith
Ethan Taylor	Gregory Victor	Brian Voyce	Amanda Wendal

### PRAYERS FOR THE DECEASED

Kathryn Storey Brown

### PRAYERS FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Grant Demaree	Ryan Lochran	John Miller	Sarah Zimmerman
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**Office/Church:** 13135 Forsythe Road, Sykesville, Maryland 21784

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