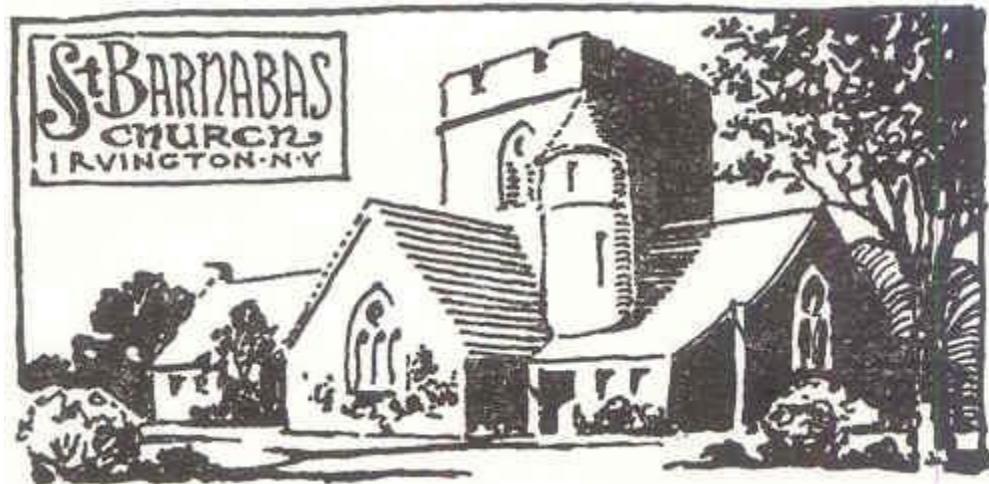


The Church of St. Barnabas

in the Episcopal Diocese of New York



ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH REPORT

2020

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Proposed Vestry Slate

for
The Church of St. Barnabas leadership positions
2021 - 2024

Wardens

Rose Lawson (2022)
David Oakes (2023)

Class of 2024

Katherine Lark
Susan Robinson
Scott Sykes
Clem Turner

Class of 2023

Barbara Mahoney
Pamela Middleton
Carol Morse
Pete Williams

Class of 2022

Frank Fleming
Edward Mielke
Linda Pierpont
Mary-Jo Weber

WORSHIP

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild makes the Church ready for services every week, as well as for weddings, funerals and baptisms. We oversee the beautiful transformation of our worship space at Christmas and Easter, and the more austere transformation at Lent. We also care for the vestments, linens and sacred objects that we use in our worship services, as well as overseeing two complete cleanings of the Church every year.

We thank all who have provided weekly memorial gifts of altar flowers and chapel candles. Particularly during this locked-down time, with only two or three people present in the church to assist with worship each Sunday, the fresh altar flowers and the candle light in the chapel have become poignant and beautiful reminders of our time at St. B's before Covid-19. If you would like to sponsor a memorial, please contact Barbara Wright twright408@hotmail.com.

During the pandemic, the Altar Guild has continued in our mission, with many changes to our procedures and protocols. We will continue to adapt as necessary and look forward to the day when we can all be in Church together. We would enthusiastically welcome anyone who cares to join us. If you are interested, please contact me at sarahwatsongardner@gmail.com.

Sarah Gardner

Altar Guild Treasury Report for 2020:

Checking: \$5,282.53 as of 12/31/20.

Diocesan Investment Trust , as of 11/30/20 is \$46,908.26.

Susan Watson

GREETERS

What an unusual year it has been! Our greeters welcomed members and guests at the close of the Sunday 10am services from January-March while the church was open and operating normally. In March, the church suspended in-person services due to rising Covid cases. In the fall, in-person services resumed from late September to November. A new job called “Greeter/Screener” evolved to welcome parishioners to our services and to conduct Covid safety screenings. Currently, in-person services are once again suspended due to Covid and the Greeter/Screeners are being utilized to screen the staff and readers participating in the virtual services. We all look forward to the day when we can safely worship together in-person and greet you once again!

Our role is to make everyone feel welcome! One of our most important responsibilities is to introduce newcomers to our priest and parishioners. We ask newcomers to sign our visitor’s log. We also send handwritten notes to new prospective members to thank them for coming.

We utilize an online signup system called Sign Up Genius (a free software program). Using the system, greeters can sign up electronically and/or change their schedule during the course of the year. A system generated reminder is sent to each greeter a couple days before they are scheduled to serve. The system has worked well with the cooperation of the greeters.

Our Greeters for 2020-2021 are:

Tania Moore-Barrett
Mary Ann Boothe
Aileen Burnes
Frank and Maureen Connelly
Carolin Dohle and Frank Fleming
Karen Dring
Rose Lawson
Dorothy Maillet
Barbara Mahoney
Natalie Moore
Susan Robinson
Karl and Mary Jo Weber
Margot and Tom Williamson
Barbara Wright
Janet Wynn & Roger Kubarych

Our Greeter/Screeners (during Covid) are:

Rose Lawson
Stan Martin
Pam Middleton
Linda Pierpont
Susan Robinson
Pat Rowan
Laura Seaman
Mary Jo Weber
Karl Weber
Barbara Wright

We are always seeking new volunteers! During the pandemic, we are utilizing Greeter/Screeners who need to arrive in advance of the service to conduct a safety screening of people attending the service. This job requires some onsite training. Under normal conditions, we have Greeters and the job requires approximately 15 minutes of volunteering at the end of the 10am service. You select the weeks you wish to serve and how often you would like to serve. This is an especially good job for a newcomer since it gives you a chance to meet and greet members of the congregation. You'll get to know them and they will get to know you too! Serving as a church greeter is also a good experience for confirmation students. If you are interested in joining our team, please email me at swimmerxyz@aol.com.

Special thanks this year to Barbara Wright who coordinated the Greeter/Screener schedule and readers for each service beginning in the fall during the pandemic.

It is a joy to serve! My thanks and appreciation to all our wonderful volunteers. I look forward to seeing you and greeting you once again in 2021! It will be a blessing to be back in church together with all of you!

Barbara Mahoney

ACOLYTES

Until that fateful weekend last March, when our church went into lockdown and our rector became ill, St. B.'s dedicated corps of acolytes lit the Sunday candles, rang the tower's bell, and led the procession of choir and clergy. If you have subsequently been watching our "LocalLive" services, you will see that Gareth has masterfully adapted to being the only one serving at the altar. But the acolytes by their very presence used to magnify the solemnity and beauty to our worship services. We look forward to the time when the pews, choir stalls and acolyte seats are filled once again.

Looking back over the first three months of 2020, we can recognize the following guild members (listed by length of service): Barrett Seaman (26 years); Barbara Wright (22 years); Susan Robinson (19 years); Karl Weber, Mary Jo Weber and Pam Mitchell (9 years); Josie Dring, Ella Gardner and Isabella Pescetti (5 years). Emmaline LeBuhn and John Mielke (3 years), and Daisy Hodges and Caitlin Thomas (2 years). And in 2020 we were pleased to add Malcolm Marks, Elia Boozer and Julia Smith-Marrone to our group.

The St. Christopher's Guild of Acolytes is a well-balanced, intergenerational ministry that confers dignity and self-appreciation to even the youngest server; everyone benefits.

When in-person worship reconvenes, please speak to Barbara Wright or to Rector Gareth Evans if you would like to participate.

Barbara Wright

LAYREADERS / CHALICE BEARERS

Reading the Bible out loud is a unique way for us to interpret Scripture. And administering the sacraments, as well as praying for those in need thorough the Prayers of the People, is a gift and a privilege. The Layreaders and Chalice Bearers at St. Barnabas have long been an integral part of our weekly worship services.

This dedicated band was called to special duty when the Covid virus shut our doors and disabled our rector in March of 2020. In the weeks that followed Gareth and the vestry began to craft the church's on-line presence, starting with video recordings of weekly scripture readings done from the homes of our layreaders. Eventually Gareth was able to return to celebrate communion without the common cup (hence, no chalice-bearing required), but the need for readers remained and a careful contingent was identified. At the time of this report, only the rector, the organist, soloist, and one of a rotating group of layreaders comprise the worship service on a Sunday.

We look forward to the day when we can safely gather together. But even before then if you would like to join us in the ministry, please contact the rector or Sarah LeBuhn (slebuhn@gmail.com) for more information.

Sarah LeBuhn

USHERS / COUNTERS

As the new year began in January of 2020, there were 16 ushers and 2 counters scheduled to assist in Sunday services for the year. Usher and counter responsibilities include welcoming fellow parishioners as they arrive, coordinating seating and communion lines, and managing the weekly collection. Claire and Mark Hallock coordinated the usher and counter schedule, recruited volunteers and assisted with training. Of course, things changed in March of 2020, with the introduction of the Covid virus, and the church was closed for many months, reopening in the fall on a limited basis for indoor services. Ushering for outdoor services, when they took place in the warmer months, was led by a variety of parishioners who stepped in to help on a weekly basis. Those who offered to serve as ushers -- when indoor and outdoor services were open on a limited, pre-registered basis -- did more than greet people and provide bulletins. They became usher/screeners (scanning temperatures, providing hand sanitizer and masks, and keeping attendance records) helping the parish to stay safe and enact contact tracing, if it became necessary. Even now, with only Gareth, Don, Sandy and a lector at the altar, we have an "usher/screener" on hand. We are all hoping to be back to indoor services as early as possible in 2021 and look forward to continuing and building our ministry in the year ahead.

Claire and Mark Hallock

MUSIC 2020

The sign that still appears on our church door – “CHURCH CLOSED. All meetings, events and worship services at the church are canceled until further notice.” – sort of tells the story for church music and for much else at the church and in life in 2020.

Early in the year, musical things were just getting off the ground, when there was an abrupt end to these and so many other plans, as we know. There was no Holy Week; there was no Easter – at least in a traditional sense and as we have known them.

For the choir and me, when it was determined that singing could be a serious spreader of the virus, it was devastating. It was no longer feasibly safe to field a choir, and it was very sad for us.

Church without music is bread without butter.

Soon, however, Gareth, the wardens, and the vestry commandeered technology to give us some semblance of a church experience. We started streaming services of Morning Prayer with some organ music as a part of the program. Shortly, Gareth upped the ante, as we began doing services of Holy Communion, and then we found a way to involve safely some vocal music into these streamed services.

Now and for the past several months, Sandy Summer-Parks, our soprano section leader, has been providing us with a solo at the offertory for these services (with a shield in front of her to contain the possible virus spread). This “lull” in choir performance has given Sandy and me a chance to explore more extensively the sacred music repertoire for soprano, and we are having a good time doing it. And it was great to have Cabiria Dougherty, alto choir section leader, sing for some services during our Christmas celebrations.

So, it has been a challenge in different ways for all concerned – clergy, musicians, and tech people. At this point, we are not exactly glitch free in our presentations, but we are finding our way there. It is a steep learning curve for all, but we realize that this technology is here to stay and that this expertise will be quite handy in the long run.

But, soon, I am hoping that I will be able to look across the chancel and see those seats filled with choir people and then look out to see a nave full of parishioners. Till then, we must “courage.”

Respectfully submitted,
Donald Butt

SACRAMENTAL RITES OF PASSAGE

BAPTISMS

Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into the life of the Church, which is the Body of Christ. In 2020 the rector officiated at two outdoor baptisms for the following people:
Rowen John Taylor-Mermin (The son of members Kate Taylor and Mike Mermin)
Kieran Huckleberry Byfield (The son of members Kathy and Tim Byfield)

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation is a rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength through the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Bishops were not able to do any confirmations in 2020.

MARRIAGES

There were no marriages performed this past year.

BURIALS

In 2020, Burial of Ashes services were held in the Memorial Garden for the following people:
Nina Assatty (The mother of member Mia Pescetti)
Carol Bergen (The sister of member Mary Ann Boothe)

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Our Memorial Garden is located between the church and the rectory. It is self-supporting, with a budget of its own separate from that of the church. The Garden was dedicated in 1992, and a major portion of the funds for its creation came as a gift from Jessamine Patton Haff in memory of her son, George Danner Kennedy, Jr.

There have been 57 burials to date, including two in 2020. Seventeen plots were also sold during the calendar year just past. For the first time, the Garden opened its East Section, both to reservations and to burials. In February 2020, parish leaders announced plans to increase prices for Memorial Garden plots; those plans have not yet been implemented. A brochure about the Memorial Garden is available.

Chris Mitchell

PARISH LIFE

ANNUAL MEETING

In 2020, the old tradition of combining the Annual Meeting with a Parish Dinner was revived. In 2021, a new vestry will be elected and other business of the church and visions for the future will be discussed. This year's meeting is Sunday, January 24th at 12 noon on Zoom. Zoom meeting ID: 336 690 2690 Passcode: 10533

BREAD AND BANTER

This is a fellowship group for members traditionally referred to as being of "retirement age." It consists of a lively luncheon themed according to the season or an event (e.g. Valentine's Day) closest to the gathering (which meets on the first Tuesday of every month). On average 20 members sit down for lunch, intentional conversation on a spiritual theme and enjoy lively banter led by the rector. Due to COVID restrictions this gathering was suspended in March.

Gareth Evans

COMMUNITY SUPPER

A monthly mid-week gathering for fellowship and spiritual conversation with a speaker from the congregation reflecting on their spiritual journey. Due to COVID restrictions this gathering was suspended in March.

Gareth Evans

WOMEN'S GROUP

A group of roughly 8 to 15 women gather weekly to pray, listen, discern and share their stories. This group met in person on a weekly basis between January and March, followed by a few months of online weekly meetings and reflection. Since summer, it is taking a break and we look forward to regathering consistently at some point in 2021!

Fran Bean Evans

CONNECTED PARENTING

Parents of children of all ages have gather monthly with a meal followed by programming that has delved into themes in parenting including forgiveness, reconciliation, how time is spent, visioning work, themes of generosity and abundance, and the challenges and pleasures of raising children in family structures that are unique to our families of origin. We met in person in the early months of 2020, followed by an online group but it just wasn't the same as our in person gatherings, cut short because of Covid. We are very excited to continue this program in the near future!

Fran Bean Evans

YOUTH GROUP – Grades 8-12

St. Barnabas' Youth Ministry is designed for the Middle and High School students to develop faith-based relationships through thought-provoking conversation, fellowship, and service. In order to achieve and realize this aim we engage in service projects, small group discussions, fellowship building activities. We accomplish this through special events and in our bi-weekly Sunday night meetings. The 2020 year although a difficult year yet as a group we were able to still be active. Led by Fran Bean, the group gathered for a conversation (concurrently with Parenting Teen group) in January about race and racism. In February, Fran took the group ice-skating together. In March Covid restrictions began. In the summer our youth helped to execute The Village of Irvington first Juneteenth event. The group was relaunched in October as the HIVE under Kelli Scott's leadership. The HIVE name was suggested by our rector which resonates with "St. Bee's." The metaphor of bees and the hive speaks to a sweet place of productivity and gathering. In that same metaphorical spirit, we also rolled out the youth newsletter called The Buzz. In November, we held a successful food drive for Tarrytown Food Pantry. In the fall, bi-weekly meetings held in-person and they continue via zoom for the winter. We are excited about what the future has in store and look forward to the journey together.

-Kelli Scott and Jamer Linares

PARENTING TEENS

This group ran concurrently with youth group in January and February for the parents of those in youth group and was led by the rector. This group gathering was suspended in March.

Fran Bean-Evans

NURSERY

We only had a few months of nursery care for our youngest children. The nursery at St Barnabas provides children who are too young for Sunday School child care during the 10am service on Sunday mornings. Currently we staff this with teen volunteers. Janet Krzemienski has been coordinating the volunteers. Thanks to the dedicated crew of 9th-12th graders including Josie Dring, Jordan Lenz, Livi Mielke, Tyler Mielke, Robert Quigley, Walter Hoffman, Lexy Downes, Ellie Knudson & Katie LeBuhn. Pinch hitting adults have been a great help including Rose Lawson. Thanks to all who help with this great ministry. We can always use more teen volunteers! Feel free to reach out if interested.

Linda Pierpont

BOOK GROUP

The Saint Barnabas Book Group meets about once a month, currently on Zoom, and is open to all, including non-parishioners. While there are several people who come regularly, anyone is welcome to come to any meeting if they happen to see that we are discussing a book that interests them. We take turns choosing the books. If you would like more information, or would like to receive email updates, please contact Lea at paintmoth@gmail.com.

Here is a list of the books that we read this year, and their authors:

American Pastoral, Philip Roth
The Inheritance of Loss, Kiran Desai
The Night Watchman, Louise Erdrich
Girl, Woman, Other, Bernardine Evaristo
Clay's Quilt, Silas House

Beneath a Scarlet Sky, Mark Sullivan
Autobiography of Malcolm X, Malcolm X
A Man Called Ove, Fredrik Backman

Lea Carmichael Richardson

THRIFT SALE 2020

Due to the Covid19 Pandemic the 2020 Thrift Sale was cancelled. We currently have a fully stocked basement ready for a future sale whenever that may be. We have restricted donations since March, due to the lack of space available to store the donations.

Mary Mielke

COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY

The communications committee got off to a fast start in 2020, stepping-up in its first two months of operation to work with the wardens in filling the “worship vacuum” created by the global pandemic. We found ourselves shifting from big-picture strategies and long-term planning in March to designing “guerrilla communications” solutions for keeping parishioners informed and maintaining access to spiritual content in a virtual environment. While Gareth recovered from COVID, we introduced iPhone-video readings by church members posted to our website and YouTube. We temporarily disbanded the InCommon newsletter, but shared important updates through email messages from the wardens. We also used that time of isolation to completely re-design and upgrade the church website. When Gareth returned, Kelli Scott began videotaping sermons that were shared as online links. By late spring, with talk of church limited re-openings, the committee helped survey the congregation about how best to move forward. There was a strong desire for continued access to services via online links. Meeting this need resulted in re-wiring the sanctuary for camera installations and live transmission of services by LocalLive, a national video services company. As some church-related activities adapted to pandemic conditions through use of Zoom technology, we re-designed and re-launched the InCommon newsletter to share information about how groups could stay connected. Over the past month, our committee has begun planning for 2021. On deck for the new year is the formalization of an internship program with Mercy College’s School of Communications, a rebuild of our online calendar, further enhancements to our sound system (to improve the fidelity of both online and—hopefully soon!—in-person services), and better leveraging a range of social media platforms to raise our church profile and attract attendees. These enhancements will also help us better support success of our programs and fund-raising initiatives once they are back in full swing. We are grateful for the support of the St. B community as we tried to manage through a challenging time with limited resources. We continue to focus on ways to improve outreach platforms and quality. And we welcome feedback and new ideas!

Pete Williams & Pam Middleton

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This Sunday School year has certainly not been like any we've had before. We started the year on a high note - settling in to the Godly Play curriculum we re-introduced last fall. As our teachers got increasingly comfortable with the format and setup, we could see the children responding how we'd hoped and we thought we were on an upward trajectory.

And then the world changed. For the first few months of remote services, we had no active Sunday School offering for our children. Then one day, Carolin Dohle (bless you, Carolin) asked "could we do Sunday School over Zoom?" Well, yes we could. Starting in early May, we invited our children to participate in a half-hour "class" prior to the 10am service. We rotated teaching duties and asked our children to help tell the stories. While the Zoom format presented some challenges, we all appreciated the opportunity to see each other's faces and feel a sense of community.

As we approached the fall, the teaching team agreed that if there was any way we could provide an in-person experience for the children, that would be preferable to anything we could offer remotely. We decided to try an outdoor, socially-distanced class in the backyard in conjunction with the 4pm service in the front yard. We all felt that this experiment was a great success. The reception from our families was quite positive and we averaged 8-10 children per week. We held classes from the end of September until the end of November when restrictions on the size of in-person gatherings required us to suspend things.

With Christmas approaching, we all felt strongly that we needed to provide some type of pageant experience for any children that were interested in participating. Enter the Amazing Byfields, Kathy and Tim. Working with a script Gareth supplied, our in-house costumes and a small band of eager actors, they put together a delightful video production of the nativity story which was broadcast on Christmas Eve. If you haven't had a chance to see it yet, please do. It's wonderful.

When I write this recap for the Annual Report every year, I always praise our teaching team for their dedication and effort. That sentiment feels inadequate in a year like this one. Not only did they exhibit those qualities as always, but they did it in person. They showed up in the middle of a pandemic to teach other people's children in person. Incredible. I cannot thank them enough. We cannot thank them enough. They are: Rebecca Barrett, Fran Bean, Carolin Dohle, Sarah Gardner, Hanna Gyory and Clem Turner. You all are amazing.

Gabrielle Boozer

REPAIR

Launched in spring, 2015, Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race (REPAIR) is a community of Westchester citizens determined to play our part in bringing racial healing and justice to our society. REPAIR is sponsored by St Barnabas and four other Episcopal churches in Tarrytown, Briarcliff Manor, and Ossining. Members of the REPAIR organizing committee include our rector Gareth Evans, Lee Richardson, and Karl Weber, and a number of other members of the St Barnabas community have been participants and leaders within the organization.

During 2020, REPAIR continued to hold its regular monthly meetings, which included educational presentations by guest speakers, in-depth discussions of timely issues, and sharing of personal stories that deepened our understanding of our society and ourselves. Through February, these meetings were hosted live by our church sponsors, but with the coming of the pandemic we switched to holding virtual meetings via Zoom. Our most popular events this year included a panel with community leaders about how our communities have been impacted by COVID-19 (May); a discussion of the issue of reparations for slavery that included presentations by three experts on the topic (July); and a pre-election program focused on how to exercise your right to vote in safety and confidence (October).

All are welcome to attend REPAIR meetings, and regular attendance, though encouraged, is not necessary to enjoy and benefit from the learning and fellowship provided.

Karl Weber

OUTREACH

2020 OUTREACH CLOTHING SALE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Outreach Clothing Sale held in November had to be cancelled for the first time since its inception. Health and safety permitting, we hope to resume in 2021.

Linda Pierpont & Cathy Hansen

2020 VINTAGE SUMMER SALE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Vintage Summer Sale, normally held in July, had to be cancelled. Health and safety permitting, we hope to resume in 2021.

Linda Pierpont & Cathy Hansen

2020 UNDERCROFT COMMITTEE REPORT

When the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in March, the basement was nearing capacity to store donations for the annual Thrift Sale. With lockdowns in place, we suspended all sorting and posted signage asking for no new donations. In May, the annual Thrift Sale was cancelled, and the committee has not yet been able to return to work. It is still to be determined what will happen with all of the thrift that is still in the basement.

In 2019, this committee reported that we were looking for volunteers to join the committee as we have been doing the work for over ten years and were looking to transition out of the weekly commitment. The pandemic has forced a break in the cycle of donations, and this break provides a good opportunity to rethink whether St. Barnabas wants to continue to receive thrift donations year-round on our doorstep. Much of what happens with this committee will be driven by whether or not the annual Thrift Sale is restarted, and if it is, whether it has the same format or something new.

Cathy Hansen, Barbara Wright & Sarah Gardner

REFUGEE FAMILY RESETTLEMENT MINISTRY

Over the past several years, St. Barnabas volunteers have worked hard to fulfill Matthew 25:35's edict to 'help the stranger' by assisting refugee and asylee families who have been resettled in Westchester County. Each of our families have been granted official status by the US Government, and we've worked to help them build a bridge between their old lives and their future as Americans. Our most recent family has Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) status, thanks to their prior service to our country, so helping them resettle has been a particular privilege and honor.

We've just finished our commitment and look forward to supporting new families going forward. St Barnabas has served as a base of operations for this effort, and we've been meeting regularly with other community groups to coordinate the donation of time, talent and treasure. This is an interfaith and community-wide effort, and has already provided critical help to numerous families. We look forward to helping even more new Americans in 2020!

Contact *Steve Grieder* if you'd like to know more about this ministry: rivertownsforrefugees@gmail.com

MIDNIGHT RUN

Midnight Run is a volunteer organization dedicated to finding common ground between the housed and the homeless. Midnight Run began in 1984 when a group from South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Ferry, decided to volunteer at a Manhattan soup kitchen. After noticing that some of the homeless were taking extra food, they investigated, and discovered that there were substantial numbers of the homeless who were not coming to the soup kitchens. Rather, a few of the homeless poor had started an informal system to distribute excess food to their friends on the street. For the last three decades, St. Barnabas has coordinated 'Midnight Run' every four weeks, from September through June. Yes, even in this pandemic we are going on the Contactless Mini Midnight Runs!

In 2020 we had January 24th, February 18th run before pandemic stopped our usual runs with soup, coffee and clothing supplies.

I am grateful to have Jim Smyth who is still going on Midnight Run for us.

We still make 100 sandwiches for each run that will make 50 bags. Each bag has 2 sandwiches and a water bottle, apple, snacks, napkins, Purell wipes with toiletries, hats, gloves, socks and underwear.

May 31st, Jessica, Ryan & Janine Thompson made 36 sandwiches.

May 31st, July 6th, October 16th, November 19th, Lexy and Scarlett Downes made 3 dozen sandwiches with Julia Downes!

Lita Porter from Christ Church in Tarrytown made 36 sandwiches and James Sears made the rest and assembled toiletries.

2020 was a heartbreakin year but I am truly humbled by God's amazing grace as we help one another not to forget our homeless friends in New York City during this pandemic.

Our next run is January 27th, Wednesday. Please text me if you would like to help make sandwiches or donate toiletries or paper/cloth shopping bags. 914-582-8490.

With Love and Gratitude,
Jean Sears

YONKERS FOOD PANTRY

St. Barnabas has contributed regularly for many years to the Yonkers Food Pantry in the Salvation Army Community Center on New Main Street, Yonkers. We were continuing to do the same when virus restrictions began in March; since then we have not contributed. The teenagers are working on Food Pantry donations this year for Tarrytown, and their efforts may be a better use of our donations for now.

Pam Mitchell

KIDS' OUTREACH

Kids outreach activities were put on hold since the March shutdown. If anyone has ideas for projects for Sunday School age children it would be great to make plans for when things get back to normal.

Linda Pierpont

USE OF FACILITIES WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Our church is the host to The Irvington Childrens Center as our main tenant. The 2020 year started off as their regular program. Then when everything shut down, they needed to revamp and meet the needs of the pandemic closure and school changes. Currently they are using an edited schedule and have fewer children. We have worked with them to allow for their reduced attendance re: their rent.

As of the shut down all other outside groups have been put on hold.

Linda Pierpont

PROPERTY

2020 PROPERTY REPORT

This was not a year for larger projects. Property work was limited to addressing a few preexisting and new problems:

- *Driveway entry lighting* We did not install the architectural lighting of the church exterior promised at last year's annual meeting, but we did add new copper light fixtures to the tops of the granite columns at the church driveway, making entering the lot from Broadway much easier and safer.
- *Sanctuary slate roof assessment* Except for a small section of the Rectory roof, the church's slate roof is the only roof area on the property that has not been replaced within the last 4 years. Russ Watsky,

the Diocese's roof consultant who has guided us on this work, inspected the roof and prepared a report recommending the slate be replaced within the next 10 years at an estimated cost of over \$250,000.

- *Rector chimney repair:* The westernmost Rector chimney, the only one not repaired during 2019 roof replacement work, was re-set and mortared.
- *Colwell Hall oil tank replacement:* The old tanks were no longer usable and were replaced.
- *Removal of dead and downed trees:* The August storm Isaias severely damaged several trees in the rear yard near the Aqueduct, which were removed along with the large piles of branches that had accumulated over a number of years. This area, which has been neglected and unused for many years, can now be reimagined for new uses and planting.

With the conclusion of my 6 years on the vestry, I am concurrently stepping down as Property Chair and handing the reins to Steve Grieder. I ask everyone to help him as you are able, from offering compliments or helpful suggestions to contributing your time and skills. I will continue to assist with Property for the time being, especially to help improving the grounds. With some perspective gained over the last few years, there are a few areas in addition to the slate roof that I hope can be addressed in the near or medium future:

- *Structural and engineering assessment:* The pandemic pushed back the vestry's effort to hire a consultant to prepare an assessment of the capital condition of the various buildings on the property, particularly the useful life and expected replacement cost of the heating, electrical, and plumbing systems including boilers. This study can also determine what would be needed to install air conditioning in the sanctuary and its cost.
- *Architectural lighting of church exterior:* Our beautiful historic church is a dark, brooding pile at night. Lighting, which can be done at a relatively modest cost, will make it a beacon.
- *McCormick Lounge building:* This structure, which includes the choir room, offices, and nursery, is functionally obsolescent from a programming and operating cost standpoint. There is no interior ADA access to the sanctuary, the building is woefully energy-inefficient and expensive to heat and cool, there is no dedicated meeting space, and the aesthetics fall well below the beauty of the sanctuary and parish hall. Previous efforts to decide what to do have faltered. I believe it's time to develop plans and a cost estimate for a new structure.
- *Elevator for Sunday School wing:* This would create ADA access to the Roane Room and other 2nd floor spaces and could also reach the basement, eliminating the need to take down and bring up all the sale items by stairs.
- *Clean energy:* The church uses expensive, polluting fuel oil and propane for heat everywhere and for air conditioning the McCormack Lounge. There is no natural gas service and our part of Westchester continues to be under a moratorium for new connections, so we have been unable to pursue converting our boilers to gas. Heat pumps for our needs will be very expensive and require digging up a large area of the grounds and possibly harming significant trees. The cost of solar power, while dropping, is still significant and there are complications such as inconveniently-placed trees and the need to protect the look of historic buildings. But new clean energy technologies such as solar roof tiles and new subsidy programs from the feds and state will likely be forthcoming, and we should be ready to take advantage.

Michael Bradley, Property Chair

FINANCE

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

As of January 15, 2021, The Church held the following amounts in its Diocesan Investment Trust Accounts:

| | 2020 | 2019 |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Permanent Property Trust | \$1,674,631 | \$1,590,315 |
| Altar Guild | 46,908 | 42,822 |
| Music Fund | 183,479 | 167,495 |
| Capital Campaign Account | 97,014 | 88,562 |
| Columbarium | <u>52,444</u> | <u>40,592</u> |
| Total | \$2,054,476* | \$1,929,786* |

Cynthia Ferguson

Finance Committee

*as of November 30, 2020 and November 30, 2019

2020 TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

St. Barnabas was blessed with the unflagging support of our parishioners who kept up pledges, even when we were separated by pandemic-required restrictions, and the collection plate wasn't being passed.

Both Clothing Sales and the Thrift Sales were cancelled, so the revenues disappeared, but so did the associated expenses. With less church use, some operating expenses also fell. Where controllable, the vestry tabled discretionary spending.

As a result, St. Barnabas ended 2020 with a surplus, which has been set aside to fund future property expenses, a significant consideration in tending our historic worship space, and beautiful, but aging, buildings.

Looking ahead in 2021, your Finance Committee and Vestry assembled a conservative, balanced budget. It assumes pandemic restrictions persist for the whole year. We hope normalcy resumes, but we are prepared if it doesn't.

St. Barnabas continues to be in a strong financial position, thanks to our generous parishioners who give of their treasure (measured in the Pledge, Plate & Other line below) and of their time and talents, which are equally as important, as they keep our expenses manageable.

| Income | <u>Actual 2020</u> | <u>Budget 2021</u> |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pledge, Plate & Other | \$530,914 | \$484,711 |
| Thrift Sale | 1,565 | 0 |
| Clothing Sale | 966 | 0 |
| Use of Facilities | <u>40,300</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total Revenue | \$573,745 | \$484,711 |
| Expense | | |
| Clergy | | |
| Salaries | \$89,033 | \$88,929 |
| Pension & Insurance | 76,113 | 80,800 |
| All other (chiefly rectory) | 10,917 | 13,825 |
| Christian Education | 6,435 | 12,750 |
| Music | 41,794 | 42,527 |
| Plant and Property | 110,801 | 113,161 |
| Administration | 82,037 | 76,008 |
| Thrift & Clothing Sales | 0 | 0 |
| Diocesan Assessment | 57,076 | 55,489 |
| Outreach | <u>145</u> | <u>0</u> |
| Total Expense | \$474,351 | \$483,489 |
| Income less Expense | \$99,394 | \$1,222 |
| Property & other reserve draw | (\$99,394) | \$0 |
| Net Surplus at End of Year | \$0 | \$1,222 |

Diane Potter

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

EVERY PIECE COUNTS - Stewardship 2021

The financial goal of the Stewardship 2021 Campaign was set at \$400,000 in pledges. That goal was based on the Vestry's Draft 2021 budget but also adjusted for conservatism related to the possibility of financial hardships caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2021 goal was approximately 6% lower than last year's \$425,00 goal.

To reach our financial goal, we developed a plan with Gareth for the campaign that sought also to achieve important non-financial goals. One such goal was to enhance parishioners' sense of belonging to and connection with the St. Barnabas community at a time when we have been unable to gather in-person. Another goal was to support parishioners' thinking for the future by ensuring that our church could continue to function during the pandemic and be ready to resume our normal parish life when conditions permit. We also wanted to reinforce with each parishioner at a time when important aspects of our lives have been taken from our control that every piece counts - that each of us can make a difference with a pledge of any amount.

The 2021 Stewardship Campaign kicked off on October 18, 2020 and officially ended on November 22, 2020, although we received pledges into December. As in the past, the Campaign included a mailed packet containing letters from the rector and the stewardship co-chairs, information on why and how to pledge, including budget and past pledging pattern data; email communications and reports throughout the campaign period, and preaching on the theology of giving from the abundance we have received through the grace of God. We also added a video message for parishioners this year given the Covid-19 pandemic and our inability to gather in-person for weekly church services as in the past. Finally, and importantly, a generous pledge of \$500 for each new pledge or pledge that remained the same or increased compared to last year from a parish family inspired and encouraged us to do our own best with our pledge. This year we tried using a prominent "Make Your 2021 Pledge" button on our church website to facilitate pledging and 41% of this year's pledges utilized the online option.

As of December 31, 2020, there were 97 pledges for a total, of \$485,710. There were 25 (26%) pledge increases, 40 (42%) pledges that remained the same, and 17 (18%) pledge decreases. We received 15 new pledges bringing parish participation in pledging to 80% based on 120 active members/families, up from 78% the previous year. The average pledge was \$5,007, a 2% increase over last year while the median pledge was \$2,500, compared to \$2,550 last year. The portion of pledges coming from the top ten donors continued the downward trend and decreased a small but significant amount, from 39% last year to 38% this year.

We are grateful to the entire parish for their commitment to our St. Barnabas community through their financial support throughout the year, and particularly for the kindness and enthusiasm shown to us throughout the Campaign. We are deeply thankful to Sue Stanley for her dedication and untiring office support throughout the campaign, to Jody Hansen and Rose Lawson for cheerful and ever ready help with data and communications, and to Cynthia Ferguson for her expert help with pledges of stock. Finally, we thank Gareth whose guidance, creativity and responsiveness were integral to the success of the campaign.

Respectfully,

Jane Gunnison
Stewardship Co-Chair

David Oakes
Stewardship Co-Chair

RECTOR'S REPORT

Introduction

Since our church's incorporation in 1858, I am not aware of any documented disruption to the weekly pattern of worship and congregational life at St. Barnabas, that is until the pandemic of 2020. The year began according to the familiar patterns of parish life. Bathed in Epiphany light, the sanctuary and parish hall promised spiritual, social and faith formational gatherings as usual. In January, I hosted a "Bread and Banter" luncheon for seniors, Fran led a youth group session on Ibram X. Kendi's book, "How To Be An AntiRacist" and Karl Weber hosted a large REPAIR meeting that explored the history of racism in Westchester County. We proceeded in similar fashion as we gathered for a wonderful Annual Meeting and dinner; and we held our annual Shrove Tuesday talent show, at which the children and adults of the parish showcased their various talents. Epiphany gave way to Lent and I proceeded with "Ashes-to-Go" at the Irvington train station, garnering publicity for the parish, thanks to the coverage we received throughout the day on Channel 12. The various pieces of our program year were falling into place, including our Annual Grants Dinner held some forty-eight hours prior to the Governor of New York's Executive Order stating that gatherings we were used to holding were no longer allowed. The Bishop of New York promptly issued a letter calling on all parishes to close their doors beginning March 14th. COVID-19 had arrived and parish life, as we had known it in its various iterations, fell to pieces.

On the morning of March 14th, I texted the Wardens from my bed to let them know I was too sick to lead the inaugural online worship service. The following Saturday, I received a call from the Westchester Board of Health to let me know that I had tested positive for COVID-19. I was in unfamiliar territory, and so was the parish. Looking back, I am so grateful to Wardens Jody Hansen and Rose Lawson for their tremendous kindness to me, personally, as we figured out how best to manage the emerging sense of crisis. Jody's experience guiding the parish through the recent interim period stood him and, therefore all of us, in good stead. He was incredibly helpful to me, Rose and to the Vestry as we all faced the overnight change in circumstances. I will always remember his kind and calm approach to that very difficult moment, and his capacity for carefully laying out the options and building consensus the best way forward (which is very much his modus operandi). Jody deserves our unreserved thanks for his guiding hand under the most stressful of circumstances as he steps down from being a Warden.

In those early days, Rose and Jody organized parishioners to:

- Lead Evening Prayer and offer Scripture readings online.
- They reached out to The Rev. Susan Copley, rector of Christ Church, Tarrytown, at the time, in order that our parish could join with Christ Church for online Sunday worship.
- The Wardens and Vestry organized a parish-wide survey to ascertain the likelihood of members returning to church when we re-opened. Not surprisingly, two-thirds of the congregation responded by saying they would not return to church until there was a vaccine.
- The Vestry also began the necessary work of designing safety protocols and procedures to safeguard those who came into church to work and those who would eventually return to church to worship.

It almost goes without saying that this was an incredibly challenging time to be on the Vestry, as in- person meetings ceased and important decisions had to be made via Zoom. Nevertheless, our Vestry members were able to develop a safety plan for our church that has proved to be sound and durable, and they deserve our heartfelt thanks for all the hours they put into this process. Furthermore, they were able to embody a spirit of deep determination and resolve as they exercised their leadership in support of racial justice and equity in two very significant ways:

- The Vestry issued a "Vestry Statement on Racial Justice" grounded in the Baptismal Covenant, found on p.305 of The Book of Common Prayer.
- The Vestry co-sponsored a Juneteenth Celebration of African-American culture in the village, which was a tremendous success and marked a significant outreach effort under the most trying of circumstances.

I am particularly grateful to retiring Vestry members Michael Bradley and Susan Watson for their service and leadership during an extraordinarily busy year. I remain grateful to our volunteer bookkeeper Diane Potter who

has steadily and with dedicated steadfastness, “looked after our books.” LAST BUT BY NO MEANS LEAST: It has been a balm and a blessing to work with Sue Stanley in the office over this past year of pandemic-related challenges. She is kind, patient and a delight to work with in all seasons and under all circumstances.

These are the highlights and achievements of 2020, as I see them in the various realms of parish life:

Pastoral Care

On the eve of the parish lockdown, Barbara Wright and I recognized the necessity of ensuring that members felt connected and cared for, in the absence of in-person gatherings. Little did Barbara and I anticipate that I would become an early and urgent recipient of pastoral care as the parish entered the lockdown. I am so grateful for the practical support, prayers and messages that sustained the rectory household as I, my wife Fran and our house-guest, Kelli Scott contracted COVID-19. With three small children to care for, it was a Godsend to have members of the parish shop for us and check in on us during that March-April timeframe which culminated in Kelli needing to be hospitalized.

When I returned to active duties at Easter, I instigated the formation of an extended Pastoral Care team which came together very quickly and:

- Set the goal of contacting every member of the parish by phone.
- Held weekly meetings via Zoom with a team of a dozen or so parishioners who each had a clutch of households with whom they were regularly in touch.
- Kept the rector abreast of pastoral needs as they arose.

This group was vital to creating a sense of connection and mutual support, at a time when the “new normal” left members feeling isolated and stressed. By mid-July, the pandemic no longer felt so immediate and overwhelming, and so the team scaled back their phone calls. I began calling individual members before my own vacation in August; and continued those one-on-one conversations reaching 140 out of the 147 households on our list by year’s end.

Communications

I am grateful to the Vestry for having the foresight to appoint Kelli Scott as Interim Communications Coordinator, just as the lockdown began in March. Prior to the lockdown in February, the newly formed Communications Committee began to work on “technology systems” in the sanctuary and in other areas of the church, including plans for a new website. Here’s how the process unfolded:

- Kelli convened coffee hour conversations in McCormack Lounge which informed the visioning work of the newly formed Communications Team ably led by Vestry members Peter Williams and Pam Middleton.
- In March Peter and Kelli sourced and set up the equipment we needed to begin broadcasting services remotely.
- In April the new parish website was launched.
- In April, Susan Brunenavs handed off the production of the weekly e-blast to Kelli Scott ably supported by Dodie Maillet, Pam Middleton and Rose Lawson.

As Kelli herself, succumbed to COVID-19 in late March, the Communications Team pushed ahead with the planning and launch of the new parish website to take advantage of the pandemic-driven shift to greater online activity. The culmination of this “technology systems make-over” was the Vestry’s decision to outsource our Sunday worship broadcasting to LocalLive, a professional HD streaming service based in Connecticut. By Christmas, we were able to offer a palette of both worship and non-worship offerings that signaled our growing competency and ease with “virtual church” life. Most recently, Seyi Macaulay has joined the team, who along with Rose Lawson and myself, meet on a weekly basis. Both Peter Williams and Pam Middleton deserve our thanks for the hours they have invested in this area of parish life, and for the ongoing results which augur well for the post-pandemic era. Susan Brunenavs also deserves a huge “thank you” for producing the e-blast over a number of years.

Worship

It goes without saying that worship across our diocese was severely impacted by the pandemic. Like so many parishes, we adapted literally overnight to the new reality of broadcasting worship via Zoom, Facebook and YouTube. Initially, I offered:

- Non-eucharistic worship based on the Service of Morning Prayer.
- Moved to offering the Holy Eucharist, both indoors and out-of-doors, which made sense when we re-opened with limited in-person attendance.

Throughout this time, our Choir Director and Organist, Donald Butt has been a steady and reliable presence; and I am very grateful to him for our shared ministry during this extraordinary period of adaptivity and upheaval to normal parish life. I am also grateful to our paid soloist Sandy Summer-Parks, who sang almost weekly throughout 2020 and added so much to the liturgy in the absence of the Canterbury Choir.

The incorporation of Digital Church was necessitated by the crisis we found ourselves in. Our tradition is, in essence “analogue,” in that it involves the receiving of bread and wine in mystical communion with God and one another. I look forward to the day when that deep sense of longing and sacrifice that many of our members feel is replaced by joy and delight as we gather together once again. At the same time, to embrace the opportunity to broadcast our worship connects us with the housebound, those too sick to attend church or those who are traveling away from home. Our liturgical reach is no longer bound by geography, and that will be the ongoing digital dividend post-COVID. Furthermore, we now have the capacity to reach those who are searching for a church community even before they cross the threshold of the church, given that our worship services are available for viewing on-line. Our digital output will become more available to prospective members, as we grow our social media presence in 2021.

Out of a desire to offer an in-person worship service to those who were not comfortable worshipping inside, I introduced an informal outdoor Sunday afternoon communion service in the Fall. This proved a popular option for families, in particular, and I intend to offer this service again in the Spring.

Children’s Formation and Learning

Our ministry to the youngest members of church was severely curtailed in 2020. However, the “Godly Play” Curriculum overseen by Gabrielle Boozer was offered initially online and then in conjunction with the outdoor service on Sunday afternoons. I am grateful to our teachers for adapting to an outdoor classroom environment, and I look forward to working with Gabrielle and the teaching team in the Spring when outdoor Sunday school becomes an option again. I am incredibly grateful to Gabrielle for her amazing ministry to our youngsters during a particularly challenging year.

As Christmas approached and it became clear that we couldn’t hold a Nativity Pageant indoors, I decided to develop a pageant script that would utilize the grounds of the church. I approached members Kathy and Tim Byfield to film and produce the pageant given their professional expertise in Children’s television production. I am so grateful to them for bringing this unique and highly affective pageant project to fruition. I am so grateful to Gabrielle Boozer and the Sunday School participants, who threw themselves into their various roles and to the parents who organized for their children to take part. I am also grateful to the Irvington Presbyterian Church for letting us borrow their “Live Creche” tent/stable which took one of their members a good 90 minutes to assemble on our behalf.

Youth

I am grateful to staff member, Kelli Scott and volunteer member, Jamer Linares for “taking the youth group leadership baton” from Fran Bean and running with a refreshed and rejuvenated program of events this past Fall. One of the exciting outcomes of our teens gathering together in 2020 was a sense that their voice should be represented on the Vestry, as it is in other parishes. Consequently, the Vestry agreed to a Youth liaison attending Vestry meetings in 2021. The youth members selected Matthew Williams to attend meetings on their behalf.

Adult Formation

Creating opportunities for formation, connection and deepening relationships represented something of a challenge, given the shift away from in-person gathering to online offerings. These are the groups that continued to meet via Zoom in 2020:

- Women's Meditation and Study Group led by Fran Bean.
- Connected Parenting led by Fran Bean and the rector.
- St. Barnabas Book Group led by Lea Richardson.
- REPAIR: Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race led by Karl Weber.

Adult Learning

In the spirit of adaptation and a desire to continue to create opportunities for spiritual growth and learning, these are courses offered in 2020:

- Bible Study on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings which is focused on reading the whole Bible in one year.
- Approaches to the Bible on Wednesday nights which explores the types of literature in the Bible and interpretative methods.
- An Advent program, "Come s' up with me" that combined poetry, Bible and prayerful reflection as well as a glass of wine or non-alcoholic beverage for those who took part.
- Sunday Sermons: I continue to share the texts of my sermons, as requested.

Fellowship

As alluded to at the beginning of this report, opportunities for regular fellowship were halted mid-March. Coffee hour via Zoom became the moment in the week for fellowship and continues to have a small but consistent following.

Outreach

Finding opportunities for outreach in 2020 required creativity and adaptivity in the midst of all the restrictions placed upon the church and the local community. That said, here's how we were able to make a meaningful impact on our community in 2020:

In response to the calls for Racial Justice and Equity across our nation, The Vestry agreed to co-sponsor the inaugural celebration of Juneteenth in the village of Irvington, spearheaded by staff member Kelli Scott. This was a major outreach opportunity for St. Barnabas, the local activist community of Irvington and a moment of pride for those members of our church who both volunteered and participated in this celebratory event. It was covered in the local press and on local television, attracting the attention of State and local representatives who attended and spoke at the event. Bp. Mary Glasspool gave the opening blessing which marked the start of an immersive celebration of African-American Arts and Culture, unique in the history of Irvington and one that is set to continue this coming year.

- Our youth led a food drive to support the Community Food Pantry in Tarrytown at a time when supplies were at an all-time low given the huge increase in demand for food. Their efforts raised awareness of the food pantry's pressing need which also helped to generate financial donations to the pantry. I remain grateful to Barbara Mahoney for all that she does to forward the mission of the pantry as a board member and church member.
- Our Diocesan Share, which was close to a biblical tithe of 10% of our revenues, supported parishes in the Diocese with lessor means than St. Barnabas, Episcopal missions overseas and important Diocesan activities and operations, not least the Diocesan offices and staff.

Our Buildings

Due to the shutdown and need to safeguard the health and well-being of all concerned, access to our buildings was very limited this past year. Consequently, we did not host the various recovery groups that, under normal circumstances, make use of the Children's wing, Colwell Hall and the McCormack Lounge. All Sales were cancelled and the Irvington Children's Center operated with vastly reduced number of children on site. All in

all, this was a year like no other in terms of how our facilities were utilized and impacted by the effects of COVID-19. However, Michael Bradley continued to plan for and manage a number of projects that needed to be “taken care of” (this is very much Michael’s phrase). As he steps down from the Building Committee and refocuses his attention to the grounds of the church, I wish to wholeheartedly thank him for his patience, attention to detail and the understated way in which he has exercised good stewardship of the church’s resources. He deserves our unequivocal thanks for all that he has done to take care of our historic fabric and grounds in recent years.

Our Stewardship

Thank you to everyone in the parish for responding so generously to this year’s, “Every Piece Counts” Stewardship Campaign. Under the most extraordinary of circumstances and against all predictions, we ended the financial year in excellent shape and enter 2021 in a strong position to answer God’s call to ministry and mission. Many, many thanks to Jane Gunnison and David Oakes for running an exceedingly good Stewardship Campaign again this past Fall, which gained great momentum as it went along, thanks in part to the generous “value-added” incentive offered to new and existing pledgers. In a year that was so challenging for everyone, I am so grateful to the parish for such an outpouring of financial support, which stands for the love and hope that binds us together and will sustain us as the pandemic recedes and the fullness of parish life returns.

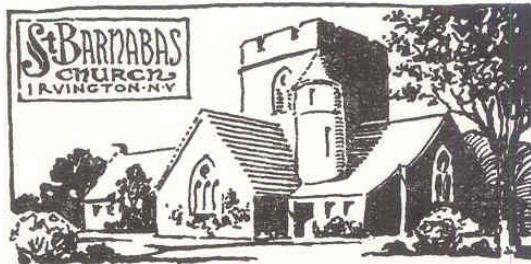
Diocesan and Local Leadership

- I continue to serve as Dean of Hudson North Deanery.
- I stood for election to the Diocesan Standing Committee and was a couple of votes shy of being elected. I was honored to be asked to stand and to do my canonical duty, “to take my share in the councils of the Church.”
- I continue to serve on iASK (Irvington About Safe Kids) a coalition of community leaders charged with promoting teen safety and wellbeing.
- I also serve on Irvington’s Community Advisory Board.
- Along with Kelli Scott and Mayor Brian Smith I am a part of a panel called, “Difficult Conversations” that was conceived after a live panel conversation that took place at the Juneteenth Celebration and now continues once a month on-line.
- I led prayers and spoke at rallies for Racial Justice in Irvington and Dobbs Ferry.
- I led prayers at the village commemorations of 9/11 and Veterans Day.

Submitted by

Gareth C. Evans, Rector

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