

# Saint Barnabas Parish

## February 2008

# Fresh New News

### *Busier than Busy*

Dean Samuel Lloyd of Washington, D.C.'s National Cathedral (whose official name is The Episcopal Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul) writes in a recent article in the Anglican Digest about James Gleick's book, *Faster*, whose sub-title is *The Acceleration of Just About Everything*.

In his book, Gleick explores the meaning of time, and how that has changed. Nowadays, everything has to do with speed, efficiency, production rates, multitasking, and making every minute count. Lloyd refers to such currently published books as *30 Second Bedtime Stories*, marketed for parents who just don't have time to read their child a full 15-minute long story.

"Why do we speed up more and more?" Gleick was asked in an interview. "Because we can," answered Gleick, and because "we get a visceral thrill from speed. It gives us a rush." Summarizing our situation, Thomas Merton writes: "The rush and pressure of modern life are a form...of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns...[even] to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence. *More than that, it is cooperation in violence.*"

What better way for us to keep a holy Lent than to intentionally begin the process of separating ourselves from the violence of life's "mad rush," to learn from our Lord how to isolate ourselves from the hubbub which surrounds us by withdrawing from our normal pace and our normal haunts and finding a place apart where the voice of God is not "drowned out" by all of life's background static.

*You and I will never hear God's words of caring, nor will we ever feel the embrace of God's love until we intentionally begin to separate ourselves from the violence of being "busier than busy."*

A "tall order?" Perhaps. But for us Christians it is part of our Lenten journey...which can lead us down unexpected pathways if, like our Lord, we remain open to the Spirit's words and works of love. During these holy Lenten days, may our prayer ever be: *dona nobis pacem.*

*Fr. John*

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February 2008

**NEW HOPE**  
for a New Sudan and the Poor Among Us

## Good news from New Hope

We have received roughly \$3,000,000 in pledges, as of January 1. This is some 84% of our goal. I'd like to take a minute and share some of the stories and statistics with you.



By Charlie Barebo  
New Hope Campaign Chair

We have seen selfless sacrifice in the face of adversity, disciples following in Christ's footsteps. One family, in between jobs, made a large four figured gift. Another

family had made a substantial five figured pledge. Their primary bread winner was laid off yet they have completely paid off their pledge. I am learning what faith really means during this campaign.

We have data that will allow your parish to compare itself to other parishes in our diocesan community. I am going to share some of that data with you now and will be mailing a letter to each rector.

We want to be able to compare each parish in an "apples to apples" fashion. The best way to do this is to compare the number of *New Hope* pledges with the average Sunday attendance. The following parishes have had over 20% of their average Sunday attendance pledge to *New Hope*.

- |                           |     |
|---------------------------|-----|
| 1. Good Shepherd Scranton | 38% |
| 2. Trinity Athens         | 35% |

- |                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 3. St. Barnabas Kutztown        | 30% |
| 4. Trinity Pottsville           | 28% |
| 5. Cathedral of the Nativity    | 27% |
| 6. Church of the Mediator       | 26% |
| 7. St. Anne's Trexlertown       | 23% |
| 8. Trinity Easton               | 21% |
| 9. St. Peter's Tunkhannock      | 21% |
| 10. St. Alban's Sinking Springs | 20% |

We also sought a financial measure that would level the "playing field." How could we be fair to large and small, affluent and struggling, endowed and not well endowed congregations? You may be amazed to see some of these comparisons. The percentage below is the dollar amount of *New Hope* pledges compared with that parish's reported operating income from 2006.

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. St Margaret's Emmaus      | 53% |
| 2. St. Mark's Moscow         | 52% |
| 3. St. Anne's Trexlertown    | 51% |
| 4. Cathedral of the Nativity | 33% |
| 5. Christ Church, Towanda    | 33% |
| 6. St. Peter's Tunkhannock   | 30% |
| 7. Church of the Mediator    | 27% |
| 8. St. George's Hellertown   | 26% |
| 9. Christ Church, Reading    | 23% |
| 10. St. Barnabas, Kutztown   | 23% |

As a diocesan community, we can rejoice in seeing that small and large churches, affluent and less affluent churches, churches located north, south, east and west have all obeyed Christ's second command and provided *New Hope* to those who have none! May God bless you all. We ask for your continued support as we move into the Lenten season. Help us make our goal. ♦

## ST. BARNABAS ANNUAL MEETING JR. WARDEN REPORT

Presently, St. Barnabas is leased by the Noble Project for the operation of a school for grades 1 through 8. As such, a spirit of mutual co-operation exists between St. Barnabas and the Noble Project towards building maintenance and repair. The following outline shows examples of how the noble School and St. Barnabas have worked collectively to maintain the building and the property.

### 2007 Repairs and Maintenance

#### Exterior

- Lawn care and snow removal service
- The blocking of animal entrance-ways to the attic to rid the building of squirrels and birds
- Repair to the eaves and roof after the late spring wind-storm knocked down the telephone lines and pulled the cable from the eaves
- Removal of fallen Sugar Maple tree after the storm
- Removal of fallen dead Japanese Maple in front

#### Interior

- Painting & plastering of the sanctuary and the main entrance-way
- Painting of the fellowship hall & nursery
- Installation of shelves & counter in fellowship hall
- Purchase & installation of cabinetry in bathrooms
- Repair and replacement of lights in nursery room
- Replaced old blinds on three windows

### 2008 Plans & Recommendations

#### Exterior

- Repair fence in back yard
- Install fence along sidewalks to create safer play areas
- Build & maintain a shade garden along the north wall of the fellowship hall
- Obtain a garden shed to store tools & supplies

#### Interior

- Paint cloakroom
- Paint kitchen
- Expand & renovate into the attic
- Replace windows in the fellowship hall

\*article originally appeared in from Diocesan Life, Feb. 2008

# HEARTbeat

I've read about them. But I never saw one, much less a half dozen at one time. Yet, last April, when Elizabeth and I were in Rome, we were about to enter a restaurant named *La Sagrestia*—The Sacristy—located a stone's throw from the Pantheon...and in they trooped: six young men dressed

in medieval clothing featuring huge Maltese crosses emblazoned on the chests and backs of their pullover blouses. These were the *flagellants*, men who would march in religious processions along Rome's streets flagellating or beating themselves with whips, which they had hanging from their belts even in the restaurant. Three things immediately became apparent: they were well known to the proprietor; they were treated with great deference; and they knew how to have a good time, enjoying the outstanding Italian cuisine and red wines, and joking and laughing in the fashion of most young 20-somes.

But, they also beat themselves—some current pictures as well as museum paintings from the middle ages I've seen depict such *flagellants* with their backs bloody and their skin flayed into strips—to show their devotion to the Christ of God who himself was similarly beaten and then hung on a cross to die.

I was especially struck by the currency of it all: *self-flagellation as a Christian devotional exercise is not just something we read about in history books or see on museum walls: it's happening today—not in secret but right out in the open—along the streets of Rome.*

And I asked myself: is this what our loving God asks of us, his 21st century children—to publicly prove our devotion? Beating ourselves bloody? In a HEARTbeat, my answer came: a loud, resounding NO! The words of Hebrew Scripture—so often used as Lenten offertories—came gushing forward in my memory's recall: "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." There are also these words: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of Thanksgiving..." Then there is the canticle which begins: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

Otherwise said: our devotion to God, whether offered during Lent or at any other time, has as its goal a change of heart, a change in the direction of our lives, and an expression of gratitude which comes from the core of our being—*our only possible response to God's love, which we do not deserve and cannot purchase or earn—not even by beating ourselves.*

You see, making a spectacle of ourselves, or maiming and hurting ourselves, is not the goal of our devotion to God. The goal is to learn what it means to be Christ-like in our living: loving and generous, kind and inclusive, helpful and supportive...and then to become mirror-images of God's Christ to the utmost of our individual capacities.

I can tell you in a HEARTbeat that our Lenten disciplines and our devotion to God—as I have come to understand them—are meant to turn us outward from ourselves and toward our fellow human beings who need us. Cleansed and penitent hearts lead to THANKSgiving. THANKSgiving naturally leads to THANKSliving. This is what I believe God has in mind for us...and it's the very opposite of turning into ourselves—*curvatus in se*—or onto ourselves, as do the young *flagellants* I saw, with their whips attached to their belts.

There's a whole world full of God's people, more than six billion of them, most of them reaching out to you for help. Believe what you've just read in these paragraphs, and in a HEARTbeat you'll be reaching out to them, *LIVING* and *SHARING* your love for God.

~Fr. John





## SAVE *the* DATE!

**Friday, February 29th 7pm**, at *St. Barnabas*—*SLIDE SHOW*: Tom Gettings of the Wildlands Conservancy will present a historical slide show about the Lehigh River.

**Rededication Sunday** for the *New Hope Campaign* is on *March 2*.

**Diocesan Training for Ministry Conference** will be held at *St. Stephen's, Wilkes-Barre*, from 9:15 to 2:45, *Saturday, March 1*. Ten different workshops will be offered on topics including vestry, stewardship, planned giving, celebrating Eucharist, role of treasurer, and parish communication. Char Horst will be presenting a workshop about planned giving and the *St. Matthew Society*.



### PARISH CALENDER

#### **Sunday, February 17 + The Holy Eucharist + 10 a.m.**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Celebrant: Fr. John Brndjar

Musician: Eliza Altenderfer

Sacristans: Lenore Oliveri, Terry Reynolds,  
Ruth Hollister

Ushers: John Tumolo, Alfred Hand

Reader and Prayers: Jacob Charlton

Eucharistic Minister: Pat Brown

Fellowship Host: Pat Brown

#### **Sunday, February 24 + The Holy Eucharist + 10 a.m.**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Celebrant: Fr. John Brndjar

Musician: Eliza Altenderfer

Sacristans: Lenore Oliveri, Terry Reynolds,  
Ruth Hollister

Ushers: John Tumolo, Alfred Hand

Reader and Prayers: Scott Horst

Eucharistic Minister: Phil Oliveri

Fellowship Host: The Oliveri family

#### **Sunday, March 2 + The Holy Eucharist + 10 a.m.**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Celebrant: Fr. John Brndjar

Musician: Eliza Altenderfer

Sacristans: Lenore Oliveri, Terry Reynolds,  
Ruth Hollister

Ushers: John Tumolo, Alfred Hand

Reader and Prayers: Elizabeth Brndjar

Eucharistic Minister: Pat Brown

Fellowship Host: June VanDuren

**+ New Hope Campaign Rededication Sunday +  
~Forum for Adults of All Ages following the Liturgy~**

#### **Sunday, March 9 + The Holy Eucharist + 10 a.m.**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Celebrant: Fr. John Brndjar

Musician: Eliza Altenderfer

Sacristans: Lenore Oliveri, Terry Reynolds,  
Ruth Hollister

Ushers: John Tumolo, Alfred Hand

Reader and Prayers: Jane Ferreira

Eucharistic Minister: Phil Oliveri

Fellowship Host: Char Horst

## LENT TAKES US BY SURPRISE THIS YEAR

By Bishop Paul V. Marshall

[An introduction written for Hidden Springs, daily reflections on the Lenten journey by parishioners of the Cathedral, Bethlehem.]

Lent takes us by surprise this year. On Ash Wednesday there will be a good number of homes with Christmas lights still to be taken down, and there will be at least one basement and garage on my block with holiday detritus still tugging the mind back to 2007. For some, the February 3rd Super Bowl and Mardi Gras will collide to form a mega-party that will leave them a bit dazed when they plunge into Lent on the 6th. Perhaps that is all for the good. There are gifts in the suddenness. Lent and Easter are moveable; they follow the Jewish calendar based on the cycles of the moon, cycles that do not fit with our regular solar calendar. That astronomy lesson is long forgotten, however, and the Church has in practice chosen to live with what we can never quite routinize or domesticate. The forty days and the great feast come when they come. What we are given by the fact that the day of ashes and the day of Resurrection come on different dates each year is the



reminder that God's time is astonishingly different than our own, and that is just fine. It is not too hard to remember that the ashes can come at any time. Our mortality is evident. But early Lent means early Easter: resurrection may appear when you least expect it. Perhaps this is the year in which we will be well-served and nourished by the early feast, for there is much to be done as we grow together in vision and mission. The oddness of Lent's timing this year may be the stimulus to see our lives a bit differently, to open our hearts to perceive God's hand at work in us and around us in new and delightful ways. The hint of tinsel in the ashes and suddenness of the journey may be exactly the reminder we need that we are on the express train to new life.

## CHURCH FINANCES

### Checking Account:

Balance at Beginning of January	\$3,084.38
January Pledge & Plate Offerings (through 2/10)	\$2,022.00
Katrina Fund Contributions (Balance \$275)	\$50.00
P. Lytle Trust Principal Withdrawal	\$10,000.00
The Noble Project, February Rent	\$400.00
January Expenses Paid	<u>(\$7,535.46)</u>
Balance at End of January	\$8,020.92

### Savings Account:

Balance at Beginning of January	\$47.57
Interest Income	<u>\$5.34</u>
Balance at End of January	\$52.91

### Trust Fund:

Market Value at Beginning of January	\$57,010.51
P. Lytle Trust Principal Withdrawal	<u>(\$10,000.00)</u>
Balance at End of January	\$47,010.51





***THE HEALTHIEST PEOPLE  
I KNOW***

"The healthiest people I know never look back. They shut doors and close chapters to their past. . . They resist memories which tend to paralyze present action. . . The healthiest people I know let go of the past [and] look resolutely to the future. . . They concentrate on

present realities, but are alert to the teeming possibilities before them. . . The healthiest people I know, know God. . . [they] "forget what lies behind, and press toward what lies ahead" and do so as companions of God. [In this new Lent] why not be[come] one?"

*The Rev. Laurens A. Hall  
The Church of Saint John the Divine  
Houston, Texas \**

***COURAGE ISN'T...***

"Courage isn't the absence of fear. It is staring fear right in the face and not being crippled by it. It is going ahead even when you are scared to death. It is a willingness to risk. . . Where

does courage come from? [From] the God who tells us that, no matter what happens to us, we are never alone. His love, presence, and mercy all give us the courage. . . to face this day and the next one. The same God who is with us when we stare into the darkness, and who holds out his hand from the other side of darkness itself. . . says to each of us: "Do not lose heart. Fear not, for I am with you always, even to the end of the ages."

*The Rev. Jeffrey H. Walker  
Christ Church  
Greenwich, Connecticut \**

*\*excerpts from the Lent 2008 issue of  
The Anglican Digest*



***FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS***

Fr. John Brndjar–February 23  
Terry Reynolds–February 25

*Best wishes to everyone  
celebrating a birthday or  
anniversary this month!*

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