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Minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting

The Parish of St. Barnabas January 30, 2005

The 117th annual parish meeting was held in the church during worship service. The Reverend Robert Appleyard called the meeting to order at 10:11 a.m. The meeting began with The Word of God (Hymn #568, the opening sentences, and the collect of the day). The parish then moved to the annual meeting agenda.

Reading of the warrant: The assembled parish members VOTED to waive the reading of the warrant.

Acceptance of new members: Fourteen people signed the Parish register and were accepted as members: Anne A. Rutherford, Elizabeth Kayes, Judith L. Tavares, Susan E. O'Brien, Kevin Cruse, Merrick Rawstron, Olga Sasso, Robert S. McCaig, Richard Kelleher, Molly Kelleher, John Mason, Stephanie Gototweski, Cynthia McIntosh, and Randolph S. James.

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting: The parish members VOTED to accept the minutes of the 2004 meeting as distributed.

A Look at God Working Among Us

Recognition of those retiring as members of the Vestry and Officers of the Parish: Robert Appleyard thanked retiring Vestry members for their faithful service: Elizabeth Ferreira, Judy Allen, Brad Barron, Scott Muma, Chance Reichel, Bill Smith, Krista Hennessy, and George Liles. He also thanked Arthur Lynds, who retired as head of the ushers after 23 years of service.

The meeting continued with the reading of the Epistle (I Corinthians I: 26-31), the Gospel (Matthew 5:1-12) and the Creed.

A Look at the Resources with which God has Entrusted Us

Treasurer's Report for 2004 and the 2005 Parish Budget: Chance Reichel gave the Treasurer's report, noting that financial management was good in 2004. Nonetheless, the financial statements show spending of \$6,000 over budget and revenue \$11,000 under budget, resulting in a \$17,000 shortfall for the year. Chance and Bill Smith gave a report on the 2005 budget, and noted that the budget allows for no pay raises for staff (not even cost of living raises) for the third year in a row. Youth program funding is also decreased. Chance and Bill entertained questions about how a recent gift can be used; how many families are in the Parish (450 households with 280 pledging units); whether total pledges and average pledges are higher than in previous years (they are), and whether the annual meeting can vote to increase staff salaries with any new revenue that becomes available during the year (that would be a Vestry decision).

Report of the Nominating Committee: The nominating committee presented one slate (as distributed) of candidates. Krista Hennessy noted that there are an unusually large number of people to replace. There was one nomination for Vestry Member from the floor (John Schmidt). The parish members VOTED to cast one vote for the uncontested positions on the slate of nominees. Ballots were distributed for the Vestry Member portion of the slate.

The meeting continued with the Prayers of the People.

A Look at the Opportunities God Makes Possible for Us

Some Challenges Await -- new wardens -- Paul Gentile and Joyce Harrington: Paul spoke about strategic planning, and noted that while the plan is important, the planning process is perhaps more important because it gets everyone involved in the life and future of the Parish. He reviewed progress on the strategic planning, which began in August and is continuing. Joyce spoke about possibility and challenge, and noted that the Envisioning Process has been characterized by energy, passion and commitment. She urged parish members to join in Christian Formation.

Other business and announcements -- John Schmidt spoke about trust and said that the congregation should be involved in decision-making, and that all decisions should not be left to church leaders. Cynthia Ballentine said she was disappointed with the process by which the Sunday service and the Sunday school schedule were changed.

Robert Appleyard reported that the ballots for Vestry Member have been counted and the elected members are: Dick Boyden; Helen Gordon; Kim Strohm; John Mason; Sandy Reichel.

The children joined the meeting for the passing of the Peace and Holy Communion and then the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
George Liles
Parish Clerk (1998-2005)

Rector's Report

On November 1, 2005, I completed my thirteenth full year as Rector of the Parish of Saint Barnabas, Falmouth and I find myself as excited about the life we share together as a parish as I was when I first arrived. The primary reason for that is the people who make up Saint Barnabas.

As I look back over the year, I find that the two ongoing themes for the year were "fiscal responsibility" and "worship content and scheduling." The reason for the former was that we had ended 2004 in the red and had not raised enough pledge support to balance the budget for 2005. The reason for the latter was that we were still struggling to meet the worship needs of our diverse congregation.

Some key points concerning stewardship: As early as January 2005, letters went out to those members who had not completed their 2004 pledges asking them to do so. Later in the Spring, letters went out to those who had pledged for 2005 asking them to reconsider their pledge and raise it if possible. The response from the congregation was encouraging. By July, a new Stewardship Committee had been formed under the leadership of Brian and Susan Bint. A plan was developed and a brochure prepared with the theme around the "open doors" of Saint Barnabas. I must say that the hard work of the Stewardship Committee was most encouraging. Furthermore, the schedule for the year is one which can be re-used for years to come. Although the Pledge goal for 2006 has yet to be met, I feel that the parish is on a much more solid footing fiscally. The 2006 Budget is quite responsible.

Concerning worship: Over the last three years we have been experimenting with our Sunday schedule and its content. In January, responding to the Envisioning Gatherings of the previous Summer/Fall, we tried to draw a larger segment of the parish together at a 10 o'clock service with the children having a brief "ministry of the Word" over in the Church School, then classes, and then joining the rest of the parish for the Eucharist. While this did please some parishioners, there was a real sense of loss for the families with young children who had come to appreciate a worship experience which was specifically directed to their needs. The Vestry listened to the concerns of many and in the late Spring, after much prayer, I announced that after our usual Summer schedule, the new service schedule would be 8 o'clock - Rite I, 9 o'clock - Enriching Our Worship, Rite III, and 11 o'clock - Rite II. Each month on the 2nd Sunday, worship would be at 8 o'clock - Rite I and 10 o'clock - Enriching our Worship, Rite III with a Parish Brunch following. This Fall and Winter the worship has become more comfortable and the Parish Brunch has become something parishioners look forward to. Each month a different parish organization has hosted the brunch with delightful menus and delicious food. Thanks to the hosts thus far: Arthur Pina's Crew, the Vestry, the Youth Group, and The Newcomers.

It was a very harsh Winter of 2005. For the first time in my whole parish ministry of thirty-three years, there was a Sunday on which no one came to worship. That was Sunday, January 23 - The Blizzard of 2005. Although our doors were open and the heat was on, no one was able to brave the weather and attend worship. I said my prayers on behalf of the parish and went back to the comfort of the Rectory. The large number of snow storms did not help either our attendance or our snow plowing budget for the year.

Personally, I was less physically able than I like to be for a portion of the year due to a series of three hand surgeries. In order to address an arthritic wrist, I had carpal tunnel surgery in January, exploratory surgery in February, and finally some bones removed in late April. This last surgery left me in a cast for more than six weeks followed by two months of physical therapy. The parish and staff were very supportive and I now have a new sympathy for people dealing with pain and the aging process.

During Lent, Lisa DiNunno led a series on “Healing” while I offered a daytime class entitled, “Windows on the Cross.” Both were well attended as, once again, our parish entered into the season both deliberately and seriously. Our Holy Week services were especially powerful; and the choir’s music in the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday liturgies was moving.

On April 24, the Right Reverend Roy F. “Bud” Cederholm Jr. visited our parish for the first time since becoming bishop suffragan. He met with newcomers, worshiped and preached, held a “town meeting” forum with discussion for the whole parish, and then attended a luncheon with the parish leadership. He made several observations: that parishes often must adjust worship to meet the needs of the youth and that no worship pattern would please everyone; that we needed to raise our level of pledge support (both in number of pledges and in proportional giving); and that our property and buildings were the best kept secret in the diocese.

In the late Spring, the Memorial Garden Committee recommended to the Vestry that some improvements to the appearance of the Saint Barnabas Memorial Garden be made. With the oversight of Keith Dickenson, this work was accomplished. The Memorial Garden was re-dedicated on June 12 at the close of our Saint Barnabas Celebration. Keith Dickenson has also worked rigorously to prune back and beatify the Chapel Garden. It has not looked so lovely in years.

Once again, our parish has been blessed with a dedicated staff which has helped to implement the program and ministries of Saint Barnabas. Edson DeMoura and his brother Alex together carried out the Sexton’s duties of keeping our grounds and buildings in order. With Edson’s oversight and Alex’s commitment, our property is in good hands. Kathe Rabbitt has worked hard and well keeping the office running smoothly and efficiently and our financial records kept orderly. Her’s is a never ending job, with much work done behind the scenes, and thus under-appreciated. We would not be able to function as a parish without the tireless effort her position demands and we are blessed to have had Kathe’s continuity for all these fifteen and a half years. Randolph James has been our Director of Music and Organist for two and a half years now. His gifted-ness continues to amaze us. He lifts our choir members’ abilities, offers special music programs which draw people from beyond our parish, and enhances the worship experience of us all. Some of the new hymns which Randolph first introduced us to are now quite familiar. And although his organ bench is secreted out of sight to most of the congregation, the joyful artistry of his playing permeates the worship of all in attendance. The Reverend Lisa DiNunno brought to Saint Barnabas her gift of spiritual depth and her love of challenging and encouraging the faith of others. She has had a huge impact on the Christian Formation Program of our parish. Having arrived in June of 2001, she developed close ties with members of our parish young and older. Lisa moved, in September, to Connecticut as her husband, Geoffrey, answered a call to a parish there. Lisa is deeply missed. Besides having shouldered the responsibilities of leading worship with me, she oversaw the Christian Formation Program for both adults and young people. The wonderful Spiritual Retreat held October 28-29 was the direct result of her ministry and also demonstrates that her influence continues on. As I announced at her departure, she will not easily be replaced.

I have called together a Personnel Committee to work with me on updating all of the job descriptions of our staff and to create with me a new job description for an Assistant Rector whom I will hire with the input of a Search Committee in the Spring of 2006. In the mean time, I have been fortunate to be able to

hire Kate Stebinger as a Youth Minister. Kate is a senior at Episcopal Divinity School and has been ordained a Deacon by her diocese - The Diocese of North Dakota. Kate along with the Reverend Julie Nelson - Assisting Priest, Retired, have been a wonderful support to me this Fall.

Finally, I as a priest was blessed with the opportunity to go to a CREDO conference for the week of April II. CREDO stands for Clergy Reflection, Education, Discernment Opportunity. It is offered to all members of the Episcopal Clergy. My experience was very helpful. I returned to Saint Barnabas with a new set of priorities and goals for my ministry among you. May it serve as an example to all of us that we each need a time to step back and take a long look at the parish which we love and with which we are so closely involved. With prayer and the gift of the Spirit's presence with us, we have so very much still ahead of us. God is not done with us yet, thank God!

Respectfully Submitted,
The Reverend Robert B. Appleyard, Jr.
Seventh Rector of Saint Barnabas, Falmouth, Massachusetts

Director of Music's Report

The year 2005 was yet again a wonderful time for us musically here at Saint Barnabas Church.

The Canterbury choir has consistently offered a setting of the psalm, an anthem at the offertory and occasionally an anthem/motet at the communion. They have been faithful to rehearsals and all scheduled liturgies. Currently, we are offering one Sunday morning adult choir that numbers 19 members who dedicate an enormous amount of time to rehearsals and to administrative work and services. In addition to weekly rehearsals on Thursdays, the Canterbury Choir provides leadership and offers choral music at the 11:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist during the academic year as well as special feasts days, such as, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Advent Lessons and Carols, and the two liturgies offered on Christmas Eve and Easter Day. On occasion, some of these choristers have offered music for our 9:00 a.m. liturgy as well. A minimum of four hours a week is expected of these choristers, and is given by them generously. At certain times of the year, such as Holy Week, they give as much as 15 hours a week, and with the addition of the Great Vigil of Easter this year, an additional four hours.

Our Schola, that numbers 14, has continued to offer the office of Compline every fourth Sunday evening of the month at 8:00 p.m. to a continuing growing congregations.

In the spring, the Canterbury Choir will offer a concert, *A Baroque Fest & Feast*, with choir, soloists and orchestra. The concert will be in memory of my mother, Loretta Jean James, who died my first Holy Week here at Saint Barnabas. The Feast will be the culmination of many great cooks in the parish, as well as our own great personal chef, Gordon Ganter, who be *cheffing* as well as organizing the *Feast*.

Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers as we continue to sing the praises of our risen Lord.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Randolph S. James
Organist and Director of Music

Senior Warden's Report

As 2006 begins, I would like to make a few comments regarding your Vestry and their activities in 2005. My wife, Debbie, commented during the recent cold snap that the house seemed warm and cozy. I thought about her comment as I write this account and draw this analogy. Your Vestry in 2005 is like our furnace at home (the focus of Debbie's comment), in that it remains in the background, running silently and efficiently while accomplishing its mission of dispensing its heat throughout our home thus providing for all who pass through our doors.

Your Vestry, in fact, accomplished a similar mission in 2005 for you. It safe-guarded St. Barnabas' resources while allocating church resources for all who passed through our many doors. The highlights included:

- Finalized the results of the 2004 Envisioning exercise for submission to the subsequent Strategic Planning exercise begun in May, 2005.
- Planned for an outside audit of our 2005 accounts
- Responded to the Cape Cod Child Development Program proposal for the use of our school space

- and negotiated an agreement for future use.
- Assembled a planning group to define a plan for the future use of the space in the lower Parish Hall when CCCD vacates our building
- Met with Bishop Ceherholm in April to discuss church affairs and future direction.
- Discussed and approved the Mashpee Mission support from our parish.
- Developed a program to link Saint Barnabas Committees status/issues into the monthly Vestry meetings on a rotating basis.
- Discussed and approved the evolving Saint Barnabas use and construction of our wed site.
- Discussed and approved the revised Fall worship services and their impact on our congregation.
- Supported and approved the work efforts of the revised Finance and Stewardship Committees in their mission of stewardshop.
- Reviewed the 2005 Strategic Plan and developed programs to move our parish through the next one to five years.
- Approved a committee to convene for the purpose of assessing the clergy and staff positions and defining formal position descriptions and an annual progress for evaluation.
- Provided support to the Stewardship Committee by providing telephone calls or visits to garner church financial pledges.
- Reviewed and approved the naming of a new vendor (Merrill Lynch) to administer our finances.
- Provided oversight for the diversified property and other committee activities to accomplish our overall parish mission.

I've tried to highlight many of your Vestry's 2005 activities. As you can see, much is accomplished during our monthly meetings. Again, we're like the furnace...doing our job silently and efficiently for all those who pass through our doors.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Gentile, Senior Warden

Treasurer's Annual Report

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church is blessed with many resources, including our fine staff, buildings and grounds, endowments, parish activities and supportive parishioners. 2005 has been a year of research, study, planning, and change in managing our financial resources.

The following are some of the highlights of 2005 that relate to our development and use of our resources.

- *An active campaign was started with the able assistance of the Rector and Vestry to increase 2005 pledges.* Articles were written and published in the *Banner*, letters sent and follow up pledge calls were made. Many parishioners increased their pledge and former pledgers made the commitment to 2005 raising the pledged and received amount at the end of December to \$259,981. We exceeded our pledge budget amount by \$855. Thank you to all who contributed to this effort.
- *A stewardship committee for 2006 was formed under the leadership of Susan and Brian Bint.* The committee has 19 active members and is pleased to report that as of December 31, it has reached 90% of the pledge budget for 2006. An annual stewardship calendar and sample documents have been developed.

- *A study and explanation of endowments was done by Doug Greetham.* His determined effort to research and plan for our endowments has yielded valuable information about the Beebe Funds invested by Diocesan Trust as well providing the concepts and policies endorsed by the Finance Committee that will improve our endowment resources.
- *A Request for Proposals for the management of endowment funds was prepared and distributed to eight endowment management firms.* A sub-committee of the Finance Committee, chaired by Stephen DeBellis did an exhaustive evaluation of seven proposals, interviewed four firms and recommended to the Vestry in December that the management of endowment funds be consolidated and a contract be entered into with Merrill Lynch to provide endowment management services. The Vestry voted to contract with Merrill Lynch and the process of consolidation has begun.
- *Utilities expenses are tracked each month,* this worksheet will provide basic information hopefully leading to more energy management savings.
- Lisa DiNunno's departure for a new parish in Connecticut provided salary account savings that helped balance income and expenditures for 2005.
- *The Finance Committee has presented and the Vestry approved a balanced budget for 2006.* The budget for the coming year increases pledge commitments, slightly reduces endowment dependency and provides a staff cost of living adjustment of 3%, as well as our best estimate for the balance of revenue and expenditure accounts. It also provides for the creation of a Capital Reserve account to be funded by earnings from our endowments.

As we look to the future in 2006 we see the following activities.

- *Endowments,* we look forward to working with Merrill Lynch, the Finance Committee and the Vestry to develop investment strategies and policies that recognize the intent of each gift, protect and grow the principal as well as provide support for the operational budget, outreach and capital reserve.
- *Stewardship,* it is our expectation to use the lessons learned with *Opening Doors 2005* to expand our committee and grow the percent of the operating budget for 2007 supported by pledges to 65% from the 2006 budgeted percent of 60%.
- *Communications,* we would hope to publish at least two articles in the *Banner* explaining financial decisions and positions.
- *Long Range Planning,* to work with the Property Committee and the Vestry to develop an achievable realistic long range planning document.
- *Support,* to provide to the Rector, Vestry and various committees financial information to assist in doing God's work amongst us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Donald D. Johnson, Treasurer

2006 Budget Explanation

The budgeted amounts are found in the far right hand column of our December 31, 2005 financial statement.

The budget presented today represents an important shift in the finances of Saint Barnabas. For the past two years expenditures have been in excess of revenues. As a result, our endowments have lost 1% of their value, rather than realizing an 8% growth that would have accommodated for inflation. For the future economic health of our Church, financial discipline had to be reestablished. The following is an explanation of the rationale for major items in the 2006 budget.

Revenues

Pledge Payments It is generally agreed that a non-profit organization is best served when its membership (congregation) directly supports 60 - 80% of its operating budget. It is simply a measure of the support of the organizations purpose and plans. This budget is the first step towards a goal of 70% pledge support for our budget. This year the goal is 60%

Endowment Revenues the fundamental premise used is to preserve the purchasing power of our endowments for the benefit of future generations of Saint Barnabas, at the same time maximizing our current revenues. To that end the annual operating budget will only utilize relatively predictable earned income. Any potential capital gains will be budgeted as capital reserve, after considering the effects of inflation.

The Beebe Trust(s) are managed by the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT) in Boston. As a consequence of changes in State law governing Trusts, the DIT is planning to increase disbursement from all their trust funds to approximately 4%. The exact amount must await a March meeting of their board of trustees.

Endowment Management For continuity our endowment revenues are reported as they were structured in 2005. However, as of Jan. 1 2006, all of Saint Barnabas endowments have been consolidated under the management of Merrill Lynch. This will greatly strengthen our ability to effectively manage all of them.

Overall Endowment Income. our dependence on endowment support for the operational budget has been reduced from \$156,485 to \$142,000 as we attempt to rebuild our resources and establish a Capital Reserve.

Expenses

Salary accounts represent 58% of our budget and includes a 3% Cost Of Living Allowance increase for all staff. This is the first COLA increase in three years. The Associate Rector's position, which is now vacant, is budgeted at 73% of the 2005 budget in anticipation of the position being filled during the early summer. This account will also be used to pay our current Youth Ministry stipend and temporary clergy as needed during 2006.

Sexton salaries are based on a plan, adopted in March 2005, that provides for 70% of a sexton plus 198 hours of spring and summer help.

Health Insurance cost is budgeted to increase 4.5%, in accordance with announced Diocesan plans.

Pension and Health Insurance costs for clergy are determined by Diocesan compensation standards.

Benefits for Other Staff are determined by local decisions. Several reflect long time service, others reflect newer policies. All the costs relate to specific Diocesan coordinated programs.

FICA & FICA Medical Taxes are required to be paid on the salaries and wages of all other staff and are calculated based upon gross wages paid.

All the salary expenses support in a variety of ways God's work amongst us including our worship opportunities, community outreach, Christian Education, the operation of excellent facilities provided to us and general support functions for our organizations and volunteers.

Church Activities accounts are budgeted at the same level of support as previous years. These accounts depend heavily upon volunteer parishioner support and some separate funding programs.

Property Management costs reflect an increase in energy costs, some of which are offset by shutting down the Creighton House for the winter. Property reserve is budgeted at zero because we are establishing a capital reserve account to take its place. The balance of these accounts are budgeted based upon averaging past year's expenditures.

Worship Advertising was under budgeted in 2005 due to a change in the Dioceses methods of billing. This year's budget is more accurate.

Audit will be provided again this year by a lay audit team. This team from Saint Barnabas will audit another Cape Cod Episcopal church's records and that church's lay audit team will audit our books saving an expense estimated at \$8,000.

Our Budget is an integral piece of the ministry and mission of our parish. It allows us to plan and then carry out our life together, to grow deeper in our relationship with God, and to faithfully follow in the way of Jesus Christ to minister to and transform the world around us. However, we can get so caught up with the finances which support our ministries that we can lose our awareness of the ministries themselves. So, let us end with this reminder.

Our 2006 Budget will keep our doors open so that we can provide: Sunday and midweek worship, lay ministries (choirs, altar guild, ushers, acolytes, LEMs and LEVs), baptisms, funerals, marriages, holy day celebrations, Compline; Christian formation for young and old alike; Church activities (Newcomers, Youth Groups, ECW, ECM, 2nd Sunday Brunch, Pot luck suppers, and committees galore); Outreach programs allowing organizations to use our buildings (Around the Table, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Sea Scouts, AA, Cape Cod Child Development, the Cape and the Islands Deanery, and the Diocese of Massachusetts), financial support of worthy organizations through the proceeds of Strawberry Festival, Christmas Fair and special collections, and Overnights of Hospitality; the upkeep of our buildings and grounds which beautify the town and welcome visitors and town folk alike; a setting for spiritual reflection and retreat; and a staff to help us carry out all that God would have us do and be.

Altar Guild Report

The revised duty schedule agreed upon last year by members of the Altar Guild has worked out well for all members, permitting a less hectic routine for everyone. Guild members, however, find it most difficult to efficiently perform their duties between the 8:00 and 9:00 morning services, as the interim period of less than 10 minutes is not sufficient time for the Guild member(s) to safely clean and prepare the Altar. "Cries for help" for new Guild members, over the past year, have fallen on deaf ears. This call is important in that Altar Guild snow bird departures not only temporarily deplete the Guild's membership but also increase the workload for remaining members of the four five-member teams. The Guild gained one new member but 'lost' four members over the past year. Our duties are important, but we Guild members do find time to have fun and learn new things about the Episcopal Church while preparing the Lord's table for worship. Come join us!

Present Altar Guild members (Judy Allen, Eileen Bergstrom (Treasurer), Susan Bint, Pat Cowan (Co-Chair), Caroline Cuthbertson, Marcia Donovan, Sally Ferreira, Page Franson, Stephanie Gototweski, Noreen Greetham, Nancy Gwynne, Marcia Hall, Jane Hinckley, Betsy Lowery, Donna and Krystal Lynds, Nat Nickerson, Cynthia Pina, Kathe Rabbitt, Pie Smith (Co-Chair), Barbara Sylvia, and Jean Taft) have done yeoman's service in 2005 and are to be commended for a job well done with limited staff for not only the winter and summer extended services but also for weddings, funerals, and special services. Thank you for your special attention.

Respectfully submitted, Pat Cowan and Pie Smith, Co-Chairs

Behrens Fund Report

The Behrens Fund Committee met four times in 2005 for the purpose of reviewing proposals regarding the use of income from the Behrens Trust Fund. The committee recommended to the Finance Committee for Vestry approval the following allocations:

- \$3,500 to the Falmouth Council of Churches Challenge Grant for furnishing an efficiency unit at Bridgeport Housing.
- \$4,000 to a new Habitat for Humanity affordable home.
- \$5,000 to the Episcopal Mission in Mashpee
- \$5,000 to renovate the Saint Barnabas Memorial Garden
- \$15,000 to the Cape Cod Free Clinic and Community Health Center (Karen Bissonnette, Director of Development for the Cape Cod Free Clinic, met with committee members and outlined the need to help fund new physician and nurse practitioner positions required to provide vital medical services to the community.)

Committee members, Ned Heard, Don Johnson, Bob Peterson, Ellie Shaver, Bill Smith and Al Irish welcome proposals from parishioners for the used of 2005 trust income involving worthy in reach and outreach programs, exclusive of annual budget requirements.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Irish, Chair

Christian Formation for Children

Our parish offers Sunday School, or Bible Study, to children from preschool (about 4 years old) through sixth grade (approximately 10 years old). This year's curriculum-"All Things New..."- is a continuation of one introduced last fall. Our children are introduced to the Bible through this Episcopal faith curriculum, which includes suggested prayers and activities. Having overcome its newness, the teachers felt more comfortable with the suggested lessons and learned to adapt or add to the suggested activities (a minor drawback in the curriculum design). Among the most favored activities the children enjoyed were the individual posters celebrating each child's visions of Faith. It is absolutely heartwarming to hear a child express their Episcopal Faith with such innocence conviction and through an array of wonderful artwork!

Admirably, the curriculum encourages the use of prayer books and Bibles. The children, particularly the older ones, are drawn to reading from the Book of Common Prayer (the red book Mommy and Daddy use in the

BIG church). When encouraged to use the Bible they experience a faithful connection when searching for the “Book and Verse” associated with the weekly homily. Unfortunately, there are few Bibles and Common Prayer books to share and those that we do have are in poor shape. It is our hope that we will be able to purchase some replacement books this fall, budget depending. (Perhaps this is the birth of a Parish project for the Sunday School children.)

Our goal as Sunday School teachers is to create an additional opportunity, where our children are encouraged to feel God’s love and experience their Faith. Although they are not trained teachers they all feel a calling to the program and share the common goal of continually nurturing our Church School children’s connection to God. Those individuals who help provide such a weekly opportunity are an amazing blessing bestowed upon our church. They are a small group of women - mothers, who have committed to support that vision for their own children and those of their fellow parishioners.

The loss of Lisa DiNunno, who served as coordinator, was heartfelt by teachers and children alike. Although all supported her new calling, her presence, guidance and encouragement have been greatly missed. Additionally, the program lost Elizabeth Goldberg, who also coordinated and organized the older children. Beth struggled with the decision of finding a church closer to her Sandwich home, where her daughter may share her faith with fellow schoolmates. With these two integral pieces of the program no longer in place the teachers occasionally felt they were moving forward on a “wing and a prayer.” This year only 7 moms committed to teaching 7 grade levels weekly with 3 additional parents volunteering to provide a day care setting for the youngest Episcopalians in our Parish. We are blessed to have Neely Mundell, Stephanie Gototweski, Sandie Good, Lois Ferreira, Romi Lebherz and Jean Taft teaching this year. And we are equally as blessed to have Susan and John Schmidt and Gwyneth Packard overseeing the nursery. Last year there 11 parent teachers and 2 youth volunteers, who provided a wonderful dimension to their classes, for the 7 grade levels in addition to youth volunteers who provided day care. Those additional people, Ursula Bohnenberger and Mimi Frank and youths Helen Bohnenberger and Liz Ferreira, are greatly missed.

The Sunday School year began with 39 children. Although this is close to last year’s initial enrollment of 40 children, it is only $\frac{3}{4}$ of the children in our Parish. Unfortunately, conflicting commitments has become a visible burden among today’s Parish parents – and youths. They seem to be continually juggling multiple commitments. Society is overflowing with dual working parents, over-scheduled children and a majority mind set that it is acceptable to infringe upon the one day of the week in which families could reunite as a unit and rejuvenate their souls to face yet another “On the Go” marathon of a week. Statistically, each Fall begins with high enrollment numbers. This year we moved through the first two seasons strongly, with about 26 of our students attending regularly. Just prior to Epiphany we saw a decline in those participating and welcomed only about 16 children into our classrooms weekly. We are hoping that those numbers rise again after the Holiday season, but are grateful for any children who continue to return.

Lastly, the thought that we will soon have a space where we can truly create a warmer, more welcoming environment for our Sunday School children has caused great excitement among the teachers. As we strive to create more ways to encourage attendance and parental involvement we look to this new opportunity with enthusiasm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Strohm

Christian Formation for Adults

Christian Formation is about expanding our lives built on the gift of faith. That means we focus on "formation" rather than just "education." Often when people think of education, they think of that which relates to the intellect. Christian formation implies something else. It has nothing to do with achieving or accomplishing, but rather everything to do with expanding and celebrating. In addition to the expansion and celebration we experience in worship, especially in song and in prayer, at St. Barnabas we have other Christian Formation activities which in 2005 included Adult Sunday Bible Study, Tuesday Adult Christian Formation and a week end Retreat in October. Christian Formation is also found in our Children and Youth Sunday School and in the activities of our youth

Adult Sunday Bible Study

The adult Sunday Bible Study meets on the stage in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m. on the first and third Sundays of every month. Scheduled in response to requests for Bible Study at the Ministries Fair in the Spring, the class began in September, with a hiatus in December to accommodate schedule conflicts. We are presently studying the New Testament with the aid of a DVD program from The Teaching Company. It is a lecture series taught by Professor Bart Ehrman, a noted New Testament scholar at the University of North Carolina. His lectures are informative and are just the right length to give us a learning time and a discussion time. Come join us!

Tuesday Adult Christian Formation

The Tuesday night adult Christian Formation class had a most successful year. We were all happy to see Lisa move on to a church of her own, though we were sad to see her leave. She gave us all valuable guidance and encouragement on how to continue this program on our own and we have - thanks be to God. The Tuesday night class is composed of about 15 to 20 regulars with another 3 to 5 members who join us when possible.

This fall we took on two books about the Bad Girls and Bad Boys of the Bible. We had some lively discussions as we dug into these characters and found that the books challenged us to pick up the Bible and explore many things that needed clarification in order to try to understand the author's positions. It was exciting getting a much closer view of some of these individuals than most of us could remember.

For Epiphany, we have been studying the Sunday epistle readings using several different Bibles and study Bibles to dig deeper into the possible meanings of these passages. This has been most enlightening and helpful in clarifying passages based on translation efforts of scholars who can present the meanings of several of the key words that are not always obvious.

The Tuesday night group is alive and well and we would love for you to join us. If you are interested in exciting discussions about your faith and looking deeper into what our worship is all about, join us at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays in the Parish House.

Respectfully submitted

Joyce Harrington and John Mason

Episcopal Church Men

The Episcopal Church Men's (ECM) monthly breakfast program is held on the last Saturday of each month, September through May. Those who attended enjoyed a hearty breakfast at a reasonable price, good fellowship and heard excellent speakers.

Some examples of the programs included:

- Megan Amsler, co-chairperson of the Falmouth Energy Committee, described the wind turbines planned for the Waste Treatment Facility.
- Kristen Curley, Impact Area Study Manager, discussed efforts underway to clean up sub surface water under the Mass Military Reservation firing ranges.
- St. Barnabas' own, Derek Sutton, related his experiences as Captain of the research vessel, Albatross.
- Dick Grayson, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, briefed us on the important work his organization does.
- Mike Duffany, another St. Barnabite, spoke about the Falmouth Boy Scouts programs.

Bill Platt and Bob Young are responsible for arrangements and organization. Bob Young also serves as the ECM treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Platt

Episcopal Church Women

Every baptized woman in the parish, over eighteen, is considered to be a member of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW.) The ECW Board meets the second Tuesday of each month (except July and August). The luncheons are on the fourth Tuesday - seven times a year.

Your 2006 Officers

President: Doris Weeks	Treasurer:
Ist Vice President: Cynthia Ogden	Secretary: Ingrid Frank
2nd Vice President: Jeanne Platt	Sunshine: Edy McKean
Membership: Marcia Simonds & Nancy Douglass	

I wish to thank all the 2005 officers that are returning for 2006. Their support and presence is valuable to this organization.

Our main fund raiser is the Christmas Fair which supports our budget for the year. The December 3, 2005 Fair was successful by the hard work of the Chairpersons and their committees. My thanks to all of you who coordinated and worked constantly during this busy time of the year.

Christmas Fair Chair: Doris Weeks
Setup/Clean up: Mimi Frank

	Income	Expense	Net
Baked Goods: Sandy Reichel	\$ 788	0	\$ 788
Books :Barbara Stephens & Jayne Iafrate	843	0	843
Gift Baskets: Cynthia Ogden & Nancy Douglass	1,050	13	1,037
Jewelry: Lois Ferreira & Debbie Hamilton	754	0	754
Handcrafts: Ingrid Frank	619	0	619
Silent Auction: Jeanne Platt	1,942	0	1,942
Luncheon: Kathy Wessling & Ellie Shaver	902	170	732
Wreaths: Doris Weeks & Sherrie Tobia	992	248	744
Corner Table: Debbie Appleyard & Priscilla Foltz	649	0	649
Kids Corner: Judy Tavares & Cynthia Ogden	296	0	296
Photos: Cynthia & Jerry Ogden	<u>45</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>45</u>
Sub Total	\$8880	431	\$8,449
Misc Expense:			
Rubbish removal and clean up		200	
Totals	\$8,880	631	\$8,249

The 2005 ECW contributions were made to Carriage House, Samaritans, Church Women United, Dress-A-Live Doll and the Falmouth Enterprise Needy Fund for a total of \$2,000.

In the Parish House, ECW had the kitchen painted and curtains bought for the cost of \$1,493.56 and a rug for the library area in the Parish Hall for \$99.

Donations of \$300 went to the Overnights of Hospitality program; \$1,000 to the Musical Bell Fund; \$1,250 to Scholarship and miscellaneous gifts of \$330

Respectfully submitted,
Doris Weeks, President

Memorial Garden

The year 2005 was a year of change for The Memorial Garden at St. Barnabas. With Keith Dickenson leading the way, the memorial garden was redesigned to require less maintenance and maintain its natural beauty. With a dedicated committee, we are continually reviewing the memorial garden plan and looking at ways we can enhance the natural beauty of St. Barnabas.

As the Memorial Garden covers a large part of the St. Barnabas campus, we will continue this vision into 2006 with the support and generosity of the parish of St. Barnabas.

Respectively submitted,
Deborah Gentile

Newcomers Committee

The Newcomers Committee is charged with welcoming new people to Saint Barnabas. Some of the goals we have set to accomplish this are:

- 1 Identify and greet new people on Sunday mornings. This has been done informally by members of the committee and the congregation at large. Gratifyingly, we have been told by a number of newcomers that they found Saint Barnabas to be a friendly and welcoming place.
- 2 Personally contact people who fill out the Newcomers Cards from the pews. Members of the committee have called and visited newcomers this year.
- 3 Hold quarterly social gathering for newcomers. These have been held on the second Wednesday of February, May, August and November. In general, the goal is to give newcomers an opportunity to meet and get to know each other and to learn about the parish and the many ministries here at Saint Barnabas. In February and May we served dessert and heard presentations from a number of ministries. The family barbecue in August was well attended and received. In November, newcomer and retired Episcopal Priest, The Rev. Cecil Scantlebury, gave an inspiring talk on the seasons of the church.
- 4 Provide written information about the Episcopal Church, Saint Barnabas and the ministries of the parish. We revised our Newcomers Handbook and are working on creating a Newcomers Packet.

Also in January 2006, the committee, ably assisted by a crew of a dozen newcomers, prepared and served the Second Sunday Brunch. This was an occasion to get to know each other better by working together.

The Newcomers Committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month (when we are not holding social gatherings) at 5:00 p.m in the Parish House. All are invited, especially recent newcomers to attend meetings and to join the committee.

Committee members are : Dicky Allison, Vestry liaison, Judy Allen, Betty Kayes, Jon Simonds, Joan Stephenson, Kathy Wessling, Gerry White, Gina White and Nancy Young.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Stephenson, Chair

Outreach Committee

In 2005, the Outreach Committee distributed funds as follows:

Easter OfferingHabitat for Humanity International \$1809.00(Africa builds)The Seed Company
\$1809.00(Bible translation and literacy programs in Africa)

Strawberry FestivalBig Brothers/Big Sisters of Cape Cod \$ 300.00Troop #40, Boy Scouts of
America \$ 200.00Champ House \$ 500.00Falmouth Council on Aging \$ 500.00Falmouth
Homeless Prevention \$1000.00Upper Cape Chaplaincy \$ 500.00

Christmas OfferingOxfam America - \$1652.00(Insulated tents for earthquake victims in Afghanistan and
Pakistan)Falmouth Service Center's Fuel Assistance Program - \$1652.00Telephone Cards \$1652.00(for
military men and women serving in the Middle East)

As illustrated above, the Outreach Committee continues to respond to ongoing local and global needs, i.e. homelessness, the war in Iraq, as well as emerging needs and crises **on behalf of the Saint Barnabas community**. Although we act apolitically, we do not always agree on the direction or amount of a particular distribution. The point is this: giving away the monies provided by the community and our extremely generous congregation is an enormous responsibility and sends a powerful message. Please involve yourself in this process that shows the world who we at Saint Barnabas are, and what we care about.

The Outreach Committee is studying a change in the meeting schedule and invites your thoughts. In the meantime, we will continue to meet on the **last Tuesday of each month in the Parish House from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

The Outreach Committee Members are Annie Holden, Ellie Shaver, Mary Ellen Williams, John Mason, Jon Simonds, Bob Butcher, Marcia Donovan, Connie Jenney, Bob Jenney, Cindy Ballentine, and Dick Kendall.

Respectfully submitted,
Annie Holden, Chair

Overnights of Hospitality

Our ministry to the homeless has continued uninterrupted since March 2003. We have provided shelter, food and comfort to homeless women every first, third and fifth Wednesday in our Parish Hall. We have about 36 parishioners volunteering for a set of tasks: driving, setting up, hosting, providing food, cleaning up and doing laundry.

This past year marked a significant accomplishment in addressing Cape-wide homelessness._ The first of what we hope will be a series of buildings containing efficiency apartments for formerly homeless citizens was built in Falmouth In July we celebrated the grand opening of **BridgePort** on Gifford Street. Eight guests from the Overnights of Hospitality applied for and were accepted as the first tenants in this brand new, completely furnished eight unit building located on the same campus as the Falmouth Service Center. Five of the new tenants are women whom we have all come to know and care about. The other three are men from the same

program The transition has been a challenge The Overnights program supplies structure and community as well as shelter for the houseless guests. Single occupancy apartments can be isolating and somewhat overwhelming The three churches in Falmouth involved in the Overnights program (Christ Lutheran and First Congregational in addition to St. Barnabas) are extending their ministry to support BridgePort. The Falmouth Friends of BridgePort and a social worker with the Cape Cod Council of Churches provide transportation, friendly visits and monthly potluck suppers. Our intent is to continue with caring support and service until the tenants are able to live independently.

Another significant development during 2005 is the transformation of the administration of Overnights at St. Barnabas from a single coordinator to a team of task leaders. Judy Allen, Morgaine Beck, Marcia Donovan, Jane Hinckley, Annie Holden, John Mason, David Nawrocki and Cynthia Pina are now responsible for the monthly scheduling of volunteers, overseeing the success of the program and communicating within St. Barnabas and with the Cape Cod Council of Churches and the Salvation Army. We think that this change will insure the successful continuation of this ministry without a dependence on a single leader.

Finally, the Overnights volunteers hosted the Second Sunday Brunch in December. We had a wonderful time planning, chopping, peeling, cooking and setting the tables, etc. Some of the BridgePort residents joined us and helped. The congregation appreciated our delicious meal, but more important was the fun we all had preparing it together.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Shaver

Prayer Chain

In keeping with the mission of Saint Barnabas Church, by “following the way of Jesus and showing his compassion, forgiveness, and love to others,” the purpose of the Prayer Chain is to pray for the needs of His people.

Brenda Reardon led the group for many years, keeping the prayer lists up-to-date and organizing the meetings. In September, I began my period of leadership. The members of the Prayer Chain are thankful for Brenda's time, talent and dedication. She continues to pray with us, but she is able to enjoy time away during her retirement without worrying about leading a meeting each month.

Traditionally, we do not meet in July and August, but we send a summer updated prayer list. We also keep in touch with e-mail and phone calls to update prayer needs as they come in. If you wish to add someone to the Prayer Chain, please call any member of the Prayer Chain and we will add your request to our daily prayers. If you do add someone to our prayers, we ask that you give us follow-up information when possible so we can continue to pray for those who need it and thank God for those whose prayers have been answered

Members of the Prayer Chain are Joe Day, Marcia Donovan, Winifred Liles, Carol McAlvin, Jane Mellor, Cynthia Pina, Brenda Reardon and Jane Scalli.

Prayerfully yours,
Susan Schmidt

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry had the first gathering in the Parish House in January 2005. This ministry has grown well beyond the Saint Barnabas community in the first year.

We have brought women together of all ages from Saint Barnabas and new found friends from the community to join us on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the Parish House. We are an ongoing ministry with an open door to anyone who wants to join us.

In the past year we have taught many women how to knit. We have witnessed the rewards of their patience as they worked stitch-by-stitch and row-by-row. We are thankful for the experienced knitters who were there to teach us and guide us. Many of us shared memories of how we learned to knit, from our mothers, neighbors, friends and other relatives. Some of us are knitting with the needles that have been in our own Mothers hands.

Not everyone is able to join us each month, but every time we pick up our yarn and needles, we are connected by "knitting into the mystery." This mystery is the connection we feel to one another and to the recipient of each shawl. We know there is someone to help us if we need it, we know there is always someone to make a prayer shawl for, and we know how wonderful it is to make something through prayer, and the rewards of giving it away. Once each shawl has left our hands and been blessed, it will offer a gift of love and comfort from not only the knitter, but the entire Parish of Saint Barnabas.

This quiet ministry will continue to grow stitch-by-stitch and row-by-row in the following years and we always welcome anyone to join us. The prayer shawls have been given to parishioners, family members and friends of the prayer shawl ministry. We will try to meet any requests you may have.

Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Gentile

Property Committee Report

This report includes items that have been completed in 2005 and a list of major items identified as in need of addressing

Completed

11. The purchase of a new ride-on lawn mower
12. New custom parishioner assist railings on the Church's front doors
13. Fire alarm control panel battery replacements
14. New metal Episcopal Church sign
15. Creighton House bathroom repairs and antifreeze winter shut down of the facility.
16. Memorial Garden renovation, thanks to Keith Dickenson and his committee
17. Parish House bathroom painting, thanks to ECW.

Major Items Identified as in Need of Attention

1. Garage and Maintenance shed replacements. (Their condition may have lead to the theft of the church's snow blower which had to be replaced.)
2. Main electric service replacement and relocation out of the garage.
3. Roof leaks within the Chancel area and Belfry.
4. Creighton House problems including: Lead paint and other interior renovations.
5. Kingfisher fire alarm panel and surge protectors.
6. Hall kitchen dishwasher replacement.
7. Church sign, driveway, walkway and front step lighting.
8. Second floor Parish Hall rear door replacement and picture window resealing.

9. Telephone system update.
10. Roof flashing repair on the southeast dormer of the Parish House.
11. Tree removals: driveway entrance, memorial garden and at the garage site.

The committee elected a new chairperson, Harvey Williamson, effective January 1, 2006. We would like to thank Bob Peterson for everything he has done to improve the church's property during his term as chairperson.

Respectfully submitted,
Harvey Williamson, Chair