

The St. Barnabas' Reporter



Beginning Our Journey

The Rev. John Bolin Shellito, Rector

Greetings! My family and I have received so many warm welcomes, we can hardly believe that we only just arrived on June 8th! How time has flown. We feel so grateful to be joining St. Barnabas' Church. I am so appreciative of the opportunity to serve as your Rector, it is an immense privilege, and I am incredibly thankful. I can't wait to see what the Holy Spirit is up to in our particular patch of the Vineyard, as we seek to embody and share Christ in northern Virginia.

Although it is a strange time for us to be getting to know one another, I'm trusting that we can make the most of this unprecedented time in which we find ourselves. As I reflect on those qualities that first drew me to St. Barnabas', I feel especially grateful for your commitment to racial justice, reflected in the "Meet Me in Galilee" award that St. Barnabas' received from the Diocese several years ago for your leadership in racial reconciliation and racial justice. I am inspired that you are continuing that work even today.

And, in my conversation with Bishop Goff before my arrival at St. Barnabas', I also remember naming my gratitude for the fact that St. Barnabas' called the Rev. Linda Wofford Hawkins back in 2001: St. Barnabas' has already called a female Rector and has journeyed with her through many years of ministry. As a congregation, St. Barnabas' has an established track record in the area of gender justice, and that matters deeply to me, too. I also feel extremely grateful for the ministry of the Rev. Canon Carol Cole Flanagan as your Interim during the past three years. I get the inkling that she has planted many good seeds for the future here at St. Barnabas', and that the fruits of her efforts will continue to bless St. Barnabas' and those connected to her for many years to come.

In terms of myself and my family, I ask for your continuing patience and prayers this summer as I acclimatize and learn about the habits of effective ministry that are already being practiced here, and as my family finds their particular sense of place here at St. Barnabas', too. I for one cannot wait to get to know you. And I am hoping and praying that, in the months and years ahead, the Spirit will continue to guide us in ever more abundant relationships, and keep transforming us for the better in our journey along the Way.

With much gratitude and anticipation,
John+

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Sarah Denby Memorial Grant Applications*
- *Parish Administrator*
- *Separate Paths Becoming One*
- *Proposed VBS*
- *Parish Retreat Update*
- *Regathering Committee*
- *Biblical Messages*
- *FACETS Continues*
- *Virtual Programs*
- *Cuba Mission*
- *Thank you from Carol*
- *Summer Reading*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ACCA	6
In the Presence of God	7
Kids Page	15
Online Worship/ Coffee/Bible Study	3
Thanks and More Thanks	10
Treasury Notes	2
Vestry Highlights	2

**St. Barnabas'
Episcopal Church**

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

Parish Staff

The Rev. John Bolin Shellito
Rector

Mariel York
Dir. of Christian Education

Vacant

Interim Minister of Music

Catherine Dubas
Parish Administrator

Maria Bottlick
Bookkeeper

James Harris, *Sexton*

Vestry & Parish Officers

Maria Macfarlane
Senior Warden

Grace Robbins
Junior Warden

John Westerlund
Treasurer

PJ Kennedy
Assistant Treasurer

Ann Sayles
Register

Behn Ayala
Jonathan Barber
Sheena Friend

Art Hamerschlag
Sharon Jones
Alan Phillips
Dawn Schaefer

Catherine Dubas
Newsletter Editor

Schedule of Services

Sunday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:15 a.m. Adult Choir
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
*Nursery available
at 9:00 a.m.*

Wednesday Morning

10:00 a.m. Worship
*Holy Eucharist and Healing
on the first Wednesday
of each month*

Vestry Highlights—May 2020

May 20, 2020 – ZOOM Meeting

- Vestry approved Charter for the Transition Team.
- Income revenue for April was good, resulting in a net gain of \$19,500.
- Vestry reviewed a draft of the Charter for the Youth Committee that will be sent to the Committee for final review. The final document will be presented to the Vestry for final approval at the next Vestry meeting.
- The Youth Committee is considering having a virtual Vacation Bible School program this summer. Theresa Merchant and Mariel York have attended a workshop that will help to implement the program.
- Vestry approved the increase in the budget line item for FACETS. Extra monies are needed to accommodate the increasing number of homeless people to feed.
- Since the summer camps cannot be held at Shrine Mont this year, the Vestry approved that the monies received for that program be donated to Shrine Mont.
- The Vestry appointed a Regathering Committee to discuss necessary and reasonable adaptations for keeping parishioners safe from Covid-19. Members include Molly Newling, Ed Ing, Kathy Schaefer, Camille Mittelholtz, Cy Tamanaha, Mariel York, Delilah Stearns, and Betty Jo Fortune; Maria Macfarlane, Senior Warden and the Rev. John Shellito, Rector are both ex officio members.
- There has been some interest in providing virtual services for the parishioners. The Bishop's approval is required (and was subsequently obtained) for recording/streaming video from the sanctuary.

Anne Sayles, Register

\$\$ Treasury Notes \$\$

“May you live in interesting times.” *Chinese Proverb*

The Treasury has remained very busy of late, the following being a small update of our busy business;

- St. Barnabas' will be applying for the US CARES Act which will grant St. Barnabas tax credits on employee payroll tax.
- The Vestry voted to donate budgeted MAT (Music and Theater) Camp scholarship funds directly to Shrine Mont to support their operations during this difficult time. The vestry was unanimous in its support of Shrine Mont, who has had to cancel most summer activities and is struggling to keep operations going. We encourage folks who feel so compelled to visit their website and donate.

(continued next page)

St. Barnabas' Mission:

Serving our community, the world, and each other through the love of Jesus Christ.

Online Worship, Spiritual Coffee Hour & Bible Study

St. Barnabas' Spiritual Coffee Hour at 9:00a.m., preceded and followed by 8:00am and 10:15am Online Worship, on Sunday Mornings

Online Worship is available on the church's Facebook page on Sunday Mornings at 8am and 10:15am:

<https://www.facebook.com/StBarnabasEpiscopal/>

Online Worship is also available on YouTube, and those links are typically emailed to the parish on Fridays. Parishioners are encouraged to comment and pray online together, as we all adjust to the unprecedented times in which we are living.

For Spiritual Coffee Hour, the readings will be those listed on The Lectionary Page, found at www.lectionarypage.net. We have been making our way through Track 1 this summer.

Spiritual Coffee Hour/Bible Study—Permanent Login Until End of August:
<https://zoom.us/j/95389625482?pwd=OTRBcVU4V2VSVIM1OVhxVmFSREF5QT09>

Meeting ID: 953 8962 5482

Password: 0611

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,95389625482#,,#0611# US (Chicago)

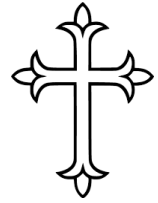
+19292056099,,95389625482#,,#0611# US (New York)

Treasury Notes *(continued from p. 2)*

- The vestry authorized up to \$5000 to be spent on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the parish, including masks, hand sanitizers and any other required equipment to handle regathering and COVID-19 mitigation activities. We are placing a premium on safety.
- We welcomed the wonderful Rev. John Shellito and family. Funds for video production were authorized in tandem with the start of our online worship via YouTube and Facebook. Please give him a warm welcome! Of course, we can't wait until the day the church is reopened and we can be there physically to welcome him and his family to St. Barnabas'.
- Please keep sending your pledges in via check or online. Your generosity helps programs like FACETS provide food to the homeless, which I have been informed has multiplied since February.

Wishing you safety, health, and good fortunes! - John Westerlund, Treasurer

In Memoriam



**The Rev. Canon
Clinton Dugger**
April 24, 2020
Woodbridge, MD

*Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.
Amen.*

Next Date for Baptisms

All Saints' Day



November 1, 2020

*If you or someone you know is interested in Holy Baptism please contact
the Rev. John Shellito
or the Parish Office.*

Sarah Denby Memorial Grant Applications Now Being Accepted

by James Carroll

The Endowment Fund Committee joyously announces that we will be awarding funds from the Sarah Denby Memorial Grant program in 2020!

Thanks to the growth of generous contributions from Parishioners, the St. Barnabas Endowment is able to provide grants for 2020, upon application from members of the congregation. Grants will be awarded to support any of three broad areas: 1) outreach ministries and grants, 2) new ministries and special projects to strengthen programs within the Parish, and 3) improvements to Parish buildings and grounds.

There is a simple two step application process.

Step 1: Submit a Letter of Interest by September 30, 2020. In a one-page letter, describe your proposed project, who will benefit, who will be involved in implementing the project, how much it will cost overall, and how much you anticipate requesting from the St. Barnabas grant program. Include your telephone number and email address and the best time of day for you to be reached. The Endowment Fund Committee will let you know by phone or e-mail if your grant idea falls generally within the grant program's guidelines and whether you should submit a full proposal.

Step 2: Submit a full proposal by November 15, 2020. If your proposal falls generally within the grant program's guidelines, you will be given guidance on how to submit a full proposal – it will be easy and straightforward!

The Endowment Board anticipates making two to four grants, totaling approximately \$6,000-8,000. We hope to see several applications, and strongly encourage interested parishioners to contact any member of the Endowment Board – Robin Erskine, James Carroll, Carolyn Lilienthal, and Mark Patterson.

From the Parish Administrator

There have been a few instances of people not receiving parish emails during the pandemic. Please be assured that emails are still being sent on Mondays and Thursdays, and come through our parish database, Realm. The email sender is "Parish Administrator." If you unsubscribe from "Parish Administrator" emails I will not know that you are out of communications until/unless you let me know. You can be reinstated by the IT specialists at Realm up to three times. After that, security protocols prohibit them from reinstating you. If others mention that they aren't receiving emails please encourage them to get in touch with me! Email and phone messages are checked regularly.

The deadline for the September 2020 issue of *The St. Barnabas Reporter* is Saturday, August 15th. Please submit announcements and/or photos to the Parish Office at stbarnabaschurch@outlook.com. Hard copies of announcements and photos are welcome, as well.

Summer Parish Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. I expect to be in the office Mondays and Thursdays; I work from home on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The office is closed on Fridays in July and August. If you plan to come by you may want to call or email in advance to confirm. Thank you, Catherine

Separate Paths Becoming One

by Michael Dugger

On September 5, 2018, I was honored to sit with my friends Molly, Librada, Carolyn, Rotha, Hugh, and PJ. As a team, we prayerfully took our first steps on a path towards our new Rector. This process required that we get to know ourselves as individuals, as a Search Committee, and as a congregation. Knowing who we were, our strengths and especially our weaknesses, allowed us to recognize, acknowledge, and embrace that God was going to lead us on this journey.

We asked many questions of various candidates and all of us were impressed with their various responses. However, one resonated with all of us, and that was John. We had the opportunity to read his submitted portfolio and written responses to our inquiries, interview him online, sit with him face to face, and see him lead a service as an Associate Rector. What John shared with us in each instance was very exciting and refreshing. We saw someone who was humble, contemplative in his process, and continuously in consultation with God's Word, making him confident, honest, and quite sincere.

He made himself accessible, even vulnerable, and allowed himself to be committed to and present in the moment. He didn't proclaim to have all the answers, but was very thankful for the mentors and support system that have guided and will continue to be part of his development. Finally, he saw St. Barnabas' as an opportunity to grow with a congregation that wants to grow in many ways and is open to being led towards the possibilities that God and the future have to offer. With prayerful conversation, deliberation, and discernment, the Search Committee made its recommendation to the Bishop and the Vestry on February 13th and February 18th, respectively, and the Letter of Agreement was signed on March 23, 2020.

On June 8, 2020, a little more than 21 months after the first Search Committee meeting, the Rev. John Bolin Shellito and his family began a shared spiritual journey with us as the third Rector of St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church, Annandale, Virginia. John, may God bless you, Haley, Amos, and Catherine. We are so thankful He wanted our paths to meet and become one. *Amen.*



The Rev. John Bolin Shellito

Proposed VBS and New Family Resources

by Mariel York, DCE

Parents of our Nursery children and Godly Play students were emailed a complimentary issue of the Illustrated Ministry "*Welcome to Compassion Camp: Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You.*" <https://store.illustratedministry.com/>. Ms. Delilah, the Sunday School teachers, and I hope that you will enjoy using this packet with your children. If you would like a copy of this issue to use with your children or grandchildren, please email Mariel York, DCE at stbarnabasdce@outlook.com.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Theresa Merchant and I are working towards launching our very first 2020 *Virtual VBS program*.



Mrs. Kathleen Stark has graciously volunteered to be our *St. Barnabas Story Lady* videotaping her reading stories for the children of our parish.

Details on how to access these programs will be forthcoming.



ACCA News – Annandale Christian Community for Action

Thank you to everyone who has given ACCA money or food donations. Your support has helped ACCA respond to significantly increased calls for rent and food assistance due to economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fairfax County received funding from the Federal CARES Act to help address the economic impacts of the pandemic, and recently allocated funds to faith organizations throughout the county, including ACCA. These funds will help ACCA meet the needs in the Baileys Crossroads-Annandale area. Before receiving these funds, ACCA relied upon funds in its Legacy Fund and increased donations from supporters in the community to assist households in paying rent and utilities.



The needs for food from ACCA's Food Pantry have continued at a high rate. ACCA volunteer drivers deliver a week's emergency food supplies to households in need identified by the county social services, clergy or other social service organizations. Different teams work inside the pantry to assemble the groceries and household supplies for delivery and to shelve donated nonperishable food and hygiene products from churches and individuals. To provide complete meals, a team of volunteer shoppers checks the inventory at the pantry then goes to several stores to get what is needed most at the lowest price. ACCA recently received over 4,000 pounds of food from the County Stuff the Bus campaign and boxes from the Capital Area Food Bank. ACCA continues to welcome donations of food and hygiene products. Donations are collected at the food pantry trailer next to the day care center at 7200 Columbia Pike, Annandale- Saturdays between 9 a.m. and noon (through July 25), and Mondays through Fridays between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. To leave food at St. Barnabas', please contact the Parish Administrator (703-941-2922).

The 2020 Annandale CROP Hunger Walk is being planned as a virtual walk this fall to continue to fight against new challenges of disease and disaster that leave people hungry. Funds raised will help Church World Service address needs around the world and, through ACCA, in our community. The virtual walk will take place on Saturday morning, October 17. Walkers will walk together apart by walking on their own, with family or close contacts, at the set time unless they need to walk at another time. Participants can register online for the St. Barnabas' team and can invite online donations at www.crophungerwalk.org/annandaleva, and any donor will be able to donate by cash or check.

The Rebuilding Together workday is still on hold. Once it is safe to resume the program, Ken Mittelholtz and Frank Spink will work to set a date that works for our team of ACCA churches. We will be repairing a group home for disabled women in Annandale.

The ACCA Child Development Center continues to serve children of first responders, essential workers and low-income families. The CDC received a loan from the Payroll Protection Program so that it can continue to pay teachers who are working from home to support families of enrolled children who are now at home.

The ACCA furniture program hopes to operate for several weeks in July and begin again with deliveries and pick-up of donations in September if safe protocols can be developed.

For more information on ACCA, please contact Camille or Ken Mittelholtz.

Parish Retreat Update

At the June 11th ZOOM meeting, the Parish Retreat (Shrine Mont) Committee agreed that we should not have our parish retreat in 2020. Depending upon the pandemic situation, we hope to plan a one-day outdoor retreat in the spring or early summer of 2021. We have retained our reservation at Shrine Mont for the last weekend of September 2021. - Ann Sayles

Regathering Committee

by Molly Newling

A Regathering Committee has been formed to help lead the St. Barnabas' congregation toward a safe and sane return to gathering together as we have traditionally done for over 50 years. Current members are Molly Newling, Chair; the Rev. John Shilleto, Rector; Maria Macfarlane, Senior Warden; and Ed Ing, Camille Mittelholtz, Kathy Schaefer, Delilah Stearns, Cy Tamanaha, and Mariel York. Each member brings different interests and abilities to the group, be it a health services background, experience in working with children, legal training, technology, or a devotion to music. And some combine two or more talents!

Our first meeting was on June 2 of this year, and we have had one more meeting since, so we are just getting started. Nevertheless, we have accomplishments: research and reporting of the various guidelines that affect our parish—CDC, Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax County, and, most importantly, the Diocese of Virginia. Of note, we must get explicit approval of our plans from the Diocese before we hold any kind of services or open the building for meetings or for any groups.

We also have researched and are sending to the Vestry for approval safety guidelines for the Administrative staff and offices are to follow. This will mean separation of workspaces, screening of visitors, and purchasing adequate cleaning and disinfecting products to keep everyone safe.

We are looking forward to working with the Rector on the shape and style of future religious services. The June 14 Morning Prayer recorded service was a wonderful start, and garnered 300 views on Facebook and YouTube combined! There probably will be more than one type of service in our future, and possibly more than one type in a given week, as we try to find a way to reach everyone safely.

We will be moving slowly and carefully toward our goal of finally seeing all of us healthy and happy together.

In the Presence of God

We pray for God's strength and healing ... Bernard Blair, Emma Blevins, Jean Anne Braddon, Margot Donnelly, Frank Donnelly, Rotha Frye, Lee Gibbs, Roger Hefferan, Gertrude Jones, Sharon Jones, Tom Lyles, Bob Macfarlane, Cindy McLaughlin, Marion Meany, Barbara Metz, Rusty Moore, Jane Moya, Marie Pannier, Aliyah Phillips, Beth Phillips, Anne Radway, Barbara Rigden, Ann Sayles, Frank Spink, Kathleen Stark, David Steidel, Dana Wiseman, and Ann Woodle.

For the Church ... the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby; our Presiding Bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry; and our Diocesan Bishops, The Rt. Rev. Susan E. Goff, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston, The Rt. Rev. David Colin Jones, The Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick, The Rt. Rev. Peter James Lee, and The Rt. Rev. F. Clayton Matthews and their families.

For our Rector, the Rev. John Bolin Shellito, and his family; for Cindy McLaughlin (in discernment); for our vestry, wardens, and staff; and for the work and ministry of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church, Palma Soriano, Cuba.

The Biblical Messages of Dr. Seuss “The Sneetches” *(excerpt)*

Joshua 10:1-7; Matthew 15:21-28; Galatians 3:26-29

James 2:1-4 Salem United Methodist Church

August 23, 2015 The Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling

by Mariel York, DCE



Two of the students in our Godly Play class mentioned that the book The Sneetches by Dr. Seuss is one of their favorite books. I purchased the book and a yellow toy Sneetch as I thought a Sneetch would be a good mascot for our students. And then the pandemic hit and the opportunity was lost.

Below is an excerpt from a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Sue Shorb-Sterling.

There is division in the story of The Sneetches. There were two types of Sneetches. One group had stars on their bellies. The other group did not. The Sneetches with the stars on their bellies thought that they were better than the Sneetches without stars. They did not include them in any of their activities. The Sneetches without stars wanted to have stars so they could be like the Sneetches with stars. They were not happy being themselves. This human condition of creating divisions began with Cain and Abel. Abel was a shepherd. Cain was a farmer. After both gave offerings to the Lord, Cain resented the differences in Abel so much that he killed him. At least in the story of the Sneetches they don't kill each other, they just try to become like the other.

The Apostle Paul battled with divisions within the early church. His churches in the area of Galatia, which is now the southern part of Turkey, were creating divisions within the churches. There were those who were Jews who came to believe that Jesus was the Jewish Messiah. Then there were those who had no Jewish background, but believed Jesus to be the Savior. They were dividing themselves into these two camps. In addition, both slaves and their owners became Christians and were in the same church. And the social roles for men and women were quite different. All of these groups are bringing their differences, their social roles into the churches. This was causing huge problems. Paul is telling them that in Jesus there are no divisions. We are all one. Jesus unites us. Thus the church is to be a model for the world. We are to be diverse, yet be united. We can believe differently. We can hold different political views. We can look differently. We can have different educational levels and have different level of incomes. We can speak different languages and still be one.

Dr. Seuss ends the book with the “Sneetches got really quite smart...They decided that Sneetches are Sneetches...That day, all the Sneetches forgot about stars and whether they had one, or not, upon thars.”

http://www.salemunitiedmethodist.org/231_sermons/2015-08-23_sermon.pdf

FACETS Continues Through COVID-19

by Molly Newling and Jack Miller

St. Barnabas' commitment to the FACETS program for feeding the homeless continues to be stronger than ever. Even in the time of severe illness and sheltering in place we have continued to bring hot meals to those in need on the first Sunday of the month. We have seen the need increase dramatically as many families, including those not homeless but now not working and food insecure, have heard of the program and flocked to our distribution sites.

We have adapted our routines to try to best assure the safety of our helpers while we perform this vital service. Those who bag the cold food—snacks, bread and fruit—have been reporting to the church at 1:30 pm and work at tables set up to keep individuals 6' apart. Masks, hats, gloves, and cleaning supplies are all available to make sure both we and the clients are safe. After the “baggers” finish, the cooks arrive at 4 pm to prepare the hot food. Again, masks, hats, and gloves are a must. We have pared down the number of cooks to a minimum to limit our physical contact. Then our drivers arrive. As we load the cars with food, we also include a table on which to place the food and then step back so that it can be picked up safely. Masks, gloves, and disinfectant wipes again!

Because of the increased demand for food, we have almost doubled the amount of food purchased monthly. This has increased the work of the buyers, since some stores are limiting the number of popular items that can be purchased in one order, sometime requiring several trips (usually Costco). We also have purchased another roaster to prepare the additional food.

We want to give a HUGE *Thank You!!!* to everyone who has stepped up to assist in keeping this program running: Cy Tamanaha and Librada Estrada, Mark Patterson, Connie and Pete Badger, Grace Robbins and Steve Helferd, Sheena Friend, Maria Bottlick, Behn Ayala, Marcel Lisi, Nancy Peyton, Wendy Williams, Marilyn White, and Beth Harper. I sincerely hope we have not forgotten anyone, but know we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. Many of these people have performed multiple jobs in order to keep us running.

A few faithful helpers have had to step aside because of health concerns or their risk category, but we are happy to announce that we have had some new volunteers. The Dugger and Kennedy families have volunteered to shop for FACETS, which is a huge help and we welcome them to the team.



Thanks and More Thanks...

- To Kathleen Stark who has graciously offered to be the St. Barnabas' Story Lady, offering a monthly story for St. Barnabas' children.
- To Ken Mittelholtz for turning on the outdoor water supply, and to Molly Newling for the addition of some lovely native plants outside the front of the church.
- To the Rev. Elizabeth Tomlinson for providing clerical pastoral coverage in early June.
- To Mariel York for finding creative adaptations for Christian Education in this unusual time.
- To Maria Bottlick for her excellent and caring service as Bookkeeper.
- To the Regathering Committee for their prayerful work to keep St. Barnabas members safe.
- To the Finance and Endowment Committees for their wise and careful stewardship of our resources.
- To all who have continued to support St. Barnabas Church through the pandemic: through Online Worship, Spiritual Coffee Hour, servant leadership, and generosity with time, energy, and resources.
- To Stephen Ackert for generously offering his musical gifts as a part of Online Worship.
- To all those who are working to help bring hope and healing in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis—in their workplace, through FACETS, through the church and across northern Virginia.
- To all essential workers and the families and caregivers who are supporting them, including delivery workers, healthcare workers, first responders, grocery store workers, sanitation workers, and others.

Virtual Programs for Active Adults, Children, and Teens

Fairfax County's Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) offers a variety of 1-hour virtual programs for active adults, as well as for children and teens. Adults can connect to programming that works with their schedules. Choose from a variety of virtual fitness classes - gentle yoga, tai chi, dancing, strength and balance, and more.



There are also a host of arts and crafts and educational programs that are offered to stimulate creativity, increase knowledge, engage your mind and provide entertainment from the comfort of your own home, including Learn Zoom, Beginner Spanish, and Music Appreciation, to name a few. The NCS virtual programs are scheduled on a weekly basis.

The children's virtual programs are listed on the NCS website by school grades: Grades 1-6 and Grades 7-12. Parental permission is required in order to access the NCS Connects website for children.

Feel free to visit the website at fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services. Check out the weekly schedule on the website, select a class, follow the log-in instructions, and join an interesting learning activity. I've enjoyed participating in several virtual NCS classes for active adults, and thought I would share with you some good news.

Have a safe and pleasant Summer. - Phyllis McKoy

What the Cuban Mission Is About

by Len LeRoy

In 2011, St. Barnabas' allowed me to lead an exploratory mission trip to Cuba where I had lived as a missionary's son. President Obama had just eased restrictions on travel to Cuba so this was a good time to return for a visit. The team consisted of Mareea Wilson, my wife Eileen, and my son Charles. In 10 days we visited 5 cities and 6 of Cuba's 44 Episcopal parishes, establishing personal relationships that last to this day. The Bishop of Cuba still asks me about Mareea, and several people ask me about my wife and son.

On that trip we found a mission partner for St. Barnabas'—a ruin of an old church that had been one of my father's missions when I was a child. The St. John the Baptist building had collapsed sometime in the 1980's and all that was left was four walls that were not structurally sound. Since the building was not safe, we worshiped in the duplex house next door. When we reported back to St. Barnabas' the congregation raised \$3,500 to turn the ruin into a functional church building.

Last summer four of us returned to visit St. John the Baptist and led a Vacation Bible School where we developed personal relationships with congregation members. Now Norma Ricketts, Wendy Williams, and Eileen have people in Cuba who ask, "When is she coming to visit again?" That is a major part of what mission work is about—fellowship. It's about young Ernesto giving us his prize possession, a Santiago baseball hat, and him wearing his way too big Washington Nationals hat every day since then. It's about the Rev. Deacon Noel sending me a WhatsApp message on June 11 telling me that he was praying for St. Barnabas' on our Saint's Day. A mission relationship is about praying for each other and building each other up. The financial and material aid that we send means a lot to them. But the act of giving can mean as much or more to us.

In March I had the privilege of travelling to Havana to attend the formal readmission of the Diocese of Cuba into the Episcopal Church. Bishop Curry presided at the March 6, 2020 service, with many other clergy—deacons, priests, and nine additional bishops—present.

The hugs that my friends and I exchanged on this occasion were worth much more than the powdered milk, candles, and laundry detergent, that I brought for them. A few days after my return from this wonderful celebration there would be photos of empty airport terminals in the papers as the U.S. slid into the novel coronavirus mess. While we cannot visit this summer because of the coronavirus, I hope that we will keep the love going and continue supporting our brothers and sisters at St. John the Baptist.



Left: Len with the Rt. Rev. Griselda Delgado del Carpio, Bishop of Cuba



Left: Young friend (left) with the Rt. Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop (center) and the Rev. Canon Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies (right)

...because any collection of Cuba photos has to include an old car:

Below: Willys Jeepster



The Reverend Canon Carol Cole Flanagan
3360 Chiswick Ct.
Silver Spring, MD 20853-1822

Telephone 202-288-9694

ccolef@verizon.net

June 15, 2020

Maria Macfarlane, Senior Warden
St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church
4801 Ravensworth Road
Annandale, VA 22003

Dear Maria,

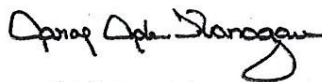
Many, many thanks to you and to everyone at St. Barnabas' for the thoughtful and generous gift that arrived in the mail on Saturday, for the kind words, and for the many relationships that made the time both interesting and fun. What a treat! I have no idea yet what I will do with the check but whatever it is I will dedicate it to St. Barnabas'!

I also want to say how grateful I have been for the many prayers and much support over the three plus years following the deaths of my husband, my son, my mother and my brother. I would have planned them all very differently if I'd had a vote in the matter!

I have enjoyed my conversations with John Shellito. He seems as excited to join you as you are to have him so the days ahead look bright. I look forward to coming back to worship with all of you when worshipping together is a possibility once again. In the meantime, we will all be learning what a new normal will look like.

Stay well and stay safe!

Grace and peace,



Carol Cole Flanagan

Summer Reading Recommendations

In this moment, I feel it's crucially important to read books written by people of color. Here are three really great (fiction) books I've read recently by Black authors:

Homegoing by Ya'a Gyasi

Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead

Kindred by Octavia Butler

- Leigh Kennedy

Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena—Take a ride with CJ and his Nana as they travel through their city, make friends on the bus, and enjoy serving their community.

The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson—a reminder that everyone has a story to share!

- Amos & Cat Shellito (for little ones)

The Spy and the Traitor by Ben Macintyre—gripping true story about a KGB agent who is sent to London, but then is recalled to Moscow when the KGB becomes suspicious of him; very exciting

Last Train to London by Meg Waite Clayton—about a woman who gets Jewish children out of Vienna in the 1930's

The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce—a man who owns a small shop that sells only vinyl records enjoys picking the right music for each customer (not just what they think they want)

Clock Dance—the latest Ann Tyler

The Kitchen God's Wife by Amy Tan—an old book (1991)

The Sweeney Sisters by Lian Dolan—sisters in New England discover they have another sister

Merivel: A Man of His Time and the earlier *Restoration* by Rose Tremain—set in Restoration England

- Elizabeth Moya

Author Kristin Hannah—everyone knows her *Nightingale*—but she also has some other books that are nearly as gripping, and wonderful stories:

The Great Alone—about a family 'escaping' to Alaska; *Firefly Lane*—two young girls, growing up; and *Winter Garden*—essentially about a family who is unknowingly impacted by the horrors of Leningrad

Also,

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens—very popular book club book

Timefulness by Marcia Bjornerud—on Geology

Biology of Belief by Dr. Bruce Lipton—latest scientific discoveries in biology, in particular how our DNA is controlled by signals from outside the cell, and the profound implications of this discovery

- Lita Mellon

Me and White Supremacy: Combat Racism, Change the World and Become a Good Ancestor by Layla Saad leads readers through a journey of understanding their white privilege and participation in white supremacy so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black people, indigenous people, and people of color, and in turn help other white people do better, too (book and workbook).

- Mariel York

(continued next page)

Summer Reading *(continued from previous page)*

The Lost Letter by Jillian Cantor—a very pleasant read

The Room on the Rue Amelie—set in Paris in WWII about a family that hid RAF pilots who had been shot down, helping them to get back to England; fascinating!

- Shirley Newman

Any book by Donna Leon about Commissario Guido Brunetti, a policeman in Venice, Italy, or by Sarah Paretsky; both are mystery writers. Paretsky is best known for her novels focused on the female protagonist V. I. Warshawski.

The WWII trilogy by Rick Atkinson: *An Army at Dawn*, *The Day of Battle*, and *The Guns at Last Light*; as well as his novel, *The British Are Coming*

The Kill Artist by Daniel Silva—This novel launched a character known as one of the most memorable and compelling in contemporary fiction: art restorer and sometime Israeli secret agent Gabriel Allon. Allon appears in twelve subsequent novels by Silva.

The Bernie Gunther novels by Philip Kerr, including *March Violets*, *The Pale Criminal*, *A German Requiem*, and nine more.

- Jonathan Barber

Doorstopper of a book--in case you need 800 pages of Alexander Hamilton!" *Alexander Hamilton* by Ron Chernow, who currently is writing a book about Mark Twain.

The Soul of America by John Meacham; also, *The World, a Brief Introduction* by Richard Haas

Last but not least, *Pelosi* by Molly Ball, giving insight on what's current in D.C.

- Anne Radway

My latest novel: *The Last Rhino*, by Robert Gribbin, available at iuniverse.com, amazon, and other on-line bookstores. It is a great summer read.

Deep in the vastness of a lost corner of the Congo a reformed big game hunter tackles the management of Garamba National Park.... Mysteries of tribal tradition and the very existence of vanishing species unfold along with heartwarming relationships of folks caught up in efforts to save wild creatures. Accurately set amidst the woes of contemporary Congo, the story educates and enlightens about the challenges of conservation in the troubled heart of Africa.

- Bob Gribbin

The Return and *A Month in Siena* both by Hisham Matar. *The Return* is Hisham Matar's account of his return to his home country of Libya to try to find out what had happened to his father 25 years before. *A Month in Siena* is the story of what Matar saw in his month of looking at the art he had always loved in an effort to deal with an emotionally turbulent time.

- Kathleen Stark

KIDS PAGE

St. Barnabas and St. Paul's Missionary Journey

June 11, 2020 - The Feast Day of St. Barnabas

Saint Paul and Saint Barnabas traveled to many cities preaching the good news about Jesus. Saint Barnabas was called "Son of Encouragement". We all need to be encouragers of others.

Be a "Barnabas!"

You can read about Saint Barnabas in the Bible in Acts 14:8-20.

<http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/paul-and-barnabas-missionary-journey>





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The Rev. John Bolin Shellito

Third Rector of St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church

Celebration of a New Ministry TBA