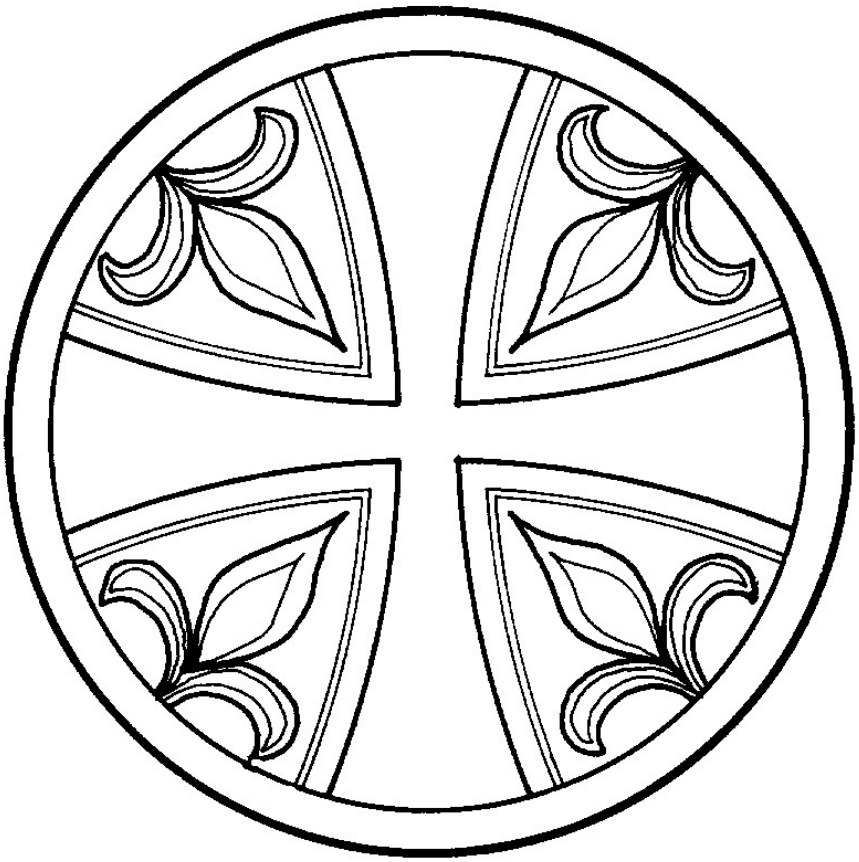


Annual Report for 2026

November 22, 2026

Rector's Report

In 2026, we welcomed Dr. Linda Hayes Bennett. I was thankful for the Search Committee's leadership, in bringing her to our congregation, and for everyone who warmly welcomed her and supported her in her ministry here. Her willingness to assist with the music ministries of St. Barnabas' has made a difference. I also appreciated Dr. Bennett's suggested Easter Cantata—with her help, our Adult Choir contributed powerfully to the joy of our Easter Season—and for that, I am very grateful.

Amid the intensity of our preparations for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, I was reminded once again of how thankful I am for our Altar Guild—this is true all year round, but it is especially true in seasons of special preparation and devotion. Our celebration of Eastertide after the austerity of Lent also made me aware of the inspirational influence of our Flower Guild, and Coffee Hour hosts, as we celebrated Christ's abundant Risen life in our fellowship and in our Eastertide flowers—it meant so much that we could celebrate the Resurrection with the colors and fragrances (and flavors) of rejoicing. The Flower Ministry and Caritas team have both helped to brighten the lives of those St. Barnabasians who are going through a particularly challenging time.

In the season after Pentecost, we bade farewell to five graduating seniors—quite a milestone in the life of St. Barnabas'! I remain deeply thankful for all the Godly Play guides, Sunday School teachers, Children's Chapel volunteers, J2A pilgrimage volunteers, and other supporters who have helped to encourage those young adults as they have been "growing in wisdom and in favor" here at St. Barnabas'. Our children and youth, as well as the adults who care about them, are all a gracious gift from God, and I pray that each of the seniors (along with our continuing St. Barnabas' members) can gain strength in practice, to receive and participate in family-friendly congregational ministry, by the grace of God. I know that it is not easy to encourage others as we all engage in our spiritual practices—but it is generous, important, and transformative.

This past summer, I was thankful to have the opportunity to work with the Vestry in submitting a resolution in memory of Mareea Wilson to the Diocese of Virginia. It was also partially in memory of Mareea that St. Barnabas' also undertook a practice of lifting up particular names in the Prayers of the People for a month on Sunday mornings. To lift up for more than one month, please resubmit the name to Fiona or to me.

I remain very thankful for Fiona's ministry as Parish Administrator, as well as for Wayne's ministry as our Interim Contributions Recorder, for Randy's ministry as our Tutor Coordinator, and for the ministry of our Wardens and Vestry—our church and our world would be a less compassionate place without each of their gracious wisdom and leadership.

This fall, I am thankful for Nancy Machlachan's generosity in stepping up and stepping in to assist the Music Ministry as we find ourselves unexpectedly in a time of need once again. Her leadership is a gracious gift from God, and for that I am very thankful.

It is a gracious gift to serve the living God in the power of Christ—and I am grateful for our practice of and learning in the faith of Christ, together.

John Bolin Shellito, Rector

Senior Warden's Report

It has been a joy to work as Senior Warden with our Rector the Rev John Bolin Shellito and with our seminarians Joshua Duncan and Deborah Okora, and Father James Hughes.

I have also enjoyed working with congregational leaders and members who have joined together in 2026 in worship, service and fellowship, and am thankful for the many people in our congregation who gave their time and talents to support our parish life. We all benefitted from the service on the altar guild, or as chalicists, acolytes, lectors or as choir members and instrumental musicians. Andy, Jessica and Ellen Riddle have worked so that those unable to join us for in-person worship can stream our services. Our Christian education programs for children have thrived thanks to the efforts of many volunteers. Participating adults have benefitted from the efforts of leaders of Education for Ministries, adult forum discussion, and Greek and Hebrew study.

St. Barnabas' members gave parishioner care through the Caritas Team and flower and flower delivery guilds. We also provided strong outreach in the community, through the FACETS hot meals program, ACCA program support, ASYP and the Boys and Girls Club program support, assistance to our sister church in Palma Soriano, Cuba, and inviting community members to join our special events. We have also joined in fellowship for coffee hours, TGIF gatherings, the Shrine Mont retreat, Women of St. Barnabas' events.

To all, thank you for what you have done this year to support St. Barnabas'.

Camille Mittelholtz

Junior Warden and Building & Grounds Committee

The Junior Warden managed the church building and grounds in collaboration with the Building and Grounds Committee, Parish Administrator and Vestry. The Junior Warden managed lawn mowing and pest control. The Committee continued work to control invasive plants on our grounds and arranged for snow removal. The Committee and Junior Warden organized five parish workdays to help clean up the grounds and buildings. Ellen Riddle and Sam Baten led update of the audio system with installation of a new state of the art mixer and new wired and wireless microphones and mixers.

Theresa Merchant and Ken and Camille Mittelholtz, Building and Grounds Committee

Music Ministry

The St. Barnabas' Music Ministry allows parishioners to come together to share their talents and love of music in worship to deepen our common life through song. Dr. Linda Hayes Bennett joined us as Music Minister early in 2026. She brought music new to us and offered the adult choir workshops in addition to weekly practices to help the adult choir learn new music. Linda led the Cherub Choir, and we enjoyed hearing anthems sung by the children at several services. Linda left St. Barnabas' and Northern Virginia in late September to help care for a family member.

"The Band," our group of instrumental musicians, led our music at several services and at our Shrine Mont retreat. Worshipers appreciated the band's efforts and hearing music we hear less often.

Nancy MacLachlan graciously became our interim Music Minister in October 2026. She has planned and played music for services and led the adult choir at rehearsals and during services. She began work with the Cherub Choir in November. Both choirs are working on Christmas music.

Youth Committee

The Youth Committee organizes Children's Chapel, Sunday School, and the Youth Group, providing opportunities for children and youth to grow in their faith, build relationships, and participate in the life of the parish and the broader community. During the 2025–2026 program year, the committee sponsored a variety of fellowship, outreach, and intergenerational activities. These included creating cards of encouragement for the Hypothermia Shelter program, hosting an intergenerational games night, organizing an Easter egg hunt and Halloween Trunk 'n' Treat, holding Breakfast with Santa for the community, and baking cookies and making cards for parishioners unable to attend services during Advent. These events received positive feedback and attracted strong participation from parishioners and community members.

Sunday School classes meet on Sunday mornings in the Education Wing and offer Christian formation for children of all ages in a nurturing and supportive environment. St. Barnabas uses a variety of curricula, including materials from the Godly Play Foundation, *Weaving God's Promises*, and *Journey to Adulthood*. All teachers are required to complete Safe Church training to help ensure a safe environment for children and youth. Children's Chapel is offered during the 10:15 a.m. service, giving younger children an opportunity to engage with the liturgy in an age-appropriate and meaningful way. In

June 2026, five St. Barnabas youth graduated from high school, marking an important milestone in their lives and in their journeys of Christian formation.

The Youth Group, which includes students in fifth grade through high school, provides opportunities for fellowship, service, and spiritual growth. Throughout the year, older youth gathered for food, fun, and service during parish workdays and other activities. These opportunities included preparing dinner for the Hypothermia Shelter program, enjoying a pool party, and supporting Youth Committee events.

Youth also played an active role in the annual parish retreat at Shrine Mont, leading activities that fostered fun, fellowship, service, and spiritual reflection. Through these experiences, St. Barnabas youth strengthened their connections with one another and deepened their engagement with the parish community.

Katie Westerlund, Youth Committee Chair

Adult Christian Education

Education for Ministry (EfM) is a certificate program in theological education grounded in small-group study and practice. Beth Harper led the weekly conversations as participants reflected together. Adult Forum discussions gave participants an opportunity to share, learn, and grow in faith and in the activities and functions of our church. Our sessions have been held in-person at the church with a hybrid component for those attending virtually. Participants in the Greek and Hebrew study with Father James Hughes enjoyed participation.

Contacts: Beth Harper, EfM; Cindy McLaughlin, Adult Forum

Altar Guild

The St Barnabas' Altar Guild has provided dedicated service in 2026 to further the worship of St Barnabas: Sunday services, whether indoor or outdoor; funerals and baptisms, and all services during Holy Week. We always made sure that the altar was correctly set up and supplies were provided, that vestments were ready, and that linens and vessels were clean and ready for use.

The constant willingness to serve and cheerful volunteer spirit of all the members of the Altar Guild has been a shining light at the heart of St Barnabas'. We celebrate the current members of the guild: Kristen Anderson, Maria Bottlick, Beth Crutchley, Betty Jo Fortune, Sharon Jones, Jocelyn Leatherwood, Grace Robbins, and Mary Yeaman. We especially rejoice in our two new members, Linda Hartman and Theresa Merchant. We welcome anyone who would like to join us!

Molly Newling, Chair

Caritas

The St. Barnabas' Caritas Team organized meals for parishioners, made phone calls to shut-ins, and sent cards of get well wishes, good news, and condolences. The Parish Administrator informed the Caritas Team when the need for one of these ministries arises, and the team member on call was contacted when someone wished to have one of these ministries for themselves, a friend, or a family member.

Contact: Parish Administrator or Caritas team

St Barnabas Arts Committee

The Arts Committee was formed after The Rev. Shellito noted that St Barnabas could benefit from more visual art. To support this vision, the committee worked to provide a professional hanging system.

The Arts Committee has curated exhibitions in what the St Barnabas Gallery. A special exhibit honoring Frank Spink, showcasing his artwork and celebrating his many contributions to the church was first shown in 2025 and continued through January 2026. Later in 2026, the Arts Committee exhibited paintings by watercolor artist Marni Maree. The current exhibition is watercolors by Donna Finnegan.

Kathleen Stark

Annandale Boys and Girls Club After School Program /ASYP

The Annandale Safe Youth Program (ASYP) continued to serve Braddock Elementary School students for December 2025 and the first half of 2026. Attendance averaged seven to ten students each day of operation. St. Barnabas members provided gifts for the children at Christmas 2025, given to the children at a joyful holiday celebration before the winter break. We were able to provide tutoring for the students and in the spring, enrichment activities included learning about native plants and looking at creatures on the church property.

In June, we learned that Second Story would no longer be able to the Annandale Safe Youth Project after June 30 because the organization had not received hoped-for grant funding. St. Barnabas learned of the Annandale Boys and Girls Club After School Program located at the Heritage Shopping Center. This program, operated by the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington with Fairfax County, offers after school activities for local youth, kindergarten through high school. Twenty-five to thirty-five students attend weekdays. The St. Barnabas' Vestry decided to support homework help and tutoring at the Annandale Boys and Girls Club. Since July, Randy Jones has served as the

St. Barnabas' coordinator with the Boys and Girls Club program. He provided tutoring and led science activities for the youth as well as mentoring.

Randy Jones, Coordinator

FACETS

FACETS at St Barnabas carried out its mission of providing a hot meal, bread, fruit and a treat, and water or milk once a month to all individuals who come to the 2 designated distribution sites. We also supplied diapers and wipes and canned supplemental food when requested. We distributed 1,527 meals to 1,234 individuals during the 12 months between November 2025 and October 2026.

Need for supplemental food for families is rising in Fairfax County. A recent survey showed that 25% of Fairfax County residents are food insecure. Ten years ago, we routinely distributed 80 meals, now we hand out 140 per month.

Twenty-five St Barnabas parishioners and friends currently volunteer to cook, bag, pack and deliver food to our neighbors monthly, additional volunteers and financial assistance are always welcome.

Molly Newling

Cuban Mission

St. Barnabas' continued to partner with Iglesia Episcopal San Juan Bautista, a mission church in Palma Soriano, Cuba, as they seek to minister in Christ's name in their community. We have helped with funds to rebuild the church building and acquire a rectory, provided items for worship, supported their food ministry to the poor and their health clinic, and collected school supplies and Christmas toys for community children. In earlier years, St. Barnabas' volunteers visited San Juan Bautista.

Len Leroy

Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) and Heritage Mission Center

ACCA - the Annandale Christian Community for Action- works to provide social services for our neighbors in the Annandale and Bailey's Crossroads area. ACCA continued to receive a high volume of requests for emergency help with rent, utilities and food in 2026. The ACCA Child Development Center delivered high-quality education and care for infants and preschoolers from mostly low-income families. St. Barnabas' has been an ACCA member church since ACCA's founding in 1967. The church continues to provide financial support for ACCA. We also provide volunteer support for the ACCA food pantry, furniture, and home repair programs. ACCA sponsored two home repair

projects through the 2026 Rebuilding Together National Rebuilding Day; St. Barnabas' partnered with ACCA to help cover partnership fees and provide volunteers to repair a home in Springfield. St. Barnabas' volunteers helped deliver furniture to needy households and pick up donations of gently used furniture. St. Barnabas' collected about 1300 pounds of donated nonperishable food and hygiene and cleaning products for the ACCA food pantry. Walkers and volunteers from St. Barnabas' participated in the Annandale CROP Hunger Walk and parish members made donations. The walk raises funds for Church World Service hunger and disaster relief programs and ACCA receives part of the funds raised. Children and youth made posters for the walk.

St. Barnabas' also collected about 1000 pounds of donated food for the Heritage Mission Center food distribution program operated by ACCA member church Annandale United Methodist.

Ken and Camille Mittelholtz

Hypothermia Prevention Shelter

We supported the hypothermia prevention shelter by providing meals in early 2026. We provided the meals at Annandale United Methodist Church . Parishioners at St. Barnabas provided meals either bought or homemade from Sunday night through Saturday night. On Sunday the youth of the parish provided a pasta meal with bread, salad and dessert.

We will participate in this program in winter 2026-2027 at a date to be announced. We will use sign-up genius to allow people to to sign up for food and volunteering. Many thanks to all of those who have given their time and talents in past years.

Contacts: Cindy McLaughlin and Theresa Merchant

Women of St. Barnabas' (WOSB)

The Women of St. Barnabas' enjoyed fellowship, service, and an opportunity to work together to raise funds to support programs at St. Barnabas' and selected charities. All women of the congregation are invited to be members. The WOSB raised funds through donations, our annual Christmas bazaar and a spring tea party. We decided upon 2026 donations at our fellowship brunch in January. WOSB gave a total of $2600 to the Rector's Discretionary fund and to selected St. Barnabas' programs. WOSB donated a total of $4850 to international, Virginia and local charities. The theme of the November 2026 bazaar held on November 14 had a theme of "There's a Star in the East." The Women of St. Barnabas' hosted two receptions.

Camille Mittelholtz, for WOSB officers