



## WEEKLY SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

### SUNDAYS:

10.:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST  
10:00 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

### WEDNESDAYS:

7:30 PM BIBLE STUDY

## FEBRUARY 5 VISITATION OF BISHOP MARY GLASSPOOL



Bishop Mary Glasspool will be visiting St Barnabas at the 10:00 AM Eucharist on Sunday February 5.

The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool came to the Diocese of New York as Assistant Bishop in April, 2016. Previously she had been Suf-fragan Bishop of Los Angeles She was born on Staten Island, raised in Goshen, NY, where

her father, Douglas Murray Glasspool, served as rector of St. James' Church until his death in 1989, and graduated Bachelor of Arts Magna cum Laude from Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA in 1976; earned her Master of Divinity from Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, MA in 1981; was ordained a deacon in June 1981 by Bishop Paul Moore, Jr. of New York; and in March 1982 was ordained a priest by Bishop Lyman Ogilby of Pennsylvania. From 1981 to 1984, she served as assistant to the rector, and later interim priest-in-charge, of St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia, moving from there to be rector of St. Luke's and St. Margaret's Church, Boston, where she remained until 1992. She then moved to the Diocese of Maryland, first as rector of St. Margaret's Church in Annapolis (1992-2001) and then, until her election in 2009 as suffragan bishop of Los Angeles, as Canon to the Bishops in the diocese.

In preparation for Bishop Glasspool's visit and in connection with the recent visit from Canon Tammerau to discuss the future of St. Barnabas, we are sharing some relevant remarks made by Bishop Dietsche at the Diocesan convention last November.

He began by saying that "We are a very different diocese today than we were before the 2008 crash. Our budget has been reduced by 3.5 million dollars, and it is unlikely that any of that is coming back to us. A lot of ballast was thrown overboard in the wake of the financial collapse in order to right the ship, and a consequence of that was the falling off of and ultimately the sunset of the Congregational Support Plan. In time we have discovered that the canons and budgetary structures of our diocese, designed for a different kind of budget and a different kind of management, could no longer serve our missional purpose as effectively as once they had. The ground had shifted, and we saw that it was time for us to revisit the needs of our diocese and our parishes, particularly our poorest, smallest and most struggling

parishes, that led to the creation of the CSP in 1996, and to revisit how we will best address those same needs twenty years later, and be prophetic and effective in our poorest communities. We also saw that we needed clarity and shared responsibility for assessments. ....And especially we saw that we needed to face the intractable challenge of long term systemic decline in places across the diocese.

"The essentials required of every church for the making of health and increase in vitality (are) Christian education for children and adults; excellence in liturgy and music; relief to the suffering in your communities and support of Christian mission far away; commitment to social justice, and to peace and reconciliation; the care and preservation of our churches, and the participation in the larger life of the diocese by the payment of assessments.

" The Task Force on congregations has expanded and developed those anecdotal beginnings to create two tools by which we may pay attention to, and assess, the life and strength of our own congregations and parishes. One of those considers the marks of parish viability. These are things which are required of parishes by the canons, or things which if a parish does not attend to them the parish will most certainly die.

" The second tool created by the task force is a similar set of measurable benchmarks, but for vitality rather than viability. If viability is about surviving, vitality is about thriving. And it turns out that is what God wants for us. Jesus said "I came that you may have life, and have it abundantly." It (the second tool) is Open Doors, New Futures, and it points refreshingly and thoughtfully toward what I believe the abundant life can mean for a community. ....set aside some time to read and study it and do an assessment of your parish life and mission in the light of these principles. Set goals. Dream up some visions for yourself. But please understand that these measures of vitality and viability are not tests. They are tools, and together they paint a portrait of congregational health so rich and so full that if fully implemented they would work a transformation in your midst that will bless your church for generations. Open Doors comes with no resolution attached to it, and no mandate, but ....these are the things we are going to talk about."

(Note: The document "Open Doors, New Futures, Vitality Practices and Characteristics of Effective, Viable and Vital Congregations" can be found in the Episcopal Diocese of NY website under "2016 Diocesan Convention" In our self-examination as a parish looking into our future, we need to think about Bishop Dietsche's remarks and the goals set out on the Open Doors, New Futures document.)

## FEBRUARY 5 OUTREACH: BOOKS THROUGH BARS

Books through Bars is a collective based in Brooklyn that mails books requested by people in prison directly to individuals rather than to prison libraries. Because they work out of a donated space, with donated books, donated packing materials, and volunteer labor, their only expense is postage. To meet this much needed expense, they hold fundraisers and look for other

opportunities for receiving funds. The collective offers this service in the belief that it is difficult for people in prisons to access decent educational reading material and that literacy and access to reading material is a human right.

Connecting those behind bars to books and other resources is an important harm-reduction strategy. Books Through Bars aims to address educational inequity and fill the gaps left by prisons where educational programs have been slashed. Many prison libraries are understocked and out of date. For those with low literacy levels or limited English-language skills, the obstacles to resources are redoubled. Requesters often seek educational materials, such as English-language dictionaries, GED, writing, math, or Spanish-language books.

Our Outreach donations on Sunday, February 5 will go toward helping Books Through Bars pay their postage costs. Anyone interested in donating books can see their list of requested books at <http://booksthroughbarsnyc.org/wp/>

### **REPORT ON PARISH MEETING WITH CANON TAMMEARU** (The following report was written by Kathy Wolf)

On Sunday, January 22nd, Canon Deborah Tammearu worshipped with us and hosted an information session and discussion during coffee hour on the possibility of a shared ministry for St. Barnabas with another church.

Kathy Wolf kicked off the meeting by reviewing the decision of the Vestry to explore the possibility of a shared ministry after meeting with Bishop Dietsche in September of 2015. Through a shared ministry, two parishes do NOT merge; rather, they both have access to a full time priest, which is significantly more time than each having a part time priest, whose hours tend to be a finite number. When calling a full time priest to be shared, the pool of candidates is greatly enlarged, since the position is a full time salary with full medical benefits, pension, and housing. In other words, it's a REAL job that will potentially attract a different type of candidate than when each church seeks a part time priest. The saving for each parish is significant since they are sharing all costs: salary, medical, pension, and housing.

Canon Tammearu talked about the Diocesan experience thus far in sharing. In Sullivan County, there are four congregations being served by two priests; in eastern Dutchess County, the Harlem Valley Area Ministry is taking shape among three congregations who will be served by one priest. In Ossining, St. Paul's on the Hill, located in a residential part of the city, is in partnership with Trinity Church, located downtown and right on Route 9. These churches share a priest, but more than that, they support one another spiritually, prayerfully and personally. She also shared her own experience as a shared priest for 10 years.

There were questions from our parish, many regarding how the Sunday worship is done, since a priest can't be in two places at once! Several options were discussed, including having lay-led Morning Prayer every other week, bringing in a supply priest every other week, and changing our service time so that a priest could do two services in one day. All of these options are possibilities that will be explored more deeply by the Vestry and Canon Tammearu. She also stressed the possibilities of synergies between the parishes around Christian formation and other areas.

Ivan Kimball concluded the meeting by saying that the Vestry will be conducting a detailed survey of all parishioners via email and regular mail so that all voices are heard, and thanked Canon Tammearu and the parish for attending.

### **ANNUAL MEETING FEBRUARY 12**

Our Annual Meeting will take place on February 12 during coffee hour following the 10 AM Eucharist. Reports on our 2016 activities will be made, new vestry members will be elected and there will be a year end financial report. In addition this will be a good time for a follow-up discussion about the concept of a shared ministry, so please plan on sharing your thoughts and reflections on this subject at the meeting. If we proceed with a shared ministry we need to have everyone on board regarding the needs and wants of our parish.

### **WE HAVE A NEW DUMPSTER!**

Our thanks to Nancy Gotthelf for helping us in the purchase of a new dumpster. Our old dumpster was completely rotted out on the bottom and was irreparable. The critters who had unlimited access to the old dumpster will not be happy with the new acquisition and will have to search for new sources of food. We will not miss them.



### **FEBRUARY 17 MIDNIGHT RUN**

We are still in need of men's jeans and casual pants for the February 17 run—also warm clothing like sweaters, jackets, mufflers, hats and gloves. One of our regular sandwich makers is unavailable for this run, so please sign up if you can make 20 sandwiches. If you can go on the run or be a helper, please let Nancy Gotthelf know.

### **FEBRUARY 28 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER 6:30-8:30 PM**



As usual the Men's Group will host our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper where they will offer all you can eat pancakes and sausages. We look forward to seeing everyone at this pre-Lenten feast for a leisurely meal and good conversation.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 7:30 PM LITURGY FOR ASH WEDNESDAY WITH IMPOSITION OF ASHES**

There will be one service for Ash Wednesday in the sanctuary in the evening. Bible Study in the library will be held after the service.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

Feb 2: Vestry Meeting  
March 1: Ash Wednesday  
April 13: Maundy Thursday  
April 14: Good Friday  
April 16: Easter Sunday