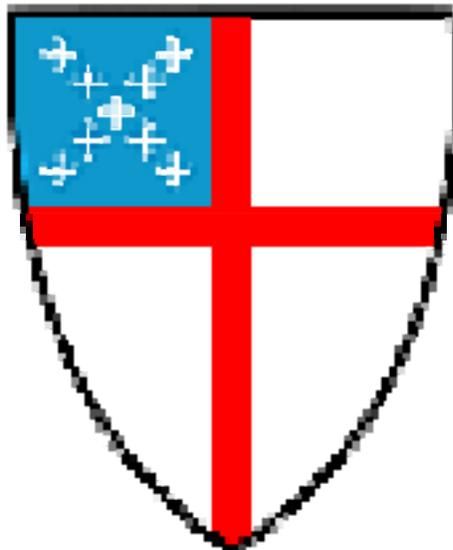


St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church Florissant, Missouri

An Interpretive History: A Chronicle of the Years 1957—2008

Researched and written by

The Rev. Dr. Richard B. Tudor



The Early Years at St. Barnabas': 1957 – 1972

We can possess nothing certainly, except the past.

Evelyn Waugh-Brideshead Revisited

Prologue

A significant milestone in the life of any institution is its beginning! That "moment" for St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church in Florissant, Missouri happened on April 28, 1957. Fifty years have now passed since that beginning. The parish celebrated its 50th anniversary on the weekend of April 28-29, 2007. This celebration presented an opportunity to look back at the past and dig into it for a deeper understanding of the times and the events which have shaped St. Barnabas'. It is the author's intent to write this history in four installments: The Early Years: 1957 – 1972; The Middle Years: 1973 – 1987; The Rich Tudor Years I: 1988 – 1997; and The Rich Tudor Years II: 1998 - 2007. It will also be the intent of the author to do an interpretive history. The facts will be reported – events, dates, places, numbers and names – but, additionally, some conclusions will be drawn and some observations made. This has been an interesting time period to work one's way through because of the fact that American society has changed so much in these past 50 years. That transformation, as we will see, has certainly been a factor in the history and development of St. Barnabas'.

Chapter one In the beginning...

In late November of 1956, an article appeared in a local newspaper with the announcement of a meeting. It asked all those who were interested in starting an Episcopal Church in the Florissant-Hazelwood area to attend a gathering at a small church on St. Francois in old town Florissant. The convener of the meeting was the Rev. Gordon Price, the Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Fergusson. He and his congregation had decided to plant a mission church north of Route 66. The announced meeting was held on December 2, 1956 and a steering committee was formed to continue the study process. The members of that committee were Dan Garhart, Tom Anderson, George Ritchey, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Slagle, George Seaman, Ed Riley, and Charles Krimmel. These are important names. All of these people took responsibilities in the life of the emerging congregation which would become St. Barnabas'. Today there are only two individuals left in the parish who attended the first organizational meeting. They are Mildred Walker (Ritchey) and Yvonne Jones. Mildred was the first Director of Christian Education. There are five additional people still with us who were members of the church in the 1950's: Ruth Hettel, Bill Wardle, Kitty Whitling, Wayne and Sylvia Robbins.

Additional meetings were held leading up to the first worship service in the basement of a rented house at 1750 St. Catherine on Sunday, April 28, 1957. (The house is still there.) It was a service of Morning Prayer. The officiant at the service was the Rev. Gordon Price and the preacher was the Archdeacon of the Diocese of Missouri The Venerable Charles Rehkopf. There were 83 persons present for worship on that day. And so it began!

At its beginning, St. Barnabas' was a mission congregation, not a parish. In those days as today, missions were administered differently than parishes. Instead of a vestry, a mission had an executive committee who served at the behest of the Bishop. The first Executive Committee at St. Barnabas' was formed on May 25, 1957. Its membership consisted of Dan Garhart, Senior Warden; Tom P. Anderson, Jr., Treasurer; Roy Johnson, George Seaman, Fred Slagle, William Maye, Charles Krimmel, Homer J. Walters, and Ed J. Riley, Jr. Sunday worship continued in the basement of the house on St. Catherine for about six months and then moved to the Parker Road School on Sunday, September 29, 1957. The congregation had already outgrown the house. Shortly thereafter, The Rev. Albert Nelius, the first Vicar, arrived on Sunday, October 6, 1957. Mr Nelius and his wife lived in the vicarage at 2625 Narraganset Drive in Florissant. The vicarage was sold in 1967.

Sunday worship continued to be held at the Parker Road School. The average Sunday attendance (ASA) at worship for 36 Sundays in 1957 was 52 persons. In 1958, the ASA had increased to 82 persons and by 1959, it had further increased to 111. This mission church was enjoying steady growth. By today's standards, it would be called rather phenomenal! A parish directory of sorts appeared on September 1, 1959 and it listed the names of 135 families. By way of comparison, it should be pointed out that in 2006, the ASA at St. Barnabas' was 103. Our most recent parish directory shows a membership of 96 families.

What was happening? Why such rapid growth? The conditions were perfect in Florissant in the late 1950's for the planting of a church. The American move to the suburbs was in full swing. When the St. Barnabas' congregation made the decision to build on its present location, a new subdivision was under construction to the south of the planned church building. A Future Plans Committee with William Wardle as its chairman was formed early whose responsibility was to recommend an architect to design a building for a four acre piece of property in the Robinwood subdivision. Eventually, the firm of Wahlmann & Kemp was chosen. Fred Kemp was also the developer of Robinwood. The church property was purchased from his company in 1958 for \$20,000. The diocese of Missouri put up \$4,000 in earnest money. This property was at one time part of the Dr. Roy and Lillian Johnson farm. Their large home sat on the current site of McCluer North High School. The Johnsons were active members of St. Barnabas'.

The groundbreaking for the church at 2900 St. Catherine was held on May 3, 1959 with 158 people present. Pictures of construction show the Robinwood subdivision under construction directly to the south of the church. By the time the church building was up and ready for occupancy, it was situated in the middle of new homes occupied by 150 young families, most of them with several children. The breadwinners in many of those families had moved to Florissant because of its proximity to the McDonnell Aircraft Company in Hazelwood which was expanding its business rapidly. Its involvement in the Aero Space industry was especially exciting at this time. Another circumstance which aided the growth of St. Barnabas' was the fact that the 1950's were a time when people felt that church membership and involvement were a normal part of responsible adult life. It was a much different era than that in which we find ourselves living today. Many people were looking for a church to attend. St.

Barnabas' was in the right place at the right time!

The Rev. Mr. Nelius was present at the groundbreaking ceremony on May 3, 1959, but he departed for a church in Durham, North Carolina in February of 1960. He and his wife still reside in Durham. The Rev. William Stickney became the 2nd Vicar of St. Barnabas' on June 26, 1960. The new congregation— still meeting for worship at the Parker Road School — moved into its new church building on September 26, 1960. There were 236 persons present at that first service. Construction of the building cost \$132,000.

Mr. Stickney was Vicar of St. Barnabas for two years and ten months. During that time, the church moved to offering two services on Sunday mornings, similar to what we are doing today. A reading of the service book from those years reveals that Mr. Stickney also greatly increased the number of mid-week services. St. Barnabas' continued to grow!

In 1960, the ASA was 125, and there were 299 people present on Easter Sunday and 259 at Christmas services. In 1961, the ASA was 171, with 300 people in church on Christmas Eve/Day and 452 on Easter Sunday. By the mid-1960's, the ASA had risen to over 200 people per Sunday.

When we read these numbers we become envious! I would refer you to the graph labeled Figure I. It shows the numbers of baptized members and communicants in good standing recorded on the annual parochial reports sent to the diocese. What you quickly notice again is the amazing growth of the church. At the end of the first partial year of operation (1957), St. Barnabas' already could report 172 baptized persons and 53 communicants. The term "communicant" referred to members, 16 years and older, who were receiving communion on a regular basis and supporting the church financially. By 1960, those numbers had risen to 505 baptized and 210 communicants. At

the end of its fifth year in existence (1962), St. Barnabas' would claim 653 baptized members and 301 communicants. Today, these statistics seem staggering and difficult to imagine for an Episcopal church. Again, we have to remember that that was a different time. It was a simpler less materialistic society more deeply committed to community than the society of today. In many ways the 1950's and early 1960's were the hay days of the Episcopal Church in the Midwest. Many, many churches were built in the 1950's.

Even with its impressive growth in its early years, St. Barnabas' struggled with the issue of money. For the first several years of its existence, the church had a budget of roughly \$11,000. This budget only slowly increased during the 1960's. Without a great deal of assistance — both financial and spiritual — from the diocese in the persons of Bishop Cadigan and Archdeacon Charles Rehkopf, the mission church would have been unable to establish itself.

In April of 1963, William Stickney departed and he was succeeded four months later by the 3rd Vicar, The Rev. Howard Rutenbar who arrived in August, 1963. It is my observation that Mr. Rutenbar brought considerably more experience to the position than the previous two vicars. During his time at St. Barnabas' many physical improvements were made. The undercroft was finished. On April 5, 1965, the new pipe organ was used for the first time. Speaking of the organ, it should be noted that almost from the beginning, Mr. S. Keith Forney was the music director at St. Barnabas'. He and his wife Martha were mainstays of the music program for many years.

During Howard Rutenbar's time at St. Barnabas', the number of baptized members and communicants declined initially and then in 1965 increased again to 637 baptized members and 384 communicants. The Rev. Mr. Rutenbar left St. Barnabas' rather abruptly in September, 1965 to accept a call to a parish in St. Joseph, Missouri.

The 4th Vicar, the Rev. Edwin Duckworth, came upon the scene in October, 1965. Mr. Duckworth served at St. Barnabas' for less than a year. His time in Florissant could only be described as tumultuous! The people were not ready for his "modern" ideas. He left in early October, 1966.

The 5th Vicar, the Rev. Douglas Vair, took over the position in January, 1967. Under his steady leadership, the membership numbers once again rose dramatically! I would refer you again to figure I. During the years from 1966-1971, the number of baptized members reached a high of 898 and communicant strength, a high of 558.

The Rev. Roy Welke came to St. Barnabas' in December of 1971 as its 6th Vicar, but less than a year later, on September 24, 1972, he was installed as the first rector of the parish. On that same date, St. Barnabas was admitted to parish status in the Diocese of Missouri. The parish had finally become self-supporting. In 1972, having been in existence for only fifteen years, St. Barnabas's could boast of a

baptized membership of 801 persons and 496 communicants. It seemed solidly positioned to face its future. It reached parish status because it had finally been able to put together a budget of \$40,000.

The past is a foreign country: they do things differently there.

L.P. Hartley
The Go-Between

So, there are the crucial early years of this parish church, the fifteen year span between the first worship Service on April 28, 1957 up to its admission as a parish on September 24, 1972. What observations is it possible to make about these years? There are several! The first one has already been suggested. Fifteen years is not a very long time, but in that span of time, American society changed a great deal. Existence for a parish church in the 1970's promised to be a much more difficult proposition than life in the relatively simpler years of the late 1950's.

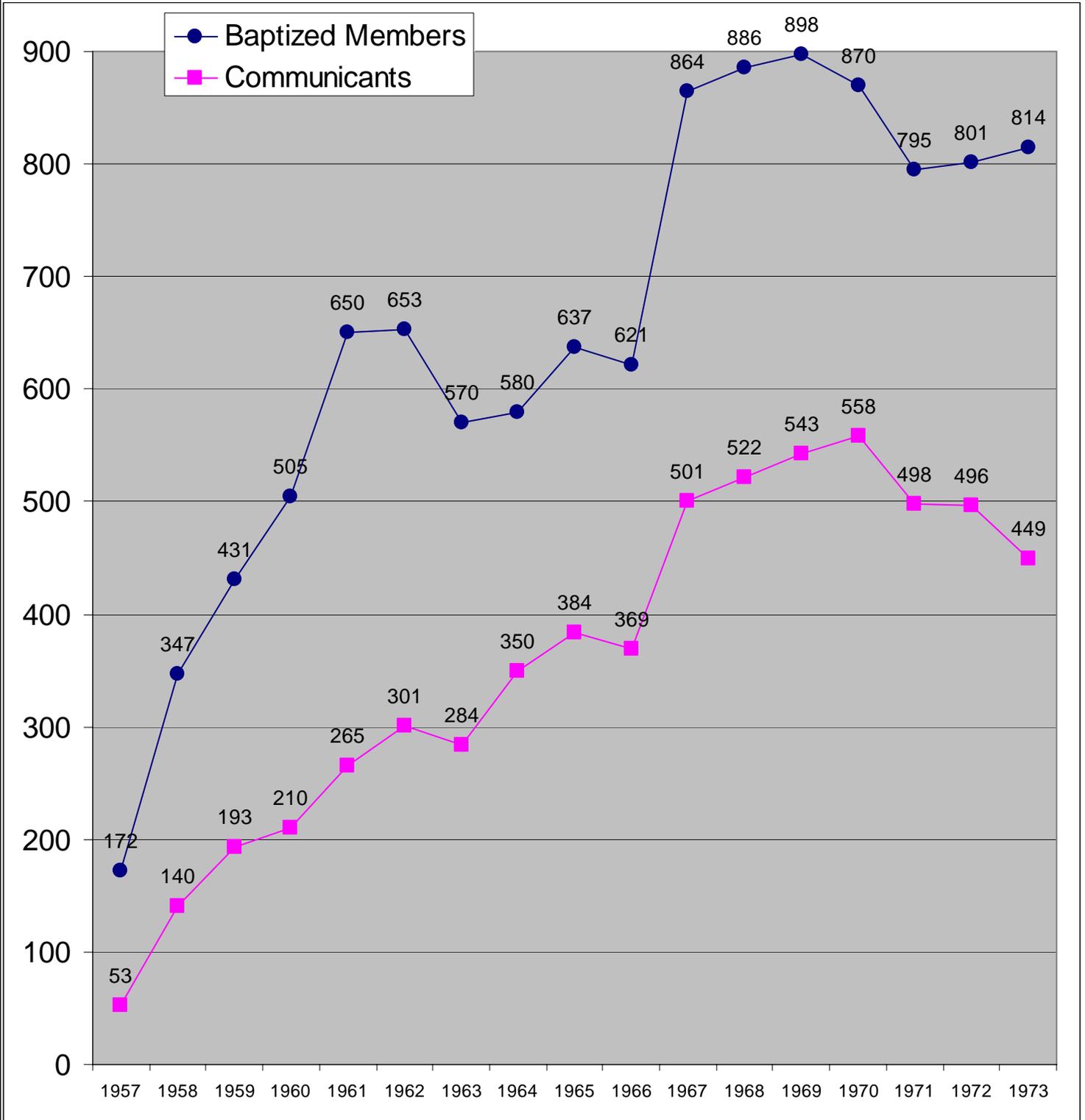
The 1960's began a period in American social history of open rebellion against authority. Campus violence was common. The Civil Rights movement was gathering momentum. The 1960's were the years of the beginning of the sexual revolution. They were the years of America's deepening involvement in Viet Nam, an involvement which seriously shook America's confidence in itself and its destiny. President John F. Kennedy, his brother Senator Robert Kennedy, and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were all assassinated in the 1960's. The United States put men on the moon in the summer of 1968. The decade of the 1960's began the escalating process of the extreme secularization of American society. A difficult road lay ahead for mainline Protestant churches, a fact which we now know from experience. The days of a kinder, simpler faith had passed. The stage had been set for the polarization of the church between traditionalists and progressives.

The second observation I would make about the early history of St. Barnabas' is to reflect on an obvious question: why were there so many vicars in just fifteen years time? Here was to all intents and purposes a vibrant, growing parish! It seemed to be an excellent opportunity for a young clergyman to put down roots and really build something. Yet, the parish seemed to have a revolving front door as far as the clergy were concerned.. This lack of consistent leadership had to have hurt the development of St. Barnabas'! I can only guess that finances may have been part of the reason. As I noted earlier, despite its rather impressive growth numbers, St. Barnabas' in the early years did struggle financially. The vicars were being paid in the neighborhood of \$4,000 annually. I suspect most left seeking greener pastures. Interestingly, despite the constant turnover of clerical leadership, St. Barnabas' did grow and establish itself. Why?

The first reason has already been mentioned. The church had been planted in an area conducive to growth. Young families were moving into Florissant and buying homes in the area of the church. The second reason was the presence of hard working lay leadership. St. Barnabas' was blessed in those early years with committed lay people who seemed willing to work night and day to ensure the success of the parish. Several names spring quickly to mind. Two obvious ones are Dan Garhart and George Seaman. Mr. Garhart was the first Senior Warden and served tirelessly in many capacities in the mission church he helped to found. Sadly, he suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of forty-four in 1968. He did not live to see the mission reach parish status. Mr. Seaman and his wife Nell were pillars of the church. George Seaman was the crucifer at the groundbreaking ceremony in May of 1959. The shields on the altar rail were made by George Seaman. He regularly called on new members, was a layreader, and canvassed the congregation to obtain pledges of financial support for the work of the church. George died in 1973. Thankfully, he did live to see St. Barnabas' become a parish. I have discovered through my researches that in the 15 years that St. Barnabas' was a mission congregation, William Ross was Senior Warden for five of those years, 1964, 1966-1969. I also note that the first ECW president was a lady named Carol Cook. The third was Audrey Moore. The first altar guild directress was Mickey Compton I will deal with one final question: "Why was the name "St. Barnabas" chosen?" The people of St. Stephen's prior to the first worship service wrestled with this question. They boiled it down to two names: St Barnabas' and Church of the Redeemer. Apparently St. Barnabas' was chosen because Barnabas was a missionary companion of St. Paul. They decided to name the mission after a missionary.

In conclusion, let me say that at best this is a very sketchy history of the early years of the St. Barnabas' congregation. A project like this tends to expand and this 1st chapter is certainly longer than I had originally intended. I have attempted to mention as many of the people who were here in the early years as I could. I apologize to those who I have inadvertently omitted. The point of a history like this to remind ourselves of the debt owed to those who worked so hard at the beginning of this congregation. To those dedicated lay men and women and also the people of St. Stephen's who planted the mission church that would become St. Barnabas', this narrative is dedicated.

(Fig. I) Line Graph of Baptized Members & Communicants at St. Barnabas' from 1957 to 1973:



St. Barnabas' Timeline: 1957 - 1972

2-Dec-56	First Organizational Meeting - The Rev. Gordon Price
28-Apr-57	First Worship Service - 1750 St. Catherine 83 People
23-Jun-57	First Service of Holy Baptism - Scott & Melodie Maye
29-Sep-57	Worship at the Parker Road School Begins
6-Oct-57	First Vicar - Albert Nelius arrives
9-Jan-58	First Annual Meeting - 63 People 3 Hours Long
27-Jan-58	First Burial - Ida Schinske
11-May-58	First Confirmation Class - 15 People
21-Sep-58	First full year of Sunday School begins - Mildred Walker
18-Jan-59	Second Annual Meeting - 115 People Present
3-May-59	Groundbreaking for new building - 158 People Present
14-Jun-59	First Parish Picnic at the Sharp Home
1-Sep-59	First Directory - 135 Families
28-Feb-60	Albert Nelius leaves
5-Jun-60	Bishop Cadigan dedicates cornerstone of church building
26-Jun-60	William Stickney - The 2nd Vicar arrives as deacon
25-Sep-60	First Service in new church building - 236 present
22-Apr-61	First Marriage - Richard Siemson & Bette Moseley
16-Aug-61	First Vacation Church School
22-Apr-62	5 Years as a congregation - 343 People present on Easter
24-Mar-63	264 People present for worship
28-Apr-63	William Stickney leaves
5-May-63	Moss Armistead, Deacon, serves for 2 months
18-Aug-63	Howard Rutenbar - 3rd Vicar
15-Apr-65	New Organ used in worship for the first time
5-Sep-65	Rutenbar Leaves
17-Oct-65	Edwin Duckworth, Jr. - 4th Vicar
9-Oct-66	Duckworth Departs
22-Jan-67	Douglas Vair - 5th Vicar
26-Feb-67	11 Baptisms
1-Sep-67	Deacon Armistead arrives to serve again
1-Nov-67	First pictorial directory - 125 Pictured & 257 Listed
25-Dec-67	3 services - 502 People
14-Apr-68	Easter Sunday - 3 services - 485 People
21-Apr-68	Low Sunday - 211 People
25-Jul-71	Doug Vair Leaves
24-Sep-72	St. Barnabas' admitted to parish status - Roy Welke installed as first rector

Chapter two The Middle Years: 1972 - 1987:

The first chapter of this parish history concluded with the admission of St. Barnabas' to parish status in the Diocese of Missouri on September 24, 1972. The Rev. Roy Welke who had come to the parish in December of 1971 as its 6th vicar was also installed as its first Rector on that date. The second chapter will be an overview of the years between 1972 – 1987, a period which I am choosing to call "The Middle Years." An alternate title for this period could be "The Good Years", since the Rev. John Good was Rector of St. Barnabas' for eleven of the fifteen years, i.e. from 1976 – 1987.

Researching a history of this sort is haphazard at best. This is partly due to the fact that the preservation of archival materials in parishes of this size has consisted in many instances of unceremoniously tossing records (vestry minutes, financial records, annual reports, parochial reports, letters, old pictures, newsletters, etc.) into unmarked cardboard boxes and putting them into some dusty storage area, there to be largely ignored and forgotten. Fortunately, in the late 1990's, I and several of our early members sifted through the St. Barnabas' materials, sorted them and then placed them into labeled cartons for future reference. Those who participated in the project were Audrey Moore, Nell Seaman, Yvonne Jones, and Mildred Walker. This process of sorting and organization was taken to a new level during the months leading up to the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the parish. The fact that St. Barnabas' now does have in place systematic organization of its records has made the job of writing this history much easier. I hasten to add that the system is far from perfect and the parish records are not complete. There are gaps where records have been either lost or misplaced. The parish office is in the process of obtaining replacements where possible.

For my sources, I have primarily looked to the reports issued for the yearly January annual meetings, since they are intended to be summaries of the year just past. I have also used the service books containing the records for every worship service held at the church. I have very selectively used the minutes of vestry meetings; however, this is tedious reading at best. Minutes from years past often seem to contain very little meaningful, detailed information. It depended on who took the minutes! I have examined the parochial reports required to be filed with the diocese every year as the primary source for most of the statistical information used in this history. Finally, I have talked with a number of people who were present during

this span of fifteen years and who continue to be members of St. Barnabas'. Hopefully their memories are accurate! I should also say that a history like this does become subjective in the sense that the historian is the person deciding what to include or to omit.

I would make several observations before beginning the second installment of this history. The first is the obvious fact that parish history is painfully cyclical. By that I mean that in the life of a parish, there are periods of prosperity and enthusiasm when there is much confidence about the future, inevitably followed by periods of decline, financial difficulties and apathy on the part of parishioners. Why this is so, I cannot say but even a cursory reading of records at St. Barnabas' reveal this to be true. This "swinging pendulum" is most discouraging for the clergy who agonize over all the ups and downs and the consequent slowness of parish development. It often seems that for every two steps forward, parishes immediately take 1 ½ steps backwards. My second observation has to do with the accuracy of parish records. Another way to say this would be to observe that membership statistics are hopelessly optimistic. For example, membership directories almost always contain numerous people whose acquaintance with the actual worship life of the parish is fleeting at best. Why does this happen? I have always believed that the ego of the clergy has much to do with it. The Rector always likes to think that the parish is larger than it actually is. I have said for years that 1/3 of reported membership numbers in the Episcopal Church is pure fluff! This inflation of membership size is seen clearly in the graphs which I have presented as a part of this history. It can also be seen in the fact that during stewardship drives in the 1960's and 1970's, pledge cards would be sent to upwards of 250 families and less than 50 % would even respond. Inflated numbers are always a prescription for discouragement.

At the close of the mission period of St. Barnabas', the Rev. Douglas Vair, the 5th Vicar, wrote the following in his report presented at the annual meeting in 1971. He said: "In numbers of families on the rolls we are decreasing. This is due to our culling of the rolls . . .our records were inflated beyond reality." He also made vague reference to a "crunch that was to come" and talked about "survival with integrity." He noted that the church would survive only if it was true to its religious values. Those were brave words at the dawn of the 1970's. With that said, I will begin what I hope is a realistic history of the middle years of St. Barnabas', the decades of the 70's and 80's.

The Parish Years Begin! Roy Welke: 1971-1975

Mr. Roy Welke, the 1st Rector of St. Barnabas', did not step into an easy job even though his new church had recently acquired parish status in the diocese. As a matter of fact, St. Barnabas' still was struggling with its finances. Budgets in the early 1970' were in the range of \$33,000-\$35,000. The dream of reaching a \$40,000 a year budget had not yet been realized. As was noted earlier, the parish membership numbers were also declining. It was no longer the staid, conservative 1950's. Things had changed! Social unrest was pervasive in the country and many Episcopalians were unhappy with stands being taken by their church. In his first Rector's Report written at the end of 1972, Mr. Welke likened St. Barnabas' to an infant whose umbilical cord had just been severed. What he meant was that, with its newly acquired parish status, St. Barnabas' was now on its own to sink or swim. Mr. Welke talked of the time ahead as "the growing years of adolescence." He must have known that they were not going to be easy years.

Here are some observations about St. Barnabas' at the beginning of its life as a parish. It was a busy place! The women of the church were highly organized. Interestingly, the current ECW president, Priscilla Bauer, held the same position in 1972. The ladies had a Morning Chapter and St. Margaret's Guild which met in the evening. The reports of all these groups reveal much activity and work for the betterment of the church. The Men's Club held their first "buried pit" barbeque in 1971 with Norm Wolff and Ken Hoppe as co-chairmen. Mamie Claridge was the head of the Altar Guild and she was also active in the Penny Royal Resale Shop, a fund raising enterprise of the ladies founded in April, 1970, that would become more and more important to the life of the parish. The Altar Guild also had a gift shop which carried merchandise from the James Avery Company and the Cathedral Gift Shop. George Seaman was the parish Historian. Keith Forney was still the Director of Music. The Church School Superintendent was a man named Bob Irving. Average Sunday school attendance in 1972 was 70. Not bad, but numbers were diminishing from previous years. E.L. Reed was the Senior Warden in 1972 and Helen Bible was the parish treasurer. Bill Ross chaired the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in 1972. A St. Barnabas' Social Club was formed in 1973 and in its year end report, we find the names of Bill & Dorothy Honeywell, John & Mary Anselmo, John & Marie Torrisi, Larry & Karen Vannasdal, Al & Leah Cook, and Ruth & Norman Wolf. Two other important couples at the church in the 1970's were Ken & Bonnie Semmel and Jim & Lorraine Thorley. The Semmels purchased the air conditioning for the church in 1977 and also paid for half (3) of the stained glass windows.

St. Barnabas' hosted the 1973 diocesan convention at the Florissant Civic Center. In that year, Norm Wolff was chairman of the Mother's Day Breakfast and Maxwell Anderson chaired the Pancake Supper. Incidentally, the first pancake supper was in March of 1963. As one can readily see, St. Barnabas' was an active place but still struggling with its finances. At the end of 1973, it adopted a budget for the next year of \$38,000 but that budget was \$3,500 in deficit. There were 94 pledges for 1974 out of 197 families on the parish rolls. More money problem's loomed on the horizon because the parish was carrying two mortgages. Mr. Welke in his year end report described the money situation as a "financial plight."

The two mortgages being carried by St. Barnabas' were the following. At the beginning of 1974, the parish owed the Diocese of Missouri \$21,000 and the Mercantile Trust Company \$41,000. The diocese 'forgave' its loan to St. Barnabas' in mid-1974. What a Godsend! The church paid \$6,000 to the Mercantile Company on March 1, 1974 but faced a "balloon note" payment crisis of \$35,000 on March 1, 1975. It would be impossible for the congregation to meet the 1975 deadline unless creative steps could be taken. Mr. William Ross came up with the idea of selling promissory notes to parishioners as a method of raising the money in house. This plan to refinance the mortgage was presented to the congregation at a special parish meeting on December 15, 1974. Ruth Eggers was the clerk of that meeting and she also served on the Finance committee which proposed the sale of the notes. This sale raised the necessary \$35,000. The notes were issued on February 1, 1975 and paid 6 % interest. As a matter of record, the last note was retired in 1983.

The Penny Royal Resale Shop which began in 1970 as an outgrowth of the Altar Guild retired nine of those promissory notes. The ladies who ran the shop annually contributed money to the operating budget of the parish. Numerous items from altar supplies to tables for the undercroft were purchased. The furniture in the sacristy was paid for by PennyRoyal. The ladies involved were Eve Sobbery, Jo Ann Dietz, Mamie Claridge, Billie Ross, Margaret Hall and Cora Lee Walters.

The year 1975 started off on a high note! The Diocese of Missouri had forgiven St. Barnabas' a loan of 21,000 and the parish had successfully refinanced its debt of 35,000 with the Mercantile Bank. Attendance was up at the beginning of the year and things looked good! Then, as Senior Warden Norm Wolff put it, "the bomb dropped." Attendance declined dramatically and with it the parish income. This was such a concern to the vestry that phone calls were made to parishioners to attempt to figure out the reason. The calls were "to no avail." Then the roof needed repair and this job was accomplished by Junior Warden Cornelius Becker and volunteers from the parish In September of 1975, the Rev. Mr. Welke resigned, and he and his wife Dorothy departed.

He had accepted a position in the Diocese of Iowa. The parish was once again without clerical leadership. Even though Roy Welke was the 1st Rector of St. Barnabas', he continued the pattern that had been established by the five vicars who preceded him. He only stayed a few years and then departed, leaving the parish, more or less, high and dry. The congregation must have felt that they were doomed to suffer this kind of inconsistent and short term leadership forever. Thankfully, a change was on the horizon.

The John Good Years: 1976-1987

The Rev. John Good began his ministry at St. Barnabas' on August 22, 1976. His family included his wife Norma and four children. His tenure at St. Barnabas' would be markedly different than any of his predecessors. He would remain as Rector for eleven years, a fact that would be of great benefit to the parish. It would for more than a decade give the congregation a sense of stability and consistency. We will see – as we look at the John Good years – how this positively played out in the growth of the congregation.

The Rev. Mr. Good had a number of skills which served both him and the parish well during the years that he was the Rector of St. Barnabas'. He was (and still is) extremely articulate! He wrote well and he was a strong preacher. He had a vision for the church which he could put into words and present convincingly to the congregation. As the history of the years between 1976-1987 unfolds, it will be fairly easy to see the progress that was made under John Good's leadership.

In the introduction to this installment of the St. Barnabas' parish history, I remarked that parishes go through cycles, i.e. alternating periods of growth and decline. In 1976, it would be a fair observation from reading reports that the parish was in a down cycle. Numbers were declining. Inactive people had been removed from the rolls. Both Sunday attendance and giving were declining. For example, in 1975 (three years after becoming a parish), St. Barnabas' was still attempting to operate with a budget in the \$35,000 range. As I noted earlier, Norm Wolff, the Senior Warden, talked in his 1975 year end report about declining membership numbers. It has been told to me that Bishop William Jones, who was elected diocesan in 1975, even visited St. Barnabas' during this period of decline with the possibility in his mind of suggesting closure. He did not make that decision because he realized after his visit how active a congregation St. Barnabas' was! All the church needed was some time and consistent leadership.

John Good began talking early on in his tenure as rector about working for the spiritual growth of the congregation. He wanted to deeply involve the lay people at St. Barnabas' in the pastoral ministry so that he could concentrate on the spiritual development of the congregation. His goals as stated at the end of 1976 were to start a new youth program, strengthen the Sunday school and grow the numbers that had been lost during the period of decline. He also

argued insistently during his first several years as rector for the startup of what he called a Stewards Program. The stewards would be the people who would actively involve themselves in the pastoral ministry in the parish. It was also apparent to John Good that St. Barnabas' needed to work hard on reducing its debt in order to free the parish budget to work in other areas.

Remember the \$35,000 of promissory notes that were sold in 1975 to refinance the mortgage debt of the congregation? The diligence with which the entire parish set itself to retire this debt is a shining moment in St. Barnabas' history. All the parish organizations participated in this effort, but none more so than the ladies of the church. In 1977, for example, the PennyRoyal Resale Shop gave \$1,300 towards debt reduction and ECW added another \$700.

In 1978, things began to turn around. Wayne Robbins was the Senior Warden that year. He would write in his year end report about the deficit from the previous year being erased and ending the year in the black. The parking lot was resurfaced in that year; ECW paid for the materials and the Men's Club provided the labor. In 1979, the diocese closed St. Francis Episcopal Church in Spanish Lake. Fifteen families decided to transfer their membership to St. Barnabas'. The parish was showing obvious signs of new life and spiritual growth. Phyllis Bennett became Sunday school superintendent in 1979 and she led a resurgence of the Christian education program. In 1977 there had been 44 children in Sunday school; in 1979 that number has risen to 82. In 1979, the Men's Club was reorganized. The men took on the responsibility of the Memorial Day picnic and a St. Patrick's Day Dinner. The men also started a series of stag dinners with speakers.

By 1980, John Good could remark on the fact that the membership at St. Barnabas' that year consisted of more people who had joined the church during his tenure than those who had belonged previously. He also could point out that he had, at the end of 1980, been rector of St. Barnabas' longer than any previous Rector/Vicar. In 1980, there were 145 households, 281 communicants, and 360 baptized persons on the rolls of the church.

Growth continued! In 1981, the Endowment Fund was started with a gift from Dorothy Honeywell in the amount of \$5,500. The first parish yard sale was held in 1981. It netted the parish \$2,200, a welcome addition to the budget. In 1981, Mamie Claridge retired from active involvement in the PennyRoyal Resale Shop. Her place was taken by Billie Ross. At this point in time, John Good could feel that he had made progress in his attempt to move the church to a position where a larger responsibility for ministry now lay with the laity. Other changes were taking place at St. Barnabas'. Bruce Vantine became the Music Director in 1981, succeeding Barbara Stephens.

Roy Schaefer was the Senior Warden in 1982. During his year, new pews were purchased for the church.

Cindy Vantine became the parish organist at the beginning of May, 1982. She continues to serve in that position to the present. Cindy followed Leila Jones who followed Claire Mlynczak (1977).

1982 was a pivotal year. Something of a changing of the old guard had occurred! New members had settled into parish life and were assuming more and more responsibility. A younger generation had emerged in leadership roles. By 1982, one sees the following names in reports: Jim & Arbie Hollenberg, Rick & Terri Denicke, Gary & Donna Clark, John & Karen McElroy, Ron & Lynn Grames, John & Debbie Palmer, Bob & Terry Toolen, and Bruce & Cindy Vantine. These "new people" formed the nucleus of a younger segment of congregational leadership which would carry the parish into the 2000's. The great majority of these people are still very active today.

One oddity observed in the years 1981-1982 is the fact that during those two years, the Rector performed 31 marriages. That is an unusually high total and it is more than double the average in other years of that time. Why the upsurge? If one looks at the marriage records, of the 31 couples only five are recognizable as people who were associated with St. Barnabas'. The logical conclusion is that the church then was more open to performing marriages for non-members. Today that is not the case.

In many ways, 1983 was the pinnacle of the John Good years. The parish was now debt free; the last promissory note had been retired and the mortgage was burned in May. There had been an increase in Sunday school attendance and in the number of communicants (293). The Wednesday evening healing service was growing in participants. The Stewards of St. Barnabas' were finally in place headed by Sylvia & Wayne Robbins. Joe Reagan who chaired the Every Member Canvas could report that there had been an increase of \$6,000 in giving from the previous year. The church now had a lofty budget of \$58,000. Charles Coshow was the Junior Warden in charge of building maintenance and he was diligent in fulfilling his responsibilities. Ken Hoppe, who was the Senior Warden in 1983, wrote in his report to the parish: "During 20 plus years at St. Barnabas', I have never seen the parish in a more healthy and harmonious state." Seemingly the future held only growth and prosperity! We shall see.

There were also some ominous signs. In 1981, the vestry had decided to institute a regular schedule for an annual performance review of the Rector. One of the requirements seems to have been that, at each vestry meeting, the Rector would present a log detailing how he had spent his time during the past month. An evaluation of the position of Rector containing a dozen different performance areas was sent to the entire

congregation in October, 1983, to be filled out and returned. Also in October, 1983, the vestry moved to add Jerry May as a pastoral assistant to the Rector. Jerry would soon decide to become a Postulant for Holy Orders. The music program received a blow when Bruce Vantine resigned as Music Director on May 31, 1983; however, he would shortly return and serve in that position until 1999, a total of sixteen years.

At the end of 1984, John Good wrote about an apathy which had settled upon the congregation. People were too satisfied with the status quo. What the parish needed, he thought, was to confront the challenge of its Christian values. The financial health of the parish attained in 1983 continued into 1984. Dr. Charles Schumacher was now the parish treasurer and he had the finances well in hand. People who knew Doc will understand that statement. There were again ominous signs in the annual report of the Senior Warden for 1984. People were continuing to discuss how the Rector was spending his time. This is not a healthy discussion topic for vestry meetings! A beeper was rented for the Rector in order that "people could more easily reach John Good if emergencies arose." What these kinds of concerns say publicly is that there was disquiet in the congregation.

Jerry May, the parish pastoral care associate, died very unexpectedly and prematurely in November of 1984. The Jerry May Memorial Library was started to honor his memory and his wife, Carol May, was the first librarian.

A report for the Hunger Fund Task Force appears in the 1984 year end booklet. This reveals a growing outreach concern of St. Barnabas'. Lynn Grames was Director of Christian Education and Sylvia Robbins was President of ECW during this year. As noted earlier, the budget for the parish was \$58,000 representing the commitment of 92 pledges. Marion Jaeger and Margaret Hall were the Sacristans. Charles "Chuck" Schumacher was the head of the Lay Readers and he and his wife Diane headed up the Hunger Task Force. This is an important observation because in the coming years, Chuck would assume an ever expanding role in the life and direction of St. Barnabas'. The stage unfortunately was being set for parish conflict in the not too distant future.

At the conclusion of 1985, the Rector of St. Barnabas' wrote his 10th annual report. He could point to many physical improvements in the church. The Semmel purchase of air conditioning was a significant gift as well as the installation of stained glass windows and new pews. During the preceding decade, the church roof had been replaced, the parking lot resealed (five times), extensive roof beam repair had been accomplished, and a new furnace had been purchased. John Good could also look back to 1983 with some satisfaction as the year in which the mortgage had been paid off. He characterized the ten years as a series of ups and downs and he was correct in his

observation. (All parish life is cyclical!) During 1985, Dave Werner was the Senior Warden and the parish had a budget of \$67,000. During the year, the undercroft had been devastated by flooding with great loss to the Sunday school. This was a recurrent problem because of the design of the church building. A resolve was made at the end of 1985 to solve this problem. A bright spot during this year was the presence of Deacon Priscilla Allen, the wife of the Dean of the Cathedral. Her ordination to the Priesthood at St. Barnabas' was a highlight. The Barney Broomers – Sylvia Robbins, Georgia Schumacher, Mary Anselmo, Vicky Williford, Marge Schaefer - came into existence in 1985 to meet the custodial needs of the parish.

1986 in retrospect was a crisis year. The parish experienced a 10% drop in giving. John Good addressed this as a "spiritual problem." In his mind, it showed a lack of commitment and resolve on the part of many parishioners. To partially address this circumstance, the program "Living into One's Baptism" was started. Another important initiative during 1986 was the organization of the E Team, an evangelistic endeavor headed by Arbie Hollenberg. Its goal was growth in membership. The formation of the E Team was accomplished with the assistance of a paid consultant, the Rev. Tom Ehrich from St. Stephen's. The budget this year was decreased to \$66,000. An addition to the building was being talked about, but in the words of Senior Warden Ron Grames, that possibility seemed "far away." An amusing aside (sorry Ron) was the Senior Warden's comment at the end of the year that "the water leakage problems that have plagued the undercroft for years have been taken care of." Those of us who have spent countless hours during the 1990's and even recently have to smile at that statement. It needs to be noted that ECW purchased the red carpeting for the church in 1986. Thank you, Ladies!

Chuck Schumacher was the Senior Warden in 1987, a position which he would hold until the fall of 1989. John Good at the beginning of this year appeared "restless" and that observation was well founded. There was still a great deal of interest in an addition to the building and to facilitate this interest, a Long Range Planning Committee was formed. This appears to have been an extremely well organized committee. It had eight sub-committees with broad involvement by parishioners and a fairly detailed list of guidelines to lead its planning. The addition was to be built on the south side of the original building and it should include offices for the rector and parish secretary, men's and women's bathrooms, a canopy over the entrance and handicapped access (an elevator) to the undercroft. Using hindsight, one must ask the question whether this elaborate planning process should have been put into place when it appeared that the resignation of the Rector was imminent.

In September of 1987, John Good accepted a call to become the Rector of Grace Church in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. John and Norma said goodbye to St. Barnabas' on November 8, 1987. The John Good years had ended. The accomplishments during the John Good years were important and numerous! The addition of Bruce & Cindy Vantine to lead the music program brought the choir and the liturgy to a new level of excellence. St. Barnabas' continues to have a choir which, for the size of the parish, is unmatched in the diocese. John Good was concerned always in involving as many people as possible in the liturgy. This resulted in high standards for liturgists and lectors and earned for St. Barnabas' a reputation as a parish which does liturgy very well! There was also a concern for the expansion of outreach during the John Good years and this concern led to the start up of several programs. The Hunger Fund & the Tutoring Program are two that should be mentioned.

With the departure of John Good, the parish began a most interesting eighteen months of life without a resident clergyman, a position that they had not been in since 1975. A Search Committee consisting of ten members was soon formed chaired by Rickey Denicke. They would begin their work formally in 1988.

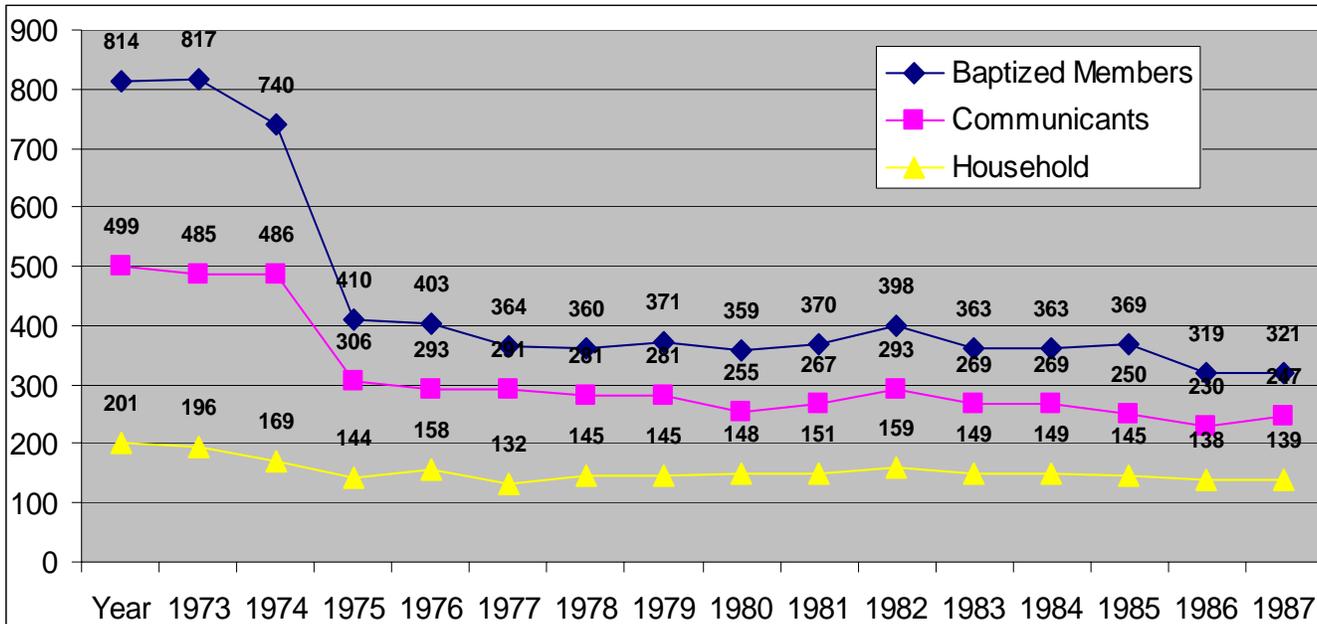
Chapter three A Chronicle of the Years 1987 – 1997:

Prologue

The first two installments of the history of St. Barnabas' Episcopal Church in Florissant, Missouri covered the thirty year span from the beginning of the parish as a worshipping congregation on April 28, 1957 to the departure of the second Rector, the Rev. John Good, on November 8, 1987. This, the third installment, will be somewhat different from the first two. It will by necessity be longer, covering a twenty year period from 1987 to 2007 and will be published in two ten year increments. With the exception of the eighteen month interim period following the departure of John Good, it will cover the tenure of the third Rector, the Rev. Dr. Richard B. Tudor, who has served at St. Barnabas' much longer than any previous rector or vicar. It will also not be quite as objective as the first two installments because of the fact that the author of this history is that same Rector who has served during the past eighteen plus years. It will be an account of past events with which he has had an intimate acquaintance. The struggle will be to avoid excessive subjectivity. The perceptions of the readers who have been at St. Barnabas for the past twenty years will have to be the judge of the successfulness of that endeavor.

Fig. 2 St. Barnabas Timeline: 1973-1987

24-Sep-72	St. Barnabas admitted to parish status
24-Sep-72	Roy Welke installed as 1st Rector
14-Mar-73	George Seaman is buried from the church he helped to build.
21-Sep-75	Roy Welke departs
25-Apr-76	Moss Armistead leaves St. Barnabas
22-Aug-76	John Good; 2nd Rector
1979	2nd Pictorial Directory: 70 families pictured: 152 listed
1981	Bruce Vantine becomes Music Director
25-Apr-82	25th Anniversary Celebration
1982	3rd Directory; 75 families pictured; 154 listed
01-May-82	Cindy Vantine becomes church organist replacing Leila Jones
1983	Building mortgage paid off; Church debt free
Nov-84	Jerry May, Rector's Pastoral asst. dies
08-Nov-87	John Good leaves



Perhaps a restatement of the purpose of this history would be in order. Obviously it is of advantage to any organization to possess a researched, written history to which reference can be made if questions about people and events in the past should arise. As this history has progressed, it has become more and more important to the author to ensure that as many names of church members as possible should be mentioned. The desire is that no one should if possible be forgotten. That is probably an impossible standard, but the effort has been made! In the writing of this chronicle, some

attempts have been made to learn from the flow of the development of St. Barnabas' as a parish. If mistakes or errors in judgment have been made, hopefully something can be learned from them. It should be pointed out that everything that ever happened at St. Barnabas' during the past fifty years is not included in this chronicle. The author has attempted to hit the high points and he almost certainly has missed a great number of them.

Finally, the author fervently hopes that what comes through the writing is a deep concern and love for the special place of the parish church both in society and in the lives of the individual members.

This is a poignant observation because the place of the parish church is in no way assured today. Like many other parishes, St. Barnabas' has itself been caught up in the sweeping changes that have come to dominate American society. That fact will emerge from this writing of the history of the last twenty years.

The Interim Period

At the departure of John Good in November, 1987, the church was in fairly decent shape even though finances were tight. This has been a recurring problem throughout the history of this parish. However, the congregation was energetic, balanced between younger and older members, and very positive about the future. Strong leadership was in place to guide the church through its search for a new Rector. Charles "Chuck" Schumacher was the Senior Warden and Arbie Hollenberg was the Junior Warden. Arbie devoted much of her time to the E-Team, a major evangelistic effort of the parish. The budget in 1987 was \$70,538, although during that year the church only spent \$67,862. St. Barnabas' ended 1987 with a surplus of some \$3,000. At the annual meeting in January of 1988, \$15,000 was budgeted for the expenses of the Search Committee.

The members of the Search Committee tasked to find a new rector for St. Barnabas' were Ron Grames, Joy Eckert, Andy Hesketh, Audrey Moore, Wayne Robbins, Roy Schaefer, Julie Scott, Terry Toolen, Gretchen Vollmer, Vicki Williford, Norm Wolff and Rickey Denicke, Chairman. Norm Wolff would die in March of 1988 and be replaced by Betsy Willerton.

Vicki Williford was the ECW President in 1987. Ron Grames was the head liturgist/liturgist Warden and Terry Toolen was the Christian Education Director. Sylvia Robbins was the Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee which was working on plans for a building addition. It should be noted that a valued member, Bonita (Bonnie) Semmel, died on May 25, 1987. She and her husband Ken were generous supporters of the church during its early years.

Bishop William Jones met with the vestry in December, 1987 and went through the process of how a parish enters a search for a new Rector. First the congregation must develop a profile of itself, i.e. "Who are we?" Then the parish visions the future: "What do we want to be?" Finally, the parish develops its criteria for a leader, essentially a job description of necessary skills desired in its Rector. This is at least descriptive of the theory of the search process. Whether it actually works that way is another question.

St. Barnabas' went through the whole of 1988 without a Rector. In spite of that fact, the parish seemed very united as it continued to work towards its objectives. The church had a strong worship committee which did an excellent job of overseeing the liturgical offerings so important to the worship life of a parish. Liturgics

would have to be listed as a strength of this parish! However, one has to wonder about the decision to use supply clergy instead of hiring an interim. Finances were probably the issue. During the interim period, St. Barnabas' was served by two supply clergymen, the Rev. Clyde Schuler and the Rev. Arthur Steidemann.

St. Barnabas' actually got well financially during 1988. Actual spending was \$53,368. The church ended the year with a surplus of \$18,944. When a church is not paying the salary of a rector, it makes quite a difference in the budget. During 1988, the Barney Broomers gave \$5,000 for the church to hire an architect, Yarger Associates. The decision to proceed toward the actual design of the proposed building addition would unfortunately prove to be premature and problematic. The parish was not ready to take this step!

In his summary of the year 1988, SW Chuck Schumacher talked about one of his failed goals during his time as Senior Warden. That goal was his attempt to remove all temporal responsibilities from the oversight of the Rector, John Good. The idea was for the Rector to concentrate solely on spiritual matters. It looked good on paper, but this idea proved to be disastrous! Its fallacies are obvious. Much of the oversight which the Rector is practically called upon to do has to do with administration and management. Who makes decisions if not the Rector? Episcopal polity by its very nature demands that the Rector lead in both aspects of parish life, temporal & spiritual. For a Rector to abdicate the temporal responsibility is an open invitation to chaos and conflict.

The Rich Tudor Years: Part 1 (May 1, 1989-August 1, 1997)

The Search Committee began conversations in early 1989 with the Rev. Richard B. Tudor, who at the time was serving as the Rector of St. Peter's Church in Williston, North Dakota and Vicar of St. Michael & All Angel's mission church in Cartwright, North Dakota. Three members of the Search Committee visited Williston in February. Richard Tudor and his wife Liz came to Florissant shortly after to continue the conversation and to meet with Bishop Jones. Finally a call was extended and accepted. Richard Tudor came to St. Barnabas' at the end of April, 1989 and officiated at his first service on May 2. The die had been cast!

"Rev. Tudor To Be New Rector"

The Salter; March, 1989

Before beginning the chronology of events which have taken place during Richard Tudor's time as Rector, the author would offer an observation. As difficult as it is to make generalizations about eighteen years of parish history, one can say with some certainty that the history of this parish since 1989 has been strongly influenced by two events. The first is the building of the addition dedicated in 1992 which has contributed much that is positive to the

life of the St. Barnabas congregation.. It gave the congregation a sense of change, newness and much needed, accessible space! The second 'event' has been the out-migration of people from North County to St. Charles County.

This population shift started slowly in the late 1980's and by the mid-1990's had become almost a frantic exodus. It has not, as most already know, had a positive effect on the lives of parish churches in our area. For example, a few years ago, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis, shut the doors of exactly half of all their parishes in North County. Also, during this same time period, two Florissant Lutheran parishes have closed their doors.

When the new rector arrived at St. Barnabas, he had mixed feelings about the move. He had been in Williston for 14 ½ years and had fairly deep roots. All four of his children – Melissa, Robert, Bethany, and Thomas – had been born there. He was himself originally from North Dakota and was living within easy driving distance of his parents in Bismarck. However, he decided to make the move because he felt a better future for his family lay in a much larger city. He was also desirous of continuing his education and would have all kinds of opportunity to do that in St. Louis. Richard B. Tudor was officially installed as Rector on Wednesday, September 20, 1989 by Bishop Jones.

Initially, the new Rector was confused about the situation at St. Barnabas'. The congregation was enthusiastic and seemed to be filled with all kinds of energy, but he could sense that there were problems. The building was decidedly not modern and very inconvenient. The parish secretary sat in a cubby hole near the front doors and, to reach the Rector's office, one had to walk through the entire church. The promise made before the Rector came was that this situation would soon be remedied because the building addition was a done deal. More fateful words were never spoken! More about this later!

Rich Tudor began his ministry at St. Barnabas' by making a concerted effort to connect with the people pastorally. Upon his arrival, he worked 44 days straight without a day off, coming to work at 8:00 am. During the months of May – December 1989, he did 100 home visits and 38 private (home or hospital) communions. It was his intention to let the congregation know that he was interested in all of them and would be accessible to them. On September 9, the new Rector performed his first marriage at St. Barnabas', that of Jim and Karen Birr. The budget in 1989 was \$72,440 but the parish spent \$90,115. The church ended the year with a deficit of

almost \$4,000. You have to spent money to make money!

One of the major accomplishments during the Rector's first few months at St. Barnabas' was to shorten the vestry meetings to two hours. He informed the vestry that they could sit there until midnight if they chose, but that he was going home at 9:30 pm. The practice of convening at 7:30 pm and adjourning at 9:30 pm continues to this day. Helen French was the parish secretary when the new Rector arrived.. At some point in this history, a timeline of all or most of the parish secretaries who have worked at St. Barnabas' will be presented.

It had become clear early on that the building addition project had turned sour. There was strong disagreement as to just what should be built. The vestry brought in the Rev. Ed Salmon, Rector of the Church of St. Michael & St. George and recently elected Bishop of South Caroline. Ed Salmon was an expert in congregational development. He looked the situation over and gave his advice. He walked all around the building both inside and out and concluded that St. Barnabas' must modernize its facilities. He also observed that "everyone in the parish did not share the same dream." There were those who said "Yes" and those who had adopted a "want to know more" attitude. It had become evident that two small groups of people were contesting the issue over what kind of building should be built. A large segment of the congregation had distanced themselves from the disagreement and were waiting to see what would happen. The problem with a situation like this is the fact that, in the heat of the moment, the whole project could very easily have been lost.

In 1989 the Rector baptized a number of infants including Alan Richard Lair on August 6 and Paige Elizabeth Burnham on September 3. Both of these young people, recent high school graduates, are still members of the parish at the time of the writing of this history (2007). 1990 was a pivotal year for the parish. During this year, decisions would have to be made which would either make or break the building addition. The Rector ruefully observed that "feelings and emotions around this crucial project have colored virtually every area of the common life of the congregation." His main goal was to ensure that the building addition was not lost and therefore, he decided to make decisions, move forward and live with the consequences of the decisions, right or wrong.

VESTRY SAYS, "BUILD!!!!

The Salter; April, 1990

The decision was made to move forward with 100% backing from the vestry. Sixty percent (60%) of the congregation made pledges to the new building which would be built on slab (no basement!). It would contain new parish

offices, accessible bathrooms, and a new parish hall and kitchen. Robert Horn was the architect selected to design the building. There were some hard feelings about the decisions that were made, but one has to observe that in situations like this one when emotions run high, such feelings are inevitable.

During Rich Tudor's first full year at St. Barnabas', he also laid the groundwork for several ecumenical relationships, a practice which he felt to be important. St. Barnabas' began to jointly observe Good Friday with St. Thomas the Apostle Roman Catholic Church and to celebrate Ascension Day with the Lutherans. This latter relationship eventually led to the current linkage with Living Christ Lutheran Church. Mike Dobbs was the Senior Warden in 1990.

Another important happening in 1990 was the formation of the ECW Quiet Circle, a network of ladies who would provide food for the luncheons following funerals. Barney Broomers II came into existence during this year. The ladies who assumed the responsibility for cleaning the church were Betty Callies, Georgia Schumacher, Betsy Willerton, and Vicki Williford. The church budget in 1990 was \$87,890. This year saw some ambitious adult education with speakers from the St. Louis Priory talking to interested individuals on Sunday mornings. Dale Kuhn from Care & Counseling also gave several talks. Helen French resigned as parish secretary during 1990 and she was replaced by a very gracious and helpful parishioner named Winnie Peeples who agreed to fill in until a permanent secretary could be found. Joy Eckert, a member of the Search Committee, moved to Jacksonville, Florida at the end of May, 1990. The Rev. Hays H. Rockwell, Jr. was elected Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Missouri on October 27, 1990.

The year 1991 would be a year of great promise and fulfillment. This year saw a 10% increase in worship attendance, the first \$100,000 budget, and the groundbreaking ceremony for the new building on June 2. Newly elected Bishop Hays Rockwell officiated at the service both inside and out and it was hot! A picture was taken which included Bishop Rockwell, the Rector, and the four chair persons of the Building Committee: Sylvia Robbins, Luis Vinuelas, Mike Dobbs, and Terri Denicke. Terri also served as the Senior Warden in 1991. Ken Hoppe was the Junior Warden. Debbie Haefner was the director of Christian Education and Lynn Siegel was the Director of the Altar Guild. Priscilla Bauer continued to oversee the twice yearly UTO offerings.

During 1991 the Rector hired a lady named Debbie Turnbaugh to be the parish secretary. Longtime faithful servant of the parish, Mamie Claridge, died on March 28. Maxwell Anderson died on August 10. Total receipts

for the year were \$110,169, leaving a surplus of \$6,964 to be carried into the next year. As Frank Sinatra sang, "It was a very good year!" On the international scene, The United States went to war in the Persian Gulf on January, 1991. This was the first Gulf War.

In 1992 the feeling of accomplishment continued. A service of the laying of the cornerstone, filled with archival material, was officiated at by Bishop Jones on February 9; then, the new building was completed and dedicated on May 10. Again, Bishop Jones, presided. There were also 11 confirmations during that service.

Total cost of the building was \$404,749. This was \$61,000 over the original estimates. The successful completion of this project was the culmination of several years of planning. In some sense, it is a monument to perseverance and the dedication to the future of the parish. The big improvement made was modern, accessible facilities! When this day was reached, the Rector reminded the congregation that it must now work on its stewardship to pay for the building. Tony Bertolino, parish treasurer, noted that, "In 1992, pledged giving dropped by 10% when a 5% increase was needed." Dave Smith became the church Sexton in charge of facilities in 1992.

With a new building in place, St. Barnabas' began to work on something it called "Project Twenty." The goal was 20 new families for the church. Denise Ferris was the Christian Education Director in 1992. She ran a well organized program which included Vacation Bible School in July and Intergenerational Events on All Saint's, 1st Advent, 1st Lent and 1st Epiphany. During 1992, Keith and Martha Forney, long time mainstays of the choir, moved to Bonne Terre, Missouri. The ECW President during the year was Audrey Moore. In 1992, the Men's Club awarded a \$300 scholarship to Kelly Jobe. The Hunger Fund now under the leadership of Jane Nelson sent \$3,455 to TEAM, \$2,000 to the diocesan hunger fund, and \$600 to the Cathedral Shelter. A highlight of the year was the Stewardship Committee's "Pie Auction" orchestrated by Mike Dobbs. Debbie Turnbaugh rather unexpectedly resigned as parish secretary during 1992 and after some search and discussion, the Rector and his committee hired Dottie Bertolino for the position. She would stay for twelve years. A sad note during the year (July 12) was the death of Dr. Charles Schumacher, a former treasurer. The budget for 1992 was \$114,085. The parish ended the year with a surplus of \$29.

1993 would be significant for a number of reasons not the least of which was the flooding during the summer. The Rev. Gretchen Pickeral arrived to serve as a Deacon and assist the Rector. She would oversee flood ministry both at St. Barnabas' and in the Diocese of Missouri. During this year, Project Twenty achieved the addition of 14 new families to the parish rolls. Unfortun-

ately, also during this year, the parish lost some very active families – Ben & Denise Ferris, Andy & Jackie Mechling - a fact which removed 18 children from Sunday School. This ever recurring cycle of gains and losses illustrates clearly how difficult it is for a parish of this size to sustain growth. Rick Denicke was the Senior Warden in 1993 and the ECW President was Marge Schaefer. During the year, the Men's Club awarded \$250 scholarships to Libby Vantine and Dusty Hassler. A highlight of this year was the "Not So Annual" Talent Show on May 23 featuring Audrey Moore singing "Grandma Rap." Under the leadership of Lana Maggart, "Connections" began. This was a communication effort designed to keep parishioners better informed of happenings at the church. During Lent, the Rector began a series of Wednesday morning services and breakfasts starting at 7:00am. These were very popular and continue to the present. A Dinner Theater Fundraiser, directed by Dottie Bertolino, was held on September 21.

A new outreach effort called "Room at the Inn" began in June of 1993. It involved hosting the homeless in our building one night a month. This program would eventually evolve into a partnership with John Knox Presbyterian Church. The 1993 spring and summer flooding displaced a large number of people from their homes. St. Barnabas' in partnership with St. Barnabas' Church in Wilmington, Delaware was able to respond. The church adopted a family from East Alton. Deacon Pickeral was able to organize an effort to give out 50 Holiday food baskets. Jack Eccleston obtained the turkeys. An Angel tree was created to solicit presents for children. While she was serving at St. Barnabas' Gretchen Pickeral oversaw the whole parish outreach ministry: TEAM, "Room at the Inn", and the flood ministry. Alice Reagan died on March 12, 1993.

The annual report for 1994 was titled "A Year of the Lord's Favor." It was! The St. Barnabas' banner was dedicated at Christ Church Cathedral at the Flower Festival in April. Gretchen Pickeral was ordained to the priesthood in May. The Rector conducted a marriage ceremony on a Sunday morning in December for Mike and Jean Vincinc. "Room at the Inn" coordinators were Joe Reagan and Theresa Riess. Terry Ford was the Junior Warden during the year. Cam Murphy was the clerk of the vestry and Terri Burnham headed the Christian Education program. Harry Ragland continued to coordinate the Tutoring Project. The Hunger Fund Committee was active during 1994. Membership included Dorothy Honeywell, Mary Brookfield, Darrel Parke, Roy Schaefer, and Jane Nelson, chairperson. They paid out \$5,500 during the year. ECW president was Margy Schaefer. The Schaefers as always set up the Mitten Tree for Grace Hill. Carol Wesley served as an intern at St. Barnabas' during the 1994-95 program year. In 1994, Clarence Koenig died on January 25, Vicki Williford died prematurely on June 2, and Alice Wadsworth died on November 10.

During 1995, the Rev. Gretchen Pickeral and the Rector alternated as celebrants at the two Sunday services. That gave the congregation an opportunity to hear different voices leading worship and this fact certainly added to the worship experience at St. Barnabas'. Sadly, Gretchen would depart at the end of the year, bringing to a close her first period of service at St. Barnabas'. She would return. Rick Denicke was the Senior Warden and Terry Ford, the Junior Warden during 1995.

The adult education class meeting on Sunday mornings spent a great deal of time with the book, *Theological Questions* by Owen Thomas. Harvey Clark, a very faithful liturgist, and his wife Julie moved to Florida in early 1995. Rick Denicke stepped down as Acolyte Master after ten years of service and was succeeded by Holly Garrett. Mary Anselmo was ECW President in 1995. The Youth Group continued to meet under the adult supervision of Cindy Vantine and Arbie Hollenberg. The Men's Club gave a \$500 scholarship to Libby Vantine. The men also purchased \$250 worth of new chairs for the parish hall. On May 21, Joe Reagan received the first annual Rector's Award for Leadership. On the first Sunday in May, 1995, the Rector began a new Sunday morning feature called "Focus on the Family." On each Sunday, the Rector would introduce new families to the congregation.

Musical Director Bruce Vantine, in an article detailing the involvement of the choir in 1995, noted with sadness the passing of Keith Forney, the first parish organist and musical director, at his home in Bonne Terre. Violet (Vi) Jury died on July 31. The former Archdeacon of the Diocese of Missouri, The Venerable Charles Rehkopf, who preached at the first St. Barnabas' service died on September 30, 1995. The 1995 parish budget was \$128,658. The church ended the year with a small surplus of \$965.

The congregation and Rector were forced to make some adjustments in 1996. The Rev. Gretchen Pickeral had departed and was now working for Episcopal City Mission. The Rector in particular missed this partnership! However, things change and the church is certainly no exception. In May, 1996, the Rector received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Eden Seminary, the culmination of four years of study. A great event during April was the celebration at a service and reception on April 14 of the adoption of Summer and Nichole by Jim and Karen Birr. The church continued to be strong. Attendance in 1996 was up and pledges for 1997 increased by 7.88%. Judy Skinker was the Senior Warden during this year and Jack Eccleston served as Junior Warden. As always, Judy worked tirelessly for the church. Jack was a human dynamo. He managed the

parish yard sale for two successive years and planted the flower bed in the traffic circle. One week after heart bypass surgery, Jack began the project of remodeling the undercroft. No grass grew under his feet! Mike and Jean Vincenc oversaw the "Room at the Inn" program during the year. Ruth Eggers served as parish treasurer and Karen Birr was the Sunday School Superintendent. Mike Dobbs was the pledge registrar and it was his work on parish stewardship that led to the almost 8% increase in giving. During the year, the ECW brought out a new cookbook entitled *Feed the Flock*. The Men's Club participated in a variety of activities: Lenten Breakfast, St. Patrick's Day Dinner, Mother's Day breakfast and 4th of July Concessions. From their funds, they awarded a \$500 college scholarship to Charlie Vantine. Total parish expenses during 1996 were \$153,510. St. Barnabas ended the year with a surplus of \$2,879. Rita Ann Coshoe died on February 25.

1997 would be a eventful year! The parish celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding with a special service on April 27. A dinner and reception was held that evening at Yacovelli's. A new piano was purchased to celebrate the occasion. In the spring of the year, the Rector learned that his Army Reserve Unit, the 6025th Garrison Support Unit, would be mobilized in July and sent to Germany for nine months. Upon learning this, the vestry began a process of planning for interim leadership during the Rector's absence. After some initial discussions, the vestry decided to hire the Rev. Gretchen Pickeral, the Rector's former Associate to work part-time. This was accomplished and so Gretchen would return to St. Barnabas'.

During the Rector's absence, the leadership of the parish proved their commitment over and over again. Mille Beran served as Senior Warden and worked closely with Gretchen to ensure the smooth operation of the parish. Jack Eccleston was the Junior Warden. Jack as always stayed focused on maintaining and improving church facilities. For him, the name of the game was maintenance! During 1997, a new retaining wall was installed at the front of the church property facing St. Catherine.

Others who served in positions of importance during this unusual interim were Karen Birr, Director of Christian Education; Mike and Jean Vincenc, "Room at the Inn" coordinators; Margy Schaefer, ECW President; Jay Burnham and Andy Hesketh, Men's Club co-chairmen, and John Palmer, parish treasurer.

The ECW ladies decided after their November Holiday Bazaar that it would be the last one. Times had changed and there were just not enough women

anymore who had the time to work on crafts for the Bazaar. On September 21, 1997, the parish held a party to celebrate the 100th birthday of Naomi Harrington. Anne Anderson, a long time member, died on the last day of 1997, December 31.

This first segment of the history of "the Rich Tudor Years" will end on a note of thanks and appreciation for the ministry of the Rev. Gretchen Pickeral exercised at St. Barnabas' while the Rector was on active duty with the U.S. Army in Germany. She did a terrific job!

Timeline: 1987-1997

- Nov. 8, 1987 **John Good** leaves
- May 14, 1988 Burial office read for **Norman Wolff**
- May 2, 1989 **Richard B. Tudor**; the 3rd Rector
- February 1991 4th pictorial Directory; 83 pictured & 136 listed
- June 2, 1991 Ground breaking for new building; **Bishop Hays Rockwell**
- May 10, 1992 Dedication of new building; by **Bishop William Jones**
- May 30, 1993 **Gretchen Pickeral** begins her service as a deacon at St. Barnabas
- Dec. 31, 1995 **Gretchen** departs
- April 27, 1997 40th Anniversary celebration
- August 3, 1997 **Gretchen Pickeral** returns to St. Barnabas' as Priest-in-Charge while the Rector is in Germany

Chapter four

A Chronicle of the Years 1998 – 2007

The Rich Tudor Years: Part II

*We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,*
and the wonderful works he has done.*

Psalms 78:4

Prologue

Chaplain (LTC) Richard B. Tudor returned on April 26, 1998 from his nine month tour of service on active duty in Germany with the United States Army. He plunged right back into the current of life in the parish and began work at St. Barnabas' on May 1st. While serving in Germany, one of the ways he kept in touch with the people of his parish was through a series of articles entitled "Letters from the Black Forest", which were published monthly in the *Salter*, the parish newsletter. These articles were well received, particularly by people outside of the parish who were on the newsletter mailing list. They were reflections on what he was seeing and experiencing while in Germany.

This installment of the St. Barnabas' story will bring the parish history up to the present. Obviously, this then will be the concluding piece. The purpose of this project has been to tell, in chronicle form with as much accuracy as possible, the story of the first fifty years of the existence of St. Barnabas'.

The congregation held its first service on April 28, 1957 in a rented house located at 1750 St. Catherine Street. In the first few months of its life, the young congregation grew quickly and very soon moved to the Parker Road School on September 29, 1957, for its services. Finally, on September 25, 1960, the people of St. Barnabas' held their first worship service in the new church building constructed on four acres at 2900 St. Catherine. This remains to this day the location of the parish. The original building was expanded in 1992 with the dedication (May 10) of an additional building containing parish offices, a new parish hall, kitchen, and accessible rest rooms. The parish, with this addition, became completely accessible to handicapped persons.

The undertaking of the writing of this chronicle was begun with two purposes in mind: 1) An analytical undertaking to "understand" the various phases of the parish as it has moved through the decades since 1957; and 2) An attempt to give credit where credit is due by mentioning

as many names as possible of the many faithful, hard-working, generous, parishioners who have supported and sustained the ongoing life of the parish.

1998

Michael Dobbs was the Senior Warden in 1998. In his summing up of the year at the Annual Meeting (January, 1999), he praised the work of the Pastoral Ministry Team which had functioned so well during the Rector's absence. Members of the team were Lou Murphy, Judy Skinker, Debbie Haefner, and Mike. Terry Toolen was the Junior Warden and at the conclusion of her term, she could point to several accomplishments, one of which was the remodeling of the undercroft. Jack Eccleston was the primary "mover & shaker" in this project. Jack retired from Boeing shortly after the completion of the remodeling project and he and his wife Barbara moved to Jacksonville, Florida.

On September 27, during his annual visitation, Bishop Hays H. Rockwell rededicated the undercroft. During 1998 a Capital Maintenance Fund was begun which was forced into play sooner than anticipated. The parish had to replace the compressor for the air conditioning system. Cost of this was \$8,900.

During 1998, Darrel and Mary Parke were honored for their many years of faithful service. They were given a gift of a silver tray and the music fund was named in their honor. Before the Rector returned, the Rev. Gretchen Pickeral dedicated the Stations of the Cross given by ECW.

"Room at the Inn" was coordinated by Mike and Jean Vincenc and the Tutoring Project by Harry Ragland. The Spring UTO offering was \$442 and the Fall offering was \$390. Trudy Morrow was the ECW President in 1998, and Kevin Chapman was the Sunday School Superintendent. The Vacation Bible School, held in July, was very successful. Sixty people participated, thirty of which were children. The budget of the church for the year 1998 was \$145,000; the year ended with a deficit of \$6,800.

1999

This was the year we all spent looking forward to the turning of a new millennium, the year 2000. The big issue was whether or not our computers would be able to handle this progression of numbers. Millennium on the horizon or not, 1999 was a good year at St. Barnabas'.

Pope John Paul II visited St. Louis in January. At an evening vespers service at the Cathedral Basilica to which ecumenical guests had been invited, the Pope, as he was walking down the aisle at the end of the service, shuffled over and shook the Rector's hand. It was quite an exciting experience!

St. Barnabas' fell into an unexpected relationship when Bishop Rockwell asked the parish to serve as the "home parish" for Judith Proctor, a candidate for Holy Orders from Baltimore. She preached her first sermon on January 10. She was at St. Barnabas' during the whole of 1999 one Sunday each month.

There are always some sad notes during every year and 1999 was no exception. During the year, the Rector presided at the reading of the Burial Office for Robert Daniels, Gene Garrett, Dorothy Honeywell, and Barbara Boemler Dye. On June 6, new green altar hangings were dedicated in memory of long time faithful members of the altar guild, Margaret Hall and Marion Jaeger, both now deceased.

In April of 1999, the parish began a capital funds campaign in partnership with the diocese. The name of this effort was "Making All Things New." The campaign was successful far beyond the timid expectations of the parish. A goal of \$35,000 had been set, but when all was said and done, 56 families had pledged \$47,530. St. Barnabas' paid \$24,000 to the diocese and used the remainder for projects such as resurfacing the parking lot. This cost \$11,435. Andy Hesketh and Mike Dobbs were the parish co-chairs of the campaign.

Beginning with the Memorial Day weekend, the parish for the first time went to a summer schedule, i.e. one service held at 9:00am. People for the most part liked it and the practice has continued. Also during the summer of 1999, the parish began a monthly series of what were then called "Senior's Outings." The first outing held was a trip to Union Station on Metro Link for shopping and lunch.

In August of 1999 after 19 years at St. Barnabas' as music director, Bruce Vantine resigned to take advantage of an opportunity which had presented itself. In September, the parish was fortunate in finding and hiring Justin Osbourne, a choral music student at UMSL. Justin possessed a marvelous tenor voice.

During 1999, the parish was partnered with St. Cecilia's Church in Puerto Rico as part of the companionship diocese relationship. In November, Mr. Carlos Lugo from St. Cecilia's visited St. Louis to attend the diocesan convention and stayed in two parishioner's homes.

The Senior Warden during 1999 was Dennis Haefner and Terry Toolen was Junior Warden. ECW President again was Trudy Morrow. Tony Bertolino continued to serve as parish treasurer. The 1999 budget was \$155,671. The parish ended the year with a surplus of \$4,457. Parishioners paid 100% of their pledges! This year marked the ten year anniversary of Richard Tudor as Rector.

2000

This was the year which began with fears about Y2K and ended in confusion in Florida with people sitting around holding ballots up to the light (Is that a dimpled chad?). In late January of this year, the St. Louis Rams won the Super Bowl defeating the Titans 23-16.

At St. Barnabas', it was again a busy year!

On May 3, Richard Tudor completed his 11th year as Rector and by July 15, he had achieved the distinction of having served at St. Barnabas longer than any previous rector or vicar.

This year was notable also for the fact that the Rector read the Burial Office fifteen times. This was due to the fact that the people present at the founding of St. Barnabas' were now in their late 70's and 80's. The necrology for the year included Naomi Harrington (100 years old), Steven Wardle, Yvonne Wardle, Mary Parke, Nell Seaman, Bud Conant, Jean Daniels, and Billie Ross. The ladies of the ECW Quiet Circle served lunches following many of these services and their ministry of hospitality was greatly appreciated.

As always, the congregation spent a great deal of time and effort in maintaining and improving the buildings and grounds. Early in the year, the church was faced with the pleasant problem of a growing choir which necessitated reconfiguring the pews in the church to give extra space. During the spring of the year, round tables were purchased for the parish hall and new vertical blinds were installed in the hall way outside the parish offices to cut down on glare and heat.

Judith Proctor was ordained to the diaconate on June 23, 2000 and the Rector was one of her Presenters.

The children of the church not only presented a pageant at Christmas time, but also in November a musical reenactment of the first Thanksgiving. Both were especially enjoyable! Judy Skinker was Sunday School Superintendent and Cindy Vantine did her usual excellent job with choral music for the children.

Parish outings during 2000 included trips to the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Transportation Museum, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Jefferson Memorial. The final trip of the year was a Christmas lighting bus tour to Tilles Park.

The Pastoral Care Team continued its effective work begun while the rector was absent in Germany. The team during this year consisted of Mike Dobbs, Terry Ford, Debbie Haefner, Sara Henry, and Judy Skinker. Their many kindnesses to parishioners were deeply appreciated! In October of this year, a new program called Senior's Lunches began. Well balanced nutritious lunches were provided on the 1st & 3rd Fridays of each month by a team of cooks organized by Judy

Skinker. It was her idea to begin the practice of these fellowship meals. The average attendance at the meals was 18 persons.

Terry Toolen was Senior Warden and Mike Dobbs served as Junior Warden in 2000. Tony Bertolino again was the parish treasurer. John Palmer, head of the committee overseeing the Endowment Fund, reported at the end of the year that the fund had grown to \$112,897. Interest from the fund goes into the operating budget.

2001

When people think of this year, their minds will quickly jump to the tragic and shocking events of September 11. And so it should be! What awoke in the American consciousness on September 11 was an awareness of just what a dangerous world we inhabit. Hopefully, what also dawned on people was how much we all look to the church in times of great disaster and catastrophe to mediate to us a sense of comfort and reassurance about life and the purposes of God as revealed in Jesus. Jesus always encouraged his followers in difficult situations not to lose heart, and in our time the church preaches the same message.

The new year 2001 began on a high note for the rector when he traveled to Washington, D.C., by virtue of his being the Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese of Missouri, to be present for a festive service in the National Cathedral on the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6, to celebrate the signing of the "Called to Common Mission" agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American.

During the year 2001, St. Barnabas' struggled with finances, the old recurrent problem. The parish ran a double digit deficit for much of the year and, in the end, finished 2001 roughly \$6,500 in the red. Contributing to these financial struggles were a sluggish local economy and the rapidly changing demographics of North County.

Fund raising projects were especially important during this year. Dave Palmer and Diana Howarth chaired the bi-annual parish Yard Sale and it did very well! Judy Skinker was chair of the annual Holiday Dinner and it also was successful. The 4th of July concession stand again raised needed monies for the church operating budget.

During 2001, there was a resurgence in Sunday church attendance partly due to a renewed commitment to the Sunday School program being directed by Judy Skinker.

Both the Senior's Outing & Friday Senior Lunch programs were enthusiastically supported during 2001. A highlight of the outings was the February trip to the St. Louis Art Museum to view the Van Gogh exhibit. In June, a sizeable group of parishioners made a Sunday afternoon trip to historic St. John's Episcopal Church in Eolia (Prairieville). The Church and grave yard date from the 1850's.

To implement the "Called to Common Mission" agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, St. Barnabas began the practice of observing Lent and Advent by joining together with two Lutheran parishes, Christ the King and Living Christ, for a series of Wednesday evening dinners and worship services. St. Barnabas' also joined with Christ the King in October for a blood drive. The six ecumenical services in Lent, which began the collaboration between the three parishes, received coverage in the *St. Louis Post Dispatch*.

In the June Salter, Mike Dobbs and Judy Skinker were honored for all the hard work they do for the parish and were designated as "Gold Star" members. On November 18, 2001, members of the parish celebrated much beloved member Audrey Moore's 90th birthday.

During this year, the Rector began a practice called "Focus on the Family." Families were asked to come up to the front of the church during the announcements and be introduced. Some of the people and families spotlighted were Robert Shepherd, Della Godby & Lydia Stillman & Irene Miligan (3 generations), and Ruth Hettel & Helena von Metz & Heather Hays & Hanna Hays (4 generations).

In August, 2001, the parish helped the Rector celebrate a personal milestone, that of having completed thirty continuous years in parish ministry.

During this year, the Rector initiated what he called "Friday Night at the Flicks." He began by showing horror films from the 1950's. The first three movies were *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, *The Blob*, and *Them*.

As always, building & grounds needs required attention. During 2001, the ceiling in the church was repainted, a job that had been begging for attention for several years. Also, during the summer, a patio next to the parish hall was completed in memory of Billie Ross. The Episcopal Church Women paid for a new sign on St. Catherine next to the entrance to the parking lot. The church received a new roof during the summer as a consequence of a devastating hail storm that struck in April. Two projects planned during this year but not completed were the installation of a flag pole in memory of the 9/11 victims and the construction of a gazebo near the patio.

On December 12, 2001, Della Godby, our oldest member died. She was 97.

2002

In the putting together of a chronicle of several years in the life of a parish church, one is struck by the how similar the years are and yet how different! An Episcopal church lives its life within the structure of the liturgical year which is unchanging. Therefore every year makes the progression from Advent to Christmas to Epiphany to Lent

to Easter and then spends half of its year in the ordinary time of the Season of Pentecost.

There is also some permanence in the program life of a parish church. Things more or less stay the same. As one looks at the year 2002 at St. Barnabas', one sees a year filled with seniors' lunches, seniors' outings, parish picnics and dinners, special Advent and Lenten fellowship and worship opportunities with the Lutherans, Lenten Breakfasts, Friday night movies, ECW and Men's Club activities, Outreach projects (TEAM, "Room at the Inn", a blood drive), the scrip program, diocesan events (The Flower Festival, Confirmation, Advent Lessons & Carols, Diocesan Convention), fundraising activities (4th of July, the Holiday Dinner, the St. Patrick's Day dinner, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Yard Sale), Christian education offerings, Saturday morning maintenance work, Dollar & Dish, the Gourmet Club, and much, much more! All of this "stuff" happens during the course of a year in the life of a parish and is a sign of just how vital the parish is in the lives of its people.

At the annual meeting held on January 27, Terri Denicke, David Palmer, and David Sinclair were elected to three year terms on the Vestry. Michael Dobbs and Andy Hesketh were reelected as convention delegates.

The Rev. Dr. George Wayne Smith was ordained the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Missouri on March 2 at St. Francis Xavier Church (the college church at SLU).

On Sunday, May 14, the Rector dedicated a gazebo in memory of Marion Jaeger, a new flag pole in memory of those who lost their lives on 9/11, a new church sign given by ECW, and a tree in memory of Billie Ross donated by CHAMP.

During the summer of 2002, the parish said goodbye to Justin Osbourne who departed after three years as music director. Justin moved to Texas. In November, Leah Bruehl was installed as the new director.

Joe and Elvera Reagan donated a very attractive name tag cabinet to the parish with the hope that the wearing of names tags would facilitate hospitality.

A highlight of the Sunday morning adult education class were several presentations by Ron Grames, a study of the poetry of George Herbert as set to music by Ralph Vaughn Williams.

Harry Goff was Senior Warden and David Sinclair was the Junior Warden during 2002. Harry spent a good deal of his time during this year working on the organization of the SCRIP program, a fund raiser for the church. The scrip (cash cards) first went on sale on June 30. As Junior Warden, Dave was in charge of building maintenance. A large repair project during his tenure as JW was the replacement of the copper guttering and fascia on the original building. It had been damaged in 2001 by a hail storm.

During 2002, Mike Dobbs & Karen Birr served as "Room at the Inn" coordinators, Priscilla Bauer faithfully oversaw the twice yearly UTO offerings, Judy Skinker continued as Christian Education Superintendent, Holly Garrett was the Acolyte Master, and Priscilla Bauer served as ECW President.

The Friday Senior's Lunches, put together through the leadership of Judy Skinker, had an extremely fruitful year. The total income from the lunches was \$1,654 of which \$1,013 was spent on all kinds of needs for the kitchen and for the parish.

Liturgists who served during 2002 were Mille Beran, Tony Bertolino, Teri Burnham, Michael Dobbs, Holly Garrett, Harry Goff, Lynn Grames, Ron Grames, Elizabeth Heckman, Sheron Howe, Sharon Love, Lana Maggart, Darrel Parke, Judy Skinker, and Terry Toolen.

Acolytes who assisted at the altar were Alex Kibler (Master Acolyte), Amanda Haefner, Allyse Haefner, Katie Kibler, Summer Birr, Nichole Birr, Luke Burnham, Paige Burnham, Chelsea Garbs, Abby Haefner, Ryden Grames, Hannah Hays, Allen Lair, Chris Rice, and Kelly Snider.

Deaths during 2002 included Helen Jackson and Lester Sutter.

2003

This year will be remembered in the Episcopal Church as the year during which, at its General Convention in August in Minneapolis, consents were given to the election of a sexually active gay man as the Bishop of New Hampshire. A firestorm followed! The decision seriously divided the church and long range consequences within both the American church and the Anglican Communion would certainly ensue. The issue seemingly ignored by a majority of convention deputies and Bishops was the question of, on what basis the church makes these kinds of decisions. The Bible? Tradition? The doctrine of the church? Human experience?

Philosophically, it is possible to observe that the church in every age is presented with an ongoing challenge. Is it possible to remain faithful to the sacred deposit of faith which it has received from the past and at the same time minister to the contemporary culture? It is a question of relevancy and there are no easy answers! Whatever the church does, it is criticized for either being too old fashioned or too modern. The great challenge to the church is to learn how to live in the tension between the inherited obligations of the past and the challenges of the present.

The church defines itself by how it lives out its life in history. There is no ideal church, only an historical one. If we desire to know what constitutes the essentials of Christian belief, we should only have to examine the life of the church lived out in history. It must practice what it

preaches! The hope always at St. Barnabas' is that this congregation is living and ministering out of its Christian convictions!

The year 2003 was busy at St. Barnabas'. The primary work of the church is worship. There were 85 Sunday services of Holy Communion celebrated at the altar. Additionally, there were 18 weekday celebrations of the Eucharist. The Rector also did 44 private services of H.C. in homes and hospitals.

Under the heading of fellowship, a bridge club held its first meeting on February 15 and established a schedule of meeting monthly on a Saturday afternoon. Those participating were Ken & Pat Hoope, Roland & Della Dickhans, Jim & Sheron Howe, Tony Bertolino, Yvonne Jones, Mary Conant, Bill Ross Sara Henry, and Terri Denicke.

During this year, St. Barnabas' was generous in allowing outside groups to use the church as a meeting place. Those groups included: CHAMP, the DAR, Narcotics Anonymous, ALANON, and two theater groups. A young woman named Angelina McLaughlin gave cello lessons in the parish hall. This continued for several years.

Carol Wesley who had interned at St. Barnabas' was ordained to the diaconate on March 28. The parish gave her a clergy cross in honor of the occasion.

Sadly, St. Barnabas' lost two of its oldest members in April. Howard Kerstine, 93, died on April 7, and longtime member Audrey Moore, 90, died a day later on April 8. Another faithful servant of the Lord, Darrel Parke, died in December.

The Men's Club held its annual Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 11.

On Sunday, June 1, the Rector baptized five young children. Two of the five were Rosie & Nicole Nwanganga. Along with their mother, Joy and Dr. Sam and Margaret Nwaobasi, they all transferred to St. Barnabas' when St. Andrew's, Northwoods was disbanded as a congregation. All are Nigerian. Additional transfers from St. Andrew's were John Holmes, Brenda Bobo-Fischer, and Tom Peplinski.

During the summer, the parish had the wing wall which extends towards St. Catherine Street rebuilt and landscaped in memory of Howard Kerstine and Audrey Moore. Dave Palmer and Diana Howarth chaired the Parish Yard Sale which was held on Saturday, August 9.

The Youth Group was reorganized in September with adult leadership consisting of Jim Birr, Teri Burnham and Rick Lair.

A new outreach project began in September. Volunteers from the parish began hosting a monthly birthday party at the county youth detention center in Clayton. The Blessing of the Animals was held on Sunday afternoon, October 12. The Rector dedicated a large Alleluia Easter banner given by ECW on Sunday, November 2. Also in November, the parish donated 42 shoe boxes of children's items for the Christmas Child program.

By any standards, 2003 was a successful year at St. Barnabas'. There were increases both in Sunday attendance and in giving. The parish had 94 signed financial pledges of support. Total operating receipts were \$158,106 and total operating expenses were \$155,559. This was one of those years when the church ended the year with a surplus. John Palmer, the treasurer, was happy!

2004

One of the better descriptions of the importance of the parish church is the following paragraph from a pamphlet titled *The Five Marks of a Healthy Parish* written in 1956 by a former bishop of the Diocese of Michigan named Richard S. M. Emrich.

Since the individual parish (or mission) is the basic unit of the Church's life, it is clear that the health of the church depends upon the health of this unit. It is at the parish level that the great battle of the church's life is fought. If we succeed here, developing strong and thriving parishes, we succeed everywhere; if we fail here, we fail everywhere. It is at the parish level that our people grow or do not grow, in grace; here that converts are made, or not made; from here that young men [and women] do, or do not go into the ministry; from this source that missionary giving goes, or does not go, unto the ends of the earth.

As the years have passed, the over riding concern at St. Barnabas' has always been to ensure the ongoing health of the parish. This has become an increasing difficult task! There is much in society that seems to be working against this project. People do not join organizations in the same spirit as they once did, a fact that would seem to illustrate a loss of the strong need for community. Society today emphasizes individuality and "doing one's own thing." Weekends have become a time for leisure activities. American society is dominated by secular concerns and pays scant attention to the sacred. We are able to see this fact clearly in the interpretive dimension of living. On what do people base their definition of the meaning of life? Today, people do not look to the Bible or the teachings of the church for foundational values and ethics, but rather to their own experience. The pendulum has swung from objectivity to subjectivity. Personal needs and wants drive the train in modern society! The sad fact is that the church in many instances has bought into this secular agenda.

In churches, financial pressures seem to be increasing. Certainly, there has never been a time when church finances have not been a problem, but study and observation tell us that, in the 2000's, fixed costs [utilities, insurance, etc.] of operating a parish church are rising more rapidly than they ever have. There is a

growing gap between income and disbursements. The latter category is rising at a much faster rate than that of parish income. At St. Barnabas', this can be seen in the fact that the parish carried a deficit in 2004 and was forced to budget a deficit in 2005. Total operating income in 2004 was \$154,393 and total expenses were \$158,588. This created a deficit of \$4,195. During 2004, there were 91 signed pledges of financial support.

In spite of these and other pressures, St. Barnabas' endured. It is a testament to the faithfulness and commitment of her people, many of whom go far beyond the extra mile. At the annual meeting held in January, Jim Howe, Debbie Palmer, and Carrie Weisgerber were elected to three year terms on the vestry. Dottie Bertolino, parish secretary, announced that she would retire August 1.

During Lent, St. Barnabas' and the two partnership Lutheran parishes decided to commit the offering from the six Lenten services to Heifer International. The goal was to raise \$500 to purchase one cow. It was far exceeded!

The adult class, during the month of April, began a discussion on racism led by parishioner Brenda Bobo-Fisher. In April, the Youth Group contracted with MoDot to adopt a .5 mile stretch of New Hall Ferry for trash pickup. Also in April, the Rector traveled to Rhode Island to officiate at the April 23 wedding of Dawn Denicke and Peter Lorenz.

On May 22, Britany Ashby, Chelsea Garbs, Ryden Grames, and Allie Upton were confirmed at Christ Church Cathedral. Also in May, the Men's Club awarded its annual scholarship to Amanda Haefner.

Florissant was hit by a heavy rain storm in June which partially flooded the undercroft. This problem never seems to go away!

On the bright side, the Rector hired Katie Amsden to be the new parish secretary. She began work on August 1.

During the summer, the parking lot was resealed and extensive repair work was done on the exterior beams on the original building. Total cost was over \$9000.

On Saturday, August 7, the Rector led the first annual "No Wimps or Whiners" 7 mile hike at Pere Marquette State Park in Illinois.

Elizabeth (Liz) Heckman became the Christian Education coordinator prior to the startup of Sunday School in the fall. She replaced Judy Skinker. Bishop Wayne Smith visited St. Barnabas' on Sunday, November 7, and met with the vestry following the service.

Wayne & Sylvia Robbins celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 10, and Dave & Wanda Barkley celebrated their 50th on November 6.

Delegates to the diocesan convention in November were Karen Birr, Diana Howarth, Harry Goff, Cam Murphy, and David Sinclair. Ruth Eggers was Senior Warden during the year and David Sinclair was Junior Warden. Priscilla Bauer again served as President of ECW.

A surprising statistic during 2004 is the fact that no one from the parish died during the whole year. We must have been doing something right!

2005

Several years ago in the *Anglican Digest*, there was a short article titled simply "Bill of Rights." It had been submitted by a former Bishop of Arizona and was a statement of what he felt parishes had a right of expect. . . 1) A Sunday liturgy prepared with obvious care; 2) Sermons that are biblically based and which relate the scriptures to everyday life; 3) Hymns they can sing; 4) Consistent pastoral care for members while being open and welcoming to newcomers; and 5) A challenge to involvement in the larger community in ways that make a difference.

This is also a pretty decent summary of the mission of the church. In evaluating a year in the life of a parish, one way to do it would be to attempt to discover whether these expectations have been met.

2005 was yet another busy year in the life of the St. Barnabas' congregation. As in every year, there were ups and downs but, taken as a whole, the year was very positive! The parish came through the year in good financial shape. Ninety-four (94) families or individuals handed in pledges of support. Total operating receipts were \$161,996 and the total operating expenses were \$162,528. The operating deficit was less than \$1000. The Endowment Fund value increased in 2005 to \$108,184.

David Sinclair was the Senior Warden in 2005 and Jim Birr, the Junior Warden. Liz Heckman continued her work as Christian Education Coordinator. John Palmer again served as parish treasurer and Tony Bertolino was the pledge registrar.

The parish continued to offer two Sunday services during the program portion of the year and one service during the summer months. During 2005, there were 91 Sunday services, 15 weekday services of H.C. and 41 private services in homes, nursing homes, or hospitals. The average Sunday attendance (ASA) rose during 2005 to 112.

At the annual meeting in January, Jim Birr, Rita Chapman, and Ron Grames were elected to serve on the vestry.

Once again St. Barnabas' joined with friends in two Lutheran parishes, Christ the King and Living Christ, for Lenten dinner fellowship and worship. The goal for the six offering from the services was to raise \$1,000 to go toward the purchase of a village well in a developing country. It was met!

In March, it was necessary to purchase a new dishwasher for the kitchen. The cost of \$3,750 was raised by donations from ECW, the Men's Club, the Ross Foundation, the Kitchen Fund, and an anonymous donor.

On May 4, Terri Denicke was honored at a reception held at St. Barnabas' for her twenty-five years of faithful service to the Diocese of Missouri.

Three young men – Luke Burnham, Austin Hirbe, Chris Heckman – and two adults – Craig and Therese Kottkamp – were confirmed at the cathedral on May 14.

The Youth Group had one of their busier years. They had an all night lock-in at the Double Tree Inn in March. They hosted a talent show & ice cream social in April. They went camping and floating on the Meramac River in July. They went to a haunted house at Halloween and had a Christmas party in December. Additionally, they bused tables at the parish dinners and periodically picked up their stretch of highway. They also helped decorate for the TEAM Sock Hop in September

Members in 2005 were Brittany Ashby, Jimmy Ashby, Summer Birr, Nichole Birr, Luke Burnham, Paige Burnham, Max Burnham, Ryden Grames, Hannah Hays, Chris Heckman, Allen Lair, Alaina Lair, Kelly Snider and Bodo Neemann, an exchange student from Germany who spent the year living with the Chapmans. The parish said “auf wiedersehen” to Bodo in July when he returned to Germany.

Christ the King Lutheran Church had its last service on September 18th and then, sadly, closed its doors.

In October, Sister Mary Michael McCulla came to St. Barnabas as the Parish Nurse. This came about through involvement with the Lutherans. She taught classes on health topics on Sundays and did visitation to hospitals and homes,

The Scrip program continued to be an important source of funds for the budget. Terri Denicke and Harry Goff oversaw the Sunday by Sunday organization of the selling of scrip.

St. Barnabas' sent a check in the amount of \$1,505 to Episcopal Relief and development for aid to victims of the Katrina hurricane.

During 2005 the following parishioners died: Thomas Love, Wanda Barkley, Marjorie Schaefer, Rosemary Herzog, and Mary Brookfield.

Looking at the larger picture, tensions within the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion continued to heighten. Causing these tensions was the continuing disagreement over the decision made at the General Convention in Minneapolis to give consent to the election of a gay man, Gene Robinson, to be Bishop of New Hampshire. The Primates of the Anglican Communion intimated that they may vote to expel the Episcopal Church from membership in the worldwide communion if the American church does not repent its actions. This disagreement within the Episcopal Church manifested itself in the actions taken by a number of parish churches to leave the Episcopal Church and seek Episcopal oversight from African Anglican churches. All in all, what has become apparent is that, contrary to what the leadership of the church apparently thought (or was hoping), the rift created in the church by the Robinson decision was not going away but

was in fact deepening and widening. All eyes now are turned toward the next General Convention to be held in Columbus, Ohio in the summer of 2006. What will be its response to the demands being made by the Anglican Communion? Only time will tell!

2006

A Year of the Lord's Favor

One of the things which this year will be remembered for is the fact that during the year there were two major power outages which seriously affected the community. The first happened in mid-July as the result of two severe thunder storms. A quarter of a million people (250,000) were without power in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Hardest hit was North County! The church was without electricity for eight days. It was quite hot! No air conditioning! On the Sunday during that stretch, worship was held in the parish hall. Little else was accomplished because of dependence on computers and copying machines. The second outage occurred at the end of November and the first two days of December. The church was without power for four days and it turned cold. The church maintenance team was in the process of rigging a generator on Saturday, December 2, when the power came on at about 6:30 pm. Bishop Smith's visitation was the next day.

Parish life in any given year has both a quantitative and qualitative side to it. Certainly at the end of the year we do report numbers and those numbers are important. Yet the value of life in community goes deeper than just the numbers. There are quality of life issues also that are just as important! This chronicle of life at St. Barnabas' during any particular year is intended to get at more than just the numbers. It is an attempt to convey the meaning of it all

What kind of a year was 2006? It was a year like most years, filled with ups and downs. It was a year of financial pressures. It was a year of personal sacrifice and faith! It was a year when relationships in and among the congregation were deepened considerably. As Tiny Tim pronounced at the conclusion of *A Christmas Carol*: “God bless us all, everyone!”

During 2006, there were 91 Sunday services of Holy Communion and Morning Prayer. Additionally, there were 29 Eucharistic services on various Wednesdays and 34 private services in homes and hospitals. The Rector officiated at two marriages and seven burials. The names of those buried from the church in 2006 were: Dorothy Knop, Genevieve Hoefener, Vincent Clark, Patricia Putney, Shirley Thompson, Vera Johnstone, and Wanda Ross.

This was a year that was rather disappointing attendance wise. In 2005, the average Sunday attendance was 112, but in 2006 it fell to 103. There are no simple explanations for this vacillation.

Elected to the vestry at the annual meeting in January were Jay Burnham, Margaret Nwaobasi, and Wayne Robbins. Also in January a check in the amount of \$1,056 was sent to TEAM from the Marjorie Schaefer Memorial Hunger Fund. A frustrating note to start the year was the unhappy discovery that, on a Monday night in mid-January, someone stole the Eucharist candlesticks right off the altar. They were quite old and irreplaceable.

All the members of the congregation had their pictures taken on February 2,3,and 4 for a new pictorial directory.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) were the focus at the Lenten services held during March and April.

The Confirmation class presented by the Rector at Christ Church Cathedral on April 22 included Jimmy Ashby, Nichole Birr, Abigail (Abby) Haefner, Alaina Lair, and Rosie Nwanganga.

Cindy Vantine received the President's Award from NCCU on April 30, 2006 for her work to promote racial harmony and justice.

Prior to the General Convention to be held in Columbus, Ohio in June, the St. Barnabas' vestry sent a letter outlining their concerns. The letter questioned the authority on which the decision to consent to the election of Gene Robinson was based. It stated that decisions made at the upcoming General Convention in Columbus regarding the Anglican Communion's negative reaction to the Robinson decision would reveal whether the Episcopal Church wishes to be a witness to the Christ revealed in Holy Scripture or a church that easily bends to the will of the secular world.

The Grounds Beautification Committee held its first meeting on August 7 and began an intensive planning process which would eventually culminate of the planting of six trees, a hedge, and countless other shrubs and flowers. Chair of the committee was Jim Hoefener and the membership included Sheron (and Jim) Howe, Mary (and John) Anselmo and the Rector.

The Rev. Dale Kuhn, Director of Care & Counseling, spoke on Palm Sunday, April 9, at a well attended forum held between the two services. His topic was "Characteristics of Adolescents."

On Thursday, April 27, a large group from St. Barnabas' rode the train to Springfield, Illinois to visit the newly renovated Abraham Lincoln Museum.

The vestry began discussion of plans to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of St. Barnabas. The first worship service was held on April 28, 1957. That date is taken to

be the beginning of this parish. The 50th celebration will be held on the weekend of April 28-29, 2007. The three co-chairpersons of the event are Terri Denicke, Debbie Palmer, and Cindy Vantine.

A lease agreement with U.S. Cellular allowing them to construct a cellular tower on St. Barnabas' property was put into the hands of the attorneys in September. The negotiating committee for St. Barnabas' included Terri Denicke, William Ross, and the Rector. Mr. Harold Burroughs, Chancellor of the Diocese of Missouri, gave invaluable assistance to the parish during this process.

A series of three Stewardship gatherings were held in October to inform the congregation about the budget needs of the church for 2007. Terri Denicke put together a power point presentation which was quite effective.

Deborah Goldfeder spoke at St. Barnabas' on Sunday, November 5, about her experiences during a six month visit to the Diocese of Lui in the Sudan in Africa. The Diocese of Missouri is in a companion relationship with Lui.

The Rector baptized Owen Bathe, son of Patrick & Kelly Bathe (formerly Kelly Jobe) on November 12. She is a former youth group member.

The St. Barnabas' choir under the direction of Leah Bruehl sang during the annual Advent Lessons & Carols Service at the Cathedral.

Bishop George Wayne Smith visited St. Barnabas' on Sunday, December 3. Thankfully, electrical power, after being lost for several days, was restored on Saturday evening. Thank God for heat and lights!

The parish almost broke even financially in 2006. At the end of the year, total operating receipts were \$163,839 and operating disbursements were \$163,896. The parish ended the year with a deficit of \$57. Close enough!

2007

The major focus early on in 2007 was planning for the 50th anniversary celebration to be held on the weekend of April 28-29. The chairpersons for this much anticipated event were Terri Denicke, Debbie Palmer, and Cindy Vantine.

The annual meeting of the St. Barnabas' congregation was held on Sunday, January 28. Retiring vestry members were James Howe, Deborah Palmer, and Carrie Weisgerber. Elected to replace them were Terri Denicke, Michael Dobbs, and Diana Howarth.

The "Croppettes" of St. Barnabas' started work in February on memories albums for the upcoming 50th Anniversary celebration. They began by soliciting pictures from every decade of the existence of the parish.

The Men's Club hosted the annual St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 17.

Vestry member Ron Grames continued to hold up the Hunger ministry and the specific needs of TEAM on Sunday mornings.

Ash Wednesday fell on February 28. St. Barnabas' participated in special observances of the Season of Lent with the Lutheran Church of the Living Christ. The first three Wednesday evening services were held at St. Barnabas' and the final three at Living Christ. Each evening consisted of a dinner at 6:00 pm and a Lenten Service of Evening Prayer at 7:00 pm

During Lent, members of the Youth Group participated in a 30 hour famine overnight sponsored by the Diocese of Missouri.

Confirmation was held at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, May 12. The Rector presented Ethan Grames, Andrea Lair, Kimberley Boyd, and Andrew Lair to the Bishop to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

Kimberley Boyd was honored by the American Red Cross and other groups for her quick action when her father suffered a serious asthma attack at their home. Kimberley called 911 and administered CPR until the paramedics arrived.

Planning for the installation of a Columbarium continued. Project chairman Wayne Robbins sent out a questionnaire to the parish in the newsletter.

St. Barnabas' celebrated the 50th anniversary of the parish as a worshipping congregation on the weekend of April 28-29. On Saturday, April 28, an open house was held in the parish hall from 4:00 – 6:00 pm. Mayor Lowery from the city of Florissant attended with his wife and he presented the Rector with the key to the city. The Rector read letters of congratulations from Bishop William Jones, Bishop Hays H. Rockwell, and the first Vicar, the Rev. Albert Nelius. The Rev. John Good who served as Rector from 1976 to 1987 was in attendance with his wife Norma. On Sunday, during the Festive Service of the celebration of the 50th, the Rev. Mr. Good read a narration during the performance of a special musical number composed by Bruce Vantine on the occasion of the 25th anniversary celebration. It was a great weekend and illustrated the fact of how important the existence of this parish is in the lives of many people.

Katie Garnett had submitted her resignation as parish secretary prior to the annual meeting in January. She would leave employment at St. Barnabas' at the end of May. Before she left, the Rector hired Amy Walling to replace her. Katie and her girls, Ariel and Amber, moved to Fort Carson, Colorado in early June to join Katie's husband Dan stationed there. They will all be missed by the congregation!

In July, 2007, the parish paid off the mortgage on the building addition. This was a major accomplishment! During the fifteen years which it took to retire the mortgage, St. Barnabas' never missed a mortgage payment and never failed to pay its full diocesan assessment on time.

In June, the lease for the U.S. Cellular lease was signed and the parish began receiving monthly income of \$1,000 on June 28. On July 11, a crane lifted the pieces of a one hundred foot tower into place and ST. Barnabas' entered

the high tech age. This activity was the culmination of a more than year long process of lease negotiation between U.S Cellular and St. Barnabas'. Members of the team who represented St. Barnabas' were William Ross, Terri Denicke, and the Rector. The Chancellor of the Diocese of Missouri, Mr. Harold Burroughs, worked very hard to bring the negotiations of a successful conclusion.

On Sunday, July 29, Jim Hollenberg, President of the Men's Club, presented Paige Burnham and Katie Kibler each with a check for \$500 to be used for their education. Both of these girls are excellent students!

During the Season of Advent, the parish again joined together with the people of Living Christ Lutheran Church for three Wednesday evening sessions of dinner and worship. St. Barnabas sent its portion of the offerings taken up at these services (\$325) to Episcopal Relief & Development.

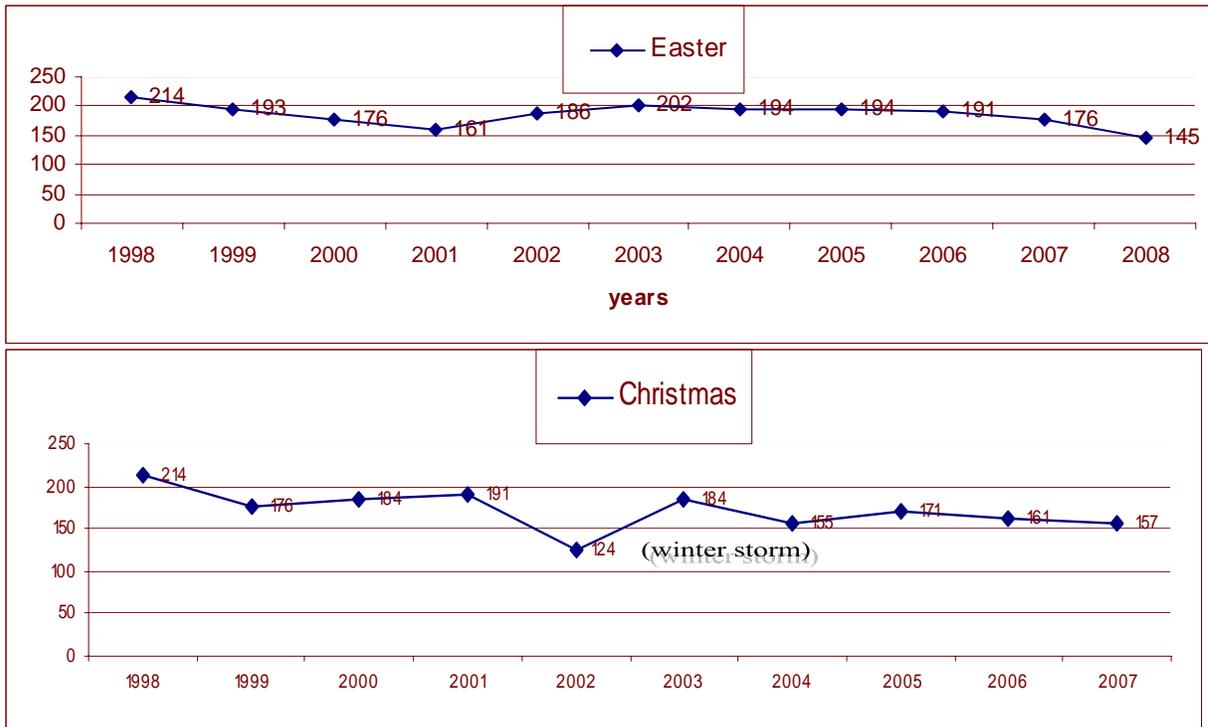
St. Barnabas' continued to be blessed in 2007 with an excellent music program. The choir is as strong as it ever has been thanks to Leah Milton, music director, and Cindy Vantine, the church organist.

As a concluding comment about the year 2007, it should be noted that the parish did well financially! St. Barnabas' ended up the year with a budget surplus of over \$10,000. This unexpected windfall came about for a number of reasons not the least of which were the cell tower income and the retirement of the mortgage on the new building. All in all, it was an interesting year financially.

ATTENDANCE CHART

	Average Sunday Attendance	Pledges	Operating Revenue
1998	103	89	\$139,456
1999	104	86	\$150,018
2000	115	83	\$153,300
2001	112	83	\$156,317
2002	100	89	\$165,606
2003	106	94	\$174,823
2004	111	91	\$171,134
2005	112	94	\$178,484
2006	103	87	\$180,495
2007	95	82	\$180,870

Major Feast Day Attendance Patterns



A Brief Commentary on Changes in the Church

Looking back, it is interesting that when those 83 people gathered at 10:00 am on April 28, 1957 in the basement of the house at 1750 St. Catherine to be participants in the first worship service of the new congregation, it was a service of Morning Prayer. There were two priests present – the Rev. Gordon Price, Rector of St. Stephen’s and the Venerable Charles Rehkopf, Archdeacon of the Diocese of Missouri – and yet, the historic moment was commemorated by a service of Morning Prayer, not Holy Communion. Unthinkable today but that was Episcopal Church tradition in the 1950’s. It was called “low church” liturgical practice. I grew up in a parish that celebrated Holy Communion on the first, third, (and fifth) Sundays of the month and did Morning Prayer on the second and fourth Sundays. This practice revealed a balance between the catholic and Protestant elements in the Episcopal Church. When one reads the first St. Barnabas’ service book, one discovers that the practice of doing services of Morning Prayer on Sundays continued for several years. However, by 1962 the celebration of the Eucharist or Holy Communion had almost completely replaced the Morning Prayer service on Sundays. This was probably due to the liturgical preferences of the new Vicar, the Rev. William Stickney.

Talking about changes, a word needs to be said about the Book of Common Prayer and the hymnal.

The book in use in 1957 was the 1928 version. Liturgical revision of the BCP began in the late 1960’s and, after a

period of trial use of several liturgies (the Green Book, the Zebra Book, etc.), the current book was approved by General Convention in 1979. The 1979 BCP is quite different from the 1928 Book. A greater variety of services for all kinds of different situations are offered in the new book. There are also Rite 1 (traditional) and Rite 2 (contemporary) versions of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and the Holy Eucharist. Four options for the Prayer of Consecration (Rite 2) are also offered in the new book. The 1979 BCP, mirroring the preference of society, offers many choices! One final comment about differences between the old and new Prayer Books: the 1928 version was decidedly penitential in mood while the 1979 version is celebratory. In this fact, we see a considerable theological shift.

The church from 1940 to 1982 used a collection of hymns called the Hymnal 1940. There was also a Hymnal 1940 supplement. Three years after the Prayer Book was revised, the Hymnal 1982 appeared. Here again, more choice is offered. The Hymnal 1982 is much more extensive, offering some 720 selections as opposed to only 600 in the Hymnal 1940. There is one rather amusing (I think!) story about these two hymnals. When the 1940 Hymnal was compiled, the church musicians for some reason decided to exclude everyone’s favorite hymn *Amazing Grace*. There was a storm of protest from the pew and so it was brought back in the Hymnal 1982. Those church musicians!

An obvious change that has happened in the church since 1957 has been the transformation of the role of women. In the 1940's, the Episcopal Church in General Convention refused to seat a woman as a deputy. Up to the 1960's, women did not serve on vestries and girls were not acolytes. This is the reason why ECW was and is such a strong organization. Today, this has all changed! Women's ordination was approved on September 16, 1976 at the General Convention meeting in Minneapolis. Today, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church is a woman.

Some of the changes that have taken place over the past 50 years at St. Barnabas' are rather painful to record; however, they are not changes specific only to St. Barnabas'. They are systemic throughout the whole Episcopal Church. We are an aging congregation and an aging church. St. Barnabas' at its beginning was a congregation consisting of young families with many children. Look at the first pictorial directory published in 1967! There are numerous families with three & four children. The Sunday School in those years had upwards of 250 children enrolled. Today the situation has reversed itself. This trend can be seen nationally. In a comprehensive parish survey completed in 2005, it was reported that 56% of Episcopal parishes and missions report that more than half of their members are age 50+. Also, Episcopalians tend to be older than the general population. Overall, 27% of Episcopal Church members are 65+ as compared to only 12% of the U.S. population in 2005.

The overall size of the Episcopal Church is much different today than it was in 1957. In the 1950's, the population of the United States was 180 million and the Episcopal Church claimed something over 3 million persons as its membership. Today the population of our country has grown to 312 million, but the current membership numbers of the Episcopal Church are reported to be a bit over 2 million. Going back to the 2005 parish survey: "Less than half (39%) of Episcopal Churches report that attendance is more than 60% of seating capacity at the service with the largest attendance. Only 12% have services that are very full (more than 80% of capacity)." St. Barnabas' can identify with these numbers. Again, this has been a systemic decline in both membership and attendance which has affected most mainline Protestant churches.

I will make one final comment about change in the Episcopal Church over the past 50 years that is closely related to the decline in membership. There has been a dramatic decline in the planting of new churches. St. Barnabas' was founded in 1957 in the midst of the post World War II suburban enthusiasm for starting new congregations. The congregational development survey cited above reports that in the years from 1946-1965, twenty percent of all current Episcopal congregations were founded. This is significant! That pace quickly slowed in the mid-1960's as the attention of the church shifted to other issues. From 1966-1989, 6.4% of our congregations were planted and from 1990-2004, only 3.3 % came into being. Any number of

conclusions could be drawn but one of them certainly has to be that the Episcopal Church has failed to keep pace with population shifts and preferences in the United States since the 1960's. One can certainly see this in the church planting history of the Diocese of Missouri. Today the diocese is closing more churches than it is opening. When I came to the Diocese of Missouri in 1989, there were 59 parishes and missions. Today, there are perhaps 48. That means that eleven have closed. During the same time period, there has been only one church startup; St. Francis in Wildwood (recently moved to Eureka). St. Francis remains a mission.

Author's Concluding Statement

At the Annual Meeting of St. Barnabas' on Sunday, January 27, 2008, the Rev. Dr. Richard B. Tudor announced his intention to resign as Rector and to retire from active ministry, this resignation to be effective June 1, 2008. His last Sunday would be May, 18th, 2008. He appointed Mr. David Sinclair to serve as Senior Warden and Mr. Dennis Haefner to serve as Junior Warden during 2008. Mr. Harry Goff was elected to serve a three year term on the vestry.

The Rector's resignation brings to a conclusion the nineteen year and one month span of "The Rich Tudor Years" at St. Barnabas'. Of course, the life of the parish will go on! Now it is up to the congregation and the next Rector of St. Barnabas' to write the next chapter in the history of the parish. May God bless the people of St. Barnabas' as they move into the future!

2008 Postscript

St. Barnabas' lost one of its oldest and most committed members on February 21, 2008 when Joseph Reagan closed his eyes for the last time. Joe died at DePaul Hospital after suffering a stroke twenty-four hours earlier. If anyone in the congregation had earned the title "Mr. Episcopalian," it was Joe. It would be difficult to estimate just how many services at which Joe ushered over the years. He was a fixture in the narthex handing out worship bulletins. He also had been in charge of the kitchen for the Men's Club annual St. Patrick's Day dinner for over twenty years. Joe was universally liked by all who knew him! The congregation gathered to remember Joe and read the Burial Office for him on Monday, February 25, 2008. He was truly a good Joe!

The Rector, prior to his retirement also officiated at two weddings in the month of May, 2008. Jill Haislar, granddaughter of long time member Kitty Whitling, was united in marriage to Todd Green on May 3 at St. Barnabas'. As his last official act, the Rev. Dr. Richard B. Tudor officiated on May 31 at Christ Church Cathedral at the marriage of Amanda Haefner and Paul Graue.