



Ecclesia

October 2014

Rector's Reflections

By The Rev. Robert Schlismann

This month I invite you to come and see the changes that are happening in our church. There are many of them! By 'changes' I mean in terms of remodeling and redecorating. Here are a few:

1) The administrative assistant's work area is being relocated across the hall to the old library area, and expanded. It is more secure since Inez actually can see who enters through the exterior office door. The office area and hall will be painted and carpeted. Inez has a new desk/work station that has been paid for through private contributions.

Thanks!

2) Occupying the former office area will be a handicap-accessible restroom. This allows the whole first floor to be completely accessible for people with disabilities. Since we also are a polling place and our church offers concerts, dinner theater, etc. to the community, this will increase the attractiveness, accessibility, and utility of our facility. Next to this restroom is a new and larger storage closet for our food pantry. The two restrooms next to it were redecorated and remodeled last year.

3) The library area has been relocated to the fireside room. It is now a far more welcoming place and suitable as a multi-purpose room: church parlor, library, choir rehearsal room, meeting room, bride's room, and place for bereaved families to gather before a funeral/memorial service. It can even serve as a small chapel or prayer room. It will have an attractive new chandelier. The altarpiece that originally stood in back of the sanctuary altar and later was moved to the parish hall when the altar area was remodeled some years ago now has a new home in the fireside room. Its beauty will contribute to an atmosphere of devotion.

4) The basement below the Nave (in the original church building) has been cleaned up, a new ceiling added, with walls removed and redone to provide a more usable and attractive space. There is a new snack area with a donated sink and counter. The restrooms have been updated. This area is used by our twelve-step groups.

5) The Sunday School area on the lower level was painted and redecorated last year and has a new carpet. The nursery is new and is a welcoming spot for little ones.

6) The Narthex, the long entrance hall in front of the church, has been repainted.

7) The Parish Hall also has been repainted. These two spaces continue a theme found in the courtyard with a pattern of colorful bricks. (or 'bricks,' since not all of them are 'real') The Parish Hall also will have new baseboards.

About the only areas that have not been touched are the Nave/Sanctuary/Choir and the kitchen and kitchenette. (maybe later) The project has been done with a purpose and a theme. The purpose is to have more welcoming spaces in which to meet for our members and visitors. The theme is one of warmth and color, a sense of vibrancy and gen-

October Birthdays

Oct. 1

Tommy Swalley

Oct. 4

Tim Jacobsen

Oct. 6

Amy Swalley

Oct. 9

Ryan Mitchell

Oct. 10

Gigi Simonsen

Oct. 15

Jack Putters

Oct. 17

Burt Nixon

Oct. 19

Kylie Knoll

Oct. 20

Cole Jacobsen

Oct. 22

Kylie Freudenberg

J. R. Redowl

Oct. 25

Whitney Kumm

Oct. 26

Lauren Jacobsen

Oct. 30

Dave Freudenburg

Anniversaries

Oct. 10

Mike & TyLynne Bauer

Oct. 28

Joe & Nancy Nockels

eral 'aliveness' that, ideally, will reflect the spiritual nature of the Church. It had been years since anything like this was done and the timing seemed right when so much needed to be updated/upgraded.

How much does it cost? Comparatively little since so much work is done by volunteers. We had roughly \$6,900 left over from the courtyard fund. (originally a grant from the diocese) The newly carpeted areas in the offices, hallway, and fireside room will be about \$7,000. (Carpeting is less costly than asbestos removal for new flooring.) The handicapped restroom is approximately \$2,500. This does not include lumber (some of which has been salvaged from walls that were removed) and the 20+ gallons of paint used for the entire project. Existing cabinetry and trim have been saved and reused where possible.

By comparison, this is at a time when two other larger churches in town have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on their renovation projects and a third will be spending many millions. The vestry has exercised good, responsible stewardship of the resources God has blessed us with. None of our reserve funds have been touched for the overall project.

Where we really saved money is with labor. I normally don't mention people's names for things like this since I do not want to inadvertently skip anyone, but these folks stand out: Jan Beauvais, Dave and Gigi Farner, and Lonny; plus a couple of young men, Jared and Seth, who have been assisting him. John Garden also has been available. Our volunteers are spending many hundreds of hours in this work. That is not an exaggeration; it truly is a labor of love. Stewardship, 'giving,' is expressed in many ways, through one's time, talent, and treasure. Time and talent have been generously donated; treasure, too, since it is said, 'Time is money.'

'Build it and they (he) will come.' This is what the protagonist was told in the 1989 film, *Field of Dreams*. We are attempting to do just that with our facility. It is all for a larger purpose: to attract and effectively minister to as many people as God would send our way. This does not mean we just sit around and wait for people to trickle in. It means that we prayerfully, actively, and continuously asking God to lead us who to invite to church.

Did you know that some churches don't have Sunday Schools because they cannot find people who are willing to teach their children? We don't have that problem; we are blessed with the following capable and dedicated Sunday School teachers: Whitney, Paula, Carol, and Amy. Jan serves in our nursery.

Our challenge is to have children consistently come. I invite our parents/grandparents to bring them as often as possible. Original, interesting, imaginative and cutting-edge power-point lessons are prepared for the kids, but it doesn't work if they are not there. We need acolytes to serve when they are scheduled. Many do; we need more.

Natalie and Deb always welcome new choir members. All that's needed is a desire to sing. Carrying a tune is optional.

Finally, we need people to fill the church on Wednesdays at 6p.m. (If you are looking for a fellowship opportunity, a potluck meal is served afterward), Saturdays at 5:30p.m., and Sundays at 10:30a.m. These are all Holy Eucharists (Communion) offered at these different times for your convenience.

I think of Christians in Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and the Middle East who are on the verge of extinction through savage persecution: convert (to Islam), leave their homes, or die! This is not an exaggeration. Christians in Sudan and Somalia also are persecuted by these violent religious fanatics. Terrorists kidnap children in Nigeria because these little ones belong to Christian families. In the U.S. we are insulated from these outrages. What would these and many other brothers and sisters in Christ give to have the freedom we enjoy to gather unmolested to worship Almighty God – to have the opportunity and, yes, the privilege to assemble in a place like this, whenever we want!

An additional opportunity for worship is provided in October with a slightly different theme. The Blessing of the Animals is Saturday, October 4, 11a.m. in the courtyard. Last year at this time the courtyard was not quite finished, so the service was held in the parking lot.

This year is the first time since I have been here that the Blessing of the Animals will take place in the courtyard. Come and enjoy its beauty and bring your pet, regardless of what it is. Even if you don't have a pet, invite someone who does and come along to give your support! Children will enjoy this brief ceremony where we give thanks and ask God's blessing for these creatures.

Our Rummage Sale and Silent Auction having recently been completed, I wanted to thank Rhoda and her volunteers who 'manned' the two day event. This is a fundraiser for our church and thanks to all who participated and/or purchased items. I believe we had 23 people who helped with the sale this year!

Each year I have been at Trinity, we have had a Halloween Party for our kids, adults, and community. I would like to have one this year but it will not automatically be scheduled. This year Halloween falls on Friday, October 31. That is a good day since it is not a school night.

For a party to happen we need help to plan, organize, and invite people to participate. We need a volunteer coordinator and several persons to assist him or her with decorating, providing snacks/candy, simple activities, and chaperone the event. I think it is great to have such an activity at church that can provide a safe, family-friendly environment for the kids. But we need enough people to make it all work. Teens are welcome to help out. Are you in? If you can help please contact Inez or me in the next couple of weeks.

In the glory of Autumn, Fr. Bob+

John M. Barnett

Funeral services were held on Saturday, Sept. 27 at St. Martha's Episcopal Church in Papillion for John M. Barnett, 54, of Omaha, who died on Tuesday, Sept. 9, 2014.

He was the son of the Rev. Dr. James M. and Marian S. Barnett, formerly of Norfolk. He was married to the former Michele L. Winchell.

He graduated from Norfolk Public High School and furthered his education at University of Nebraska at Kearney.

He established and operated several successful businesses as an entrepreneur.

In the years preceding his death, he struggled with multiple health issues. He had a generous nature, a good heart, vast intelligence and a wonderful sense of humor.

Survivors include his daughter Jessica R. Kaiser and brothers, J. Mark Barnett, Thomas O. Barnett and Paul W. Barnett.

August Financial Report

	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
<i>Income</i>	13,209.00	10,464.86
<i>Expenses</i>	13,212.44	19,039.43

Request for Nursery Supplies

We are hoping to have a temporary nursery facility available this fall. This is something we have been planning for several years. New families are not likely to consider a church that has no nursery available, so it is not only a matter of ministry but a matter of church growth and overall viability.

I am praying that individuals will be led to contribute furnishings and equipment such as: 2 cribs, a changing table, 2 playpens, a large area rug, and age-appropriate toys. Donations to purchase the same are welcomed. Stuffed animals should be new and not used.

Please contact Jan Beauvais, Inez, or me.

Fr. Bob+

If you would like to order flowers on a certain weekend in memory of a loved one, call the church office and we'll put your wishes on the schedule. We have several openings .

Prayer Corner

Those in our church family that need your prayers thank you in advance. Please remember Karl, Marcia, Liz, Wanda, Bob & Georgia, Madison, Jody, Melissa & Kay with health concerns; those who live alone or in nursing homes especially, Wanda & Phyllis; those serving in the military, especially Adam, Miles, Jerome, Tyler and Jeremy and James and those who travel, need guidance and faith, difficult people, those who care for those we love and those who are bereaved.

Mark Your Calendar

Wed., Oct. 1—Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, 6 pm, with potluck supper.

Thurs., Oct. 2 — DOK, 7 p.m.

Sat., Oct. 4 — Eucharist, 5:30 p.m.; Blessing of the Animals, 11 a.m. in the Courtyard.

Sun., Oct. 5 — Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Oct. 6 — Prayer Group, 9:30 a.m.

Wed., Oct. 8 — Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, 6 p.m. with potluck supper.

Thurs., Oct. 9—Annual Council at Scottsbluff.

Fri., Oct. 10 — Annual council at Scottsbluff.

Sat., Oct. 11 — Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.; Annual Council at Scottsbluff.

Sun., Oct. 12 — Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Oct. 13 — Prayer Group, 9:30 a.m.

Wed., Oct. 15 — Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, 6 p.m. with potluck supper.

Sat., Oct. 18 — Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 19 — Morning Prayer, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Oct. 20 — Prayer Group, 9:30 a.m.

Tues., Oct. 21 — Vestry, 7 p.m.

Wed., Oct. 22 — Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, 6 p.m. with potluck supper.

Sat., Oct. 25 — Eucharist, 5:30 p.m.

Sun., Oct. 26 — Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Oct. 27 — Prayer Group, 9:30 a.m.

Wed., Oct. 29 — Bible Study, 10:30 a.m.; Holy Eucharist, 6 p.m. with potluck supper.

Fri., Oct. 31 — Halloween Party.

Sunday School will resume Sept. 7!

10:30 a.m.

Teachers are Carol Schlismann, Paula Chikos, & Whitney Kumm

We need t more teachers/helpers!



If you would like to help, please call.

Carol, 402-440-2822

Our Sympathy

to

the family of

John Barnett,

who died Sept. 9.

Funeral services were held

Saturday, Sept. 27 at

St. Martha's Episcopal Church

Papillion, NE

He was the son of the Rev. Dr.

James M. & Marian Barnett,

formerly of Norfolk.



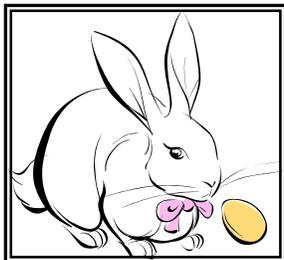
October Tellers (Vestry Counters)

October 5 — Brad Brooks/Jan Beauvais

October 12 —Russell Barth/Kathy Siemsglusz

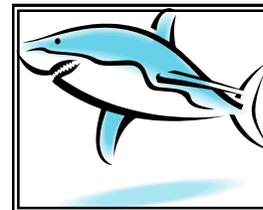
October 19 — Jeff White/Bob Pratt

October 26 — Laurel Caskey/Beth Ann Feller



Blessing of the Animals

Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014
11 a.m.



In the Courtyard



Vestry Adopts Policy on Rental of Parish Hall

At the last Vestry meeting on Sept. 16, 2014, Rhoda presented the research, a brochure and supporting documents that will cover all rentals of any part of the facility. With slight changes, the package was adopted as policy by the Vestry. Basically, it breaks down as follows:

We are willing to rent out parts of our church and parish hall. Proper paperwork, will protect our interests and charge a standard and reasonable amount to the users. Our members may use the parish hall/library/kitchen/courtyard for family or church activities with no fee or insurance, as we are already covered. A refundable deposit (\$100) on the kitchen is still required, to make sure it's left clean.

Non-members or our members, using the facilities for fund-raisers or non-church-related activities, will be required to pay rent, put a deposit on the kitchen, and attach a certificate of Special Events Insurance Policy. (see your insurance agent)

Anyone using the kitchen must agree to and sign, a sheet of "rules of the kitchen" - outlining what may be used, and the laundering/return of tablecloths, etc. When the kitchen is inspected and found to be clean, the deposit will happily be returned.

Finally, if you wish to use any part of the church, you must follow four steps:

1. See Inez—she has all the rates and paperwork.
2. Determine if the dates are actually available. (our church activities have absolute first priority)
3. Fill out the paperwork and supply the certificate of insurance, if applicable.
4. Application to be approved by rector and vestry. (Plan ahead—vestry only meets once a month!)

Thank You

By Rhoda

We're done—and we had a great time doing it. With 21 volunteers working on rummage and the silent auction, work went quickly and easily. Here's the breakdown, we cleared about \$750 on the rummage sale with four boxes of "antiques" Yet to be purchased by an antique buyer. We sent six bags of warm clothes to the Orphan Grain Train, and three bags of jeans and tee-shirts to the mission at Santee. The rest was picked up by the Salvation Army.

The Silent Auction was a lot of fun with 'cat fights' over the hand-embroidered towels by Jody, and lots of interest in Laurel's jams and jellies. Jerri will have to bake two sets of bread. We also had Husker tickets, a Barnstormers gift certificate, a handmade knife by Jack and lots of other great gifts. In all, we raised \$675.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO BOTH EVENTS, TO ALL WHO WORKED, AND TO ALL WHO SHOPPED AND BID.

Construction progressing at the church

Several projects are near completion at the church, such as the new Library and painting of the Parish Hall.

All books that were in the former Library have been moved into the new Library, the former Commons Room. The choir robe cabinets have been moved on either side of the fireplace and a new counter has been built for the music and other supplies. The old Altar, which had been in the front of the church, is now on the north wall of the new Library.



Volunteers Dave & Gigi Farner and Jan Beauvais have worked tirelessly on the painting projects to bring our facility up to date.



Lonn Atwood, the facilitator, has spent hours working on upgrading the structure.