



The Spirit of St. Barnabas

Community of Encouragement

July 2016

Mountain T.O.P. Conquered

Margot Hammons, Maddy Hammons, Regan Jeffery, John Nolan and Slocomb Reed traveled to the Cumberland Mountains in Tennessee June 11 through 18. There they joined kids ages 13-18 and adults from all over the country to participate in Mountain T.O.P. (Tennessee Outreach Project).

Their goal was to improve the lives of rural impoverished people, to learn to work together as a team, and to deepen their faith in and commitment to God and Jesus Christ. By finding Christ in everyday chores and work projects, they hope to bring that passion for service home.



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Kids at Mountain T.O.P. meet other young people, work with them, play with them, eat with them, and become friends with them. There were tears from the people they helped, who were so grateful for the assistance they received, which generated tears from the young people. More pictures on Pages 2, 3 and 7. See John Nolan's first-hand account on Page 6.

Sunday Services

8 a.m., Spoken Eucharist
10 a.m., Eucharist with music
(nursery care available)

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Photos From the Week at Mountain T.O.P.



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Art Camp Teaches Kids to 'Weave Us Together'

By Margo Rapp

"Weave, weave, weave us together in unity and love." In the last full week of June, these words could be heard echoing across St. Barnabas. A lively group of about 30 campers aged 3-9 and at least 35 parish volunteers belted out these words in song several times per morning during our first art-themed summer camp called "The Art of Creation." And, wow! What a creative endeavor it was!

The theme of weaving was carried through each day, in addition to a variety of general art

activities. Campers participated in music with Pastor Nancy and Diane Byrne, drum sessions with Father Hill and Jan Weston, actual loom weaving with camp artist-in-residence Andrea Anderson, and creative weaving crafts with Erika McCoy.

Our energetic and dedicated Junior Counselors began the week by demonstrating a very basic full-sized weaving of crepe paper to introduce the concept of weaving to campers, and we prayed for God to weave

us together in love. When asking campers about their favorite camp activities during the week, they reported, "Tie-dye!", "Drums!", "Dying yarn!",

"Singing!", "Weaving!", "Writing our reflections of the day!", and "Snacks!" They loved everything! By the end of the week campers had become great friends and felt very connected with the people of St. Barnabas. The volunteers also enjoyed getting to know all of the children and each other as well. On the last morning of camp, campers were shown the finished weaving piece that they had each participated in making all week. It was the physical example of God's answer to our prayer to weave us together.

Camp concluded with a beautifully decorated pizza party for 90 people including all of the campers, their families, and the camp volunteers. There were balloons, bright colors, and

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Congratulations to Our 2016 Graduates



Matthew Clayton, son of Peter and Beth Clayton, and grandson of Jim and Liz Strebin, graduated from the Seven Hills

School. He will be attending the College of Engineering & Applied Science at the University of Cincinnati this fall. Matthew will participate in the University Honors Program and plans to major in computer engineering and minor in computer science. He looks forward to a career in cyber security.



Samuel Neitzke, son of James and Christine Neitzke, and grandson of Harrison and Glenna Baumbaugh, graduated from St. Xavier High School and will be attending Loyola University in Chicago in the fall with a major in Business Administration, Accounting and Finance.



Rob Spellman, son of John and Amanda Spellman, graduated from Sycamore High School and will be attending Bowling Green University, majoring in Education. He also plans to play hockey and looks forward to a teaching career.

Please Welcome Our Newcomers



Alex and Erin Player



Linda Wilt

Fellowship, Community Outreach, Heat--and a Snake!

By John Nolan

Question: How can you combine community service, Christian fellowship, and a close-up look at poverty in America--and perhaps even engage in close combat with a copperhead snake?

Answer: By volunteering to serve at Mountain T.O.P. (Tennessee Outreach Project). The nonprofit Christian outreach organization is now in its 41st year, serving an impoverished Appalachian region of central Tennessee. Madeline and Margot Hammons, Regan Jeffery, John Nolan and Director of Youth Ministry Slocomb Reed represented St. Barnabas during a June 11-18 youth service mission trip to Mountain T.O.P., based atop Baker Mountain in rugged Van Buren County, Tenn. (More about the snake encounter later.)

At Mountain T.O.P., arriving delegations from various churches are quickly separated into small groups known as Youth Renewal Groups for purposes of working at the homes of residents of the five-county service area of the Baker Mountain camp. Relatives and friend, adults and youth are divided among these youth renewal groups, so that everyone is prompted to make new friends with arrivals from churches in other states. It is easy to make friends with people while sharing lunches with them

and working side by side in the searing heat and humidity of a Tennessee summer. We were joined at Mountain T.O.P. by youth mission groups from churches in Texas, South Dakota and Ohio.

Our youth renewal groups were assigned by camp staff to do service projects including building sheds, porches or ramps, painting existing structures and doing yard work. It was impressive to see how



the volunteers enthusiastically dug into the work and spent time getting to know the local families, many of whom delighted in sharing their stories with the visitors. In turn, it was an eye-opener for the visitors to view the poor living conditions on many of the properties where we worked.

Prayer, evening worship services and group singing of Christian songs are woven throughout the week's schedule, including Scripture readings and related

reflections distributed daily by camp staff. For the groups lucky enough to finish their assignments early, there are opportunities to visit local craft shops or buy ice cream treats before returning to camp in the late afternoons. The energetic camp staff keeps things moving at a vigorous pace.

Service at Mountain T.O.P. has been a transformative experience for many teens and adults. Participants are encouraged to think about how they have been changed by these experiences and how the individuals might be moved to continue community service after returning home.

Now, about that snake: Slocomb Reed's group was fulfilling an assignment to clean out a garage, when a copperhead snake was discovered curled up in a box among the debris. Slocomb grabbed a hoe and struck the snake, which responded by striking back at the hoe. When the snake slithered under some nearby boxes, Slocomb and the others quickly conceded ground and vacated the garage. Needless to say, that was the end of that task for the day.

Camp staff encourages the groups to come together in the evenings and recount their

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Mountain T.O.P. Memories from the Kids

"Today was the most exhausting day I've ever had in my life. It was so hot. So hot, in fact, that I almost passed out! There was no shade to hide in and I had forgotten to fill my cooler with water (it just had ice in it... my mistake!) so we were all dehydrated. We ripped out boards from an old wheelchair ramp and replaced them, but the more we tore up the ramp, the more rotted wood we found.

I saw God in the way that the woman next door made us food, spoke with us, and tried to help in all the ways possible. She provided shade next door that we ended up using a couple of times throughout the day, and she provided some nice food to keep us going! Thank you so much, faith partners, for making this trip possible. I am so thankful that I am here on this mountain with all these wonderful people. I've made so many friends." -Margot

"Today, I served a man named Ronnie, but his nickname was Rooster because he has so many roosters and chickens. Our project was to add an addition to his original shed. I saw God in the clouds and rain that we needed so badly that arrived over our work site and cooled us off."

- Maddy

"Today we finished our two-day shed!!! I'm really proud of it and proud of the work that I

did, and I know it's about teamwork but I'm still proud of myself. At our daybreak we did a praying activity where we sat in a circle and held hands and every one of us prayed for something. When it was Marie's turn, the wife of the house, she was crying and saying how much of a blessing we were for her. It made me tear up just knowing how something so simple can make someone so happy." - Regan

"Today was the first time we've actually finished a project this week. We had a wonderful time doing Mrs. Wilkinson's yard work. She was such a nice lady! She even got us ice cream sandwiches.

I saw God in the way that she told us how much she appreciated us. She really needed someone to talk to, and having us there made her really happy. I also saw how desperate her 13 year-old-son was for friends, and so, we were friends for him. Each of us talked to him and made him feel so important, and we talked about all of the hobbies we have in common.

I'm excited to exchange presents with my YRG (Youth Renewal Group) tomorrow. I've grown so close to them, I feel like they're a family away from home.

Thank you faith partners, again, for helping me get here!" - Margot



Fellowship, cont. from p. 6

experiences, including sharing any interactions with the families who have been served. Those evening exchanges serve both as fellowship and a reminder of why we have all come: To serve Christ by serving others, as He directed us.

The evening prayer services- and a campfire that serves as the

week's closing evening event -take place in peaceful settings surrounded by woods and the sounds of chirping birds.

Our June trip was the second annual St. Barnabas mission to Mountain T.O.P. Thanks to all of you who donated money or materials to make the trip possible.

We plan to return in the late

spring or early summer of 2017. Children ages 13 to 18 may participate, and adult companions are always needed.

Mountain T.O.P.

Loving God. Loving People.

For more information about Mountain T.O.P., visit the website at mountain-top.org.

Eucharistic Visitors – A Unique Ministry

By the Rev. Dr. Nancy Turner Jones

*In the name of this congregation,
I send you forth bearing these
Holy gifts,
that those to whom you go
may share with us in the body
and blood of Christ.*

*We who are many are One body,
because we share one bread, one
cup.*

This prayer serves as the weekly commissioning for those who take the consecrated elements, the bread and the wine to those who, because of illness or infirmity, are unable to be present at the Holy Eucharist. Called Eucharistic Visitors, these folks are not priests

but are authorized and licensed by the diocese and act under the direction of the priest. Here at St. Barnabas, you will begin seeing these folks, commissioned with this prayer at the close of the service, taking Holy Communion to those who need and want it.

A Eucharistic Visitor is both sacramental and pastoral. It is a sacramental visit because they bear the sacraments of the bread and wine on behalf of the community at large as part of our ministry, while at the same time providing companionship to those they visit.

Eucharistic Visits may take place in a home, hospital, rehab center or nursing home. A Eucharistic Visit may include prayer, the gospel reading of the day, comments about the sermon of the day, the Lord's Prayer, the sharing of Holy Communion and a closing prayer.

I am grateful to those already licensed for this service, and you will begin seeing them in the coming months. They provide much needed help in the area of pastoral care. If you would like to be trained for this important ministry, please contact me.

FSNH Kids Thank Us with Delightful Entertainment

*Alexis Kidd, (center, in blue)
Executive Director of the Seven Hills
Neighborhood Houses of which
Findlay Street is one, spoke with
great emotion of the needs of kids
and families in the West End of
Cincinnati at the Sunday, June 19,
service. She thanked the people of
St. Barnabas for all the help they
give FSNH with food, chaperones,
gifts at the holidays and love. The
kids put on a lively show to show
their appreciation.*



Saturday Nite Supper Club Meets at Mimi's Cafe



The Saturday Nite Supper Club met at Mimi's Cafe in Deerfield Towne Centre on May 28 for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun.

The group meets the last Saturday of each month at 6 p.m. at various restaurants around the area. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Nell Gregory at 774-8530 or gregoryhj@outlook.com.

Pictured above are the Stebins, the Seifreids, Ruth Harrison, the Taylors, Vic Balmos, the Sauls and the Gregorys (not in that order).

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Group Continues The Bible Challenge

The Tuesday morning Bible study group continues to meet in the library at 10 a.m. each week for The Bible Challenge, reading and studying from three sections of the Bible: the Old Testament, Psalms and the New Testament. In addition to the study guide used by leader, Cherry Perlson, several of the women use different guides which give a good perspective of interpretations. All women of the church are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Cherry at 638-5121 or cperlson1@aol.com.



Education and Formation Upcoming Programs

Sunday, July 17, at 9 a.m. back of Great Hall

The Rev. Bill Scrivener will discuss *Grace: Given and Received--Is It Really Free?*

Sunday, August 28, at 9 a.m. back of Great Hall

The Rev. Bill Scrivener will discuss *Knowing God's Will--If You Knew It, Would You Do It?*

Intentional Transformation Update

By John Byrne

Over the past several months your Vestry and Ministry Council Leaders have been working closely to begin implementing the processes needed for St. Barnabas to become a Program Church. After a few training sessions in the fall of 2015, the Ministry Council Leaders participated in our Vestry Retreat in late February. One of the key learnings was the importance of understanding the role of the Vestry and the role of the Ministry Council. Each of our Ministries has a Vestry liaison for additional support. This is a critical step in developing a strong working relationship.

During our monthly Vestry meetings, we have three rotating Ministry Council Leaders provide a brief update on their Ministry. This exercise facilitates improved communication between both groups. It also increases the education, knowledge and awareness of all of our Ministries.

Ministry Council meetings have been held in March and May. These meetings covered a number of important topics. A couple of the critical topics are the planning of activities and budgeting for the fall and 2017. We will be bringing you additional Intentional Transformation updates during the summer months. If you would like additional information or have questions please do not hesitate to contact Pastor Nancy, Adrienne James or me.

Book Discussion Continues Into July

Mary Evelyn Hammond led a discussion of the John Eldredge book *Waking the Dead: The Glory of a Heart Fully Alive* on June 22.

Waking the Dead will help you find a full life that embraces all that God has for you.

The group meets Wednesday evenings now through July 20 from 7–8:30 p.m. The book is appropriate for all adults, men and women alike. There are copies of books on Amazon for as little as \$1 for used, but if you would like a new book, contact Martha Seagram at 793-6477 or mjseagram@gmail.com. The book will cost less than \$15. Don't be concerned if you aren't available all five weeks; come when you can.

Help is STILL Needed!

The Education Ministry Team still needs help with providing lunch at Education programs when held Sunday morning at 11:30 a.m. If you could assist with making or serving a light lunch, please contact Martha Seagram at 793-6477 or mjseagram@gmail.com.

Please send newsletter items to Pat Taylor at pat.taylor2007@gmail.com by the 20th of the month.

Chapel of the Rose Remodeling Update

By Bob Gustafson

For the past few months a team (composed of Columbarium Trustees, Termites, Wardens, and Pastor Nancy) has been studying possible renovations to the Chapel of the Rose/Columbarium and the old administrative

caused by the current chapel being too small to hold families during interment services. The second push came from Pastor Nancy, who upon seeing the front room for the first time, asked “Why isn’t this the nursery?” and

of the old office area in the Great Hall—a more holistic approach.

After some initial discussions, the Vestry approved hiring PCA Architecture, the original church architect, to develop the bid plans and documents.



Rendering of the Chapel of the Rose looking east.

offices in the Great Hall. Funds were donated for architectural work, and the resulting plans were put out for bids. Bids have been recently received and are now being reviewed. Next steps for the team are to develop funding options and present its recommendations to the Vestry for decision.

The initial push for the project came from the Columbarium Trustees several years ago, based on concerns about running out of niche spaces and the constraints

suggested that it would be much more attractive to new families with small kids to have the nursery close to the sanctuary.

This idea was put to a pilot test with the “Children’s Coffee Hour,” which has been viewed as a success.

The project, when limited to the Columbarium area, made little progress until it was proposed to make it into a larger project to address the need for a larger Chapel, a first floor nursery area, and address the under utilization

The proposed space modification would include:

- An expanded Chapel of the Rose with additional columbarium niche space;
- A multi-purpose room with Sunday nursery, counter space, and new storage space. This space is envisioned to be used as a meeting or work space during the week.

The intent has been to maximize the usefulness of the total space in the north side of the Great Hall.

The two restrooms in the Great Hall are both retained. The current Women’s restroom will be expanded and double as the nursery restroom with a wall-mounted changing table.

As another test, Pastor Nancy recently used the Chapel for the opening service for the Lenten series. Thirty-two people showed up and overflowed the current chapel space into the hallway.

We invite your comments. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions please see Bob Gustafson, Tom Pflaumer, or a Warden.

Endowment Committee Establishes Barnabas Legacy Circle

By Nancy Nolan

We are blessed with a vibrant congregation. We are so happy that you are part of it. You truly help make our world better because you are here.

Did you know that a gift to the St. Barnabas Endowment Fund can insure a spiritual home for our children, our families and our friends into the future?

Those who contribute to the Endowment Fund become members of the Barnabas Legacy Circle, which holds an annual meeting with church leadership to discuss the future of the church. Donors also have their names listed in a legacy book.

St. Barnabas is here for you now. Our goal? For St. Barnabas to be here for your children, and their families, for many years to come.

Would you be interested in helping to provide for the future of St. Barnabas, securing your legacy in the process?

Gifts to the St. Barnabas Endowment Fund are in addition to regular annual pledges and are managed by professional institutional investors. Only the interest and appreciation from the endowment is spent for projects at the discretion of the Vestry. This insures that there will always be funds to support St. Barnabas into the future.

Endowment giving is much more than estate planning. Consider a gift of any amount to the endowment to celebrate the milestones in your life, a family event, or to honor someone special. Gifts may also be made

anonymously, at the election of the donor.

If you are interested in learning more about the Barnabas Legacy Circle, please contact Tom Kirkpatrick, Endowment Chair.

Thank you for helping to make St. Barnabas a community of encouragement, whose members support personal and spiritual growth; who reach out to those in need; and where our children are nurtured toward a life in Christ.

“Am I one who builds with care, in order to make the world a little better--because I was there?”

**Excerpted from “The Builder,”
a poem by David Sandy**



Art Camp, cont. from p. 4

pictures of the kids everywhere. Pastor Nancy welcomed everyone by exclaiming, “If you are looking for a church that is committed to children and families, you have found it here!” The children performed several of the songs they had learned. Giant smiles and big hugs all around were evidence of how special the week was for everyone. Finally, families got to enjoy viewing all of the

campers’ artwork in a Gallery Walk.

On the Sunday following camp, parishioners were able to enjoy the campers artwork, which remained on display in the Narthex, and some of the children from camp performed a few of the songs during the 10 a.m. church service.

Based on all of the great response, the plan is to continue “The Art of Creation” next summer. We will highlight a new

art medium. The planning team, led by Shirley Ashburner, is so grateful to all of the volunteers who brought the four full months of planning into fruition.

