

# Our History - 1970's

Continuation  
of

HISTORY OF ST. BARNABAS CHURCH BEGINNING WITH ITS INCEPTION,  
ITS CONSTRUCTION AND UP TO JANUARY 29, 1978.

By Rick Orr and David Weatherwax

St. Barnabas had its second congregational meeting on January 27, 1970. Elected to the vestry were M. K. Hager, Fred Eyer, and Jean Curtin. New officers elected following this congregational meeting were: M. K. Hager, Senior Warden; R. M. Orr, Junior Warden; Jean Curtin, Registrar; A. R. Campbell, Treasurer.

Bishop Campbell's second annual visitation to St. Barnabas occurred on April 9, 1970, at which time he confirmed eleven people. Jean Curtin resigned as registrar in April of 1970, and the vestry appointed Mrs. Henry Suter as her replacement.

Father Holland announced in May, 1970, that he intended to leave St. Barnabas. Plans were initiated to secure a new vicar through Bishop Campbell. The Bishop eventually issued a call on our behalf to The Rev. Andrew J. Tibus, who was scheduled to arrive on October 1, 1970.

The third congregational meeting of St. Barnabas was held on January 31, 1971, and the members elected to the vestry were R. M. Orr, Donald Kauss, and Jo Ann Walker. New officers elected for the ensuing year were M. K. Hager, Senior Warden; R. M. Orr, Junior Warden; Marty Suter, Registrar; A. R. Campbell, Treasurer.

Shortly after his arrival, Father Tibus formed a young people's group called "Time Incorporated," which was very active throughout his tenure as vicar. One of the major efforts during the year of 1971 was the installation of a flag pole in front of the church. This was accomplished in July, 1971. Also, the room adjacent to the present vicar's office was set aside for the group's use. Although the group disbanded after Father Tibus left in December, 1971, that room is still known as "The Time Room."

## The Time Room

"The Time Room" existed and was known as "The Time Room" until about 1999 when the wall was removed between it and the church office to make a larger room for a preschool classroom. After the group disbanded at the end of 1971 the room had been used for the church library and a Sunday School classroom.

## The Group

The group, "Time Incorporated," was only in existence for about 14 months. In that short period of time it provided some 80 programs for its 108 members. It raised and spent over \$5,300.00 for its programs and projects. One of its projects, the 50 foot flag pole, stood in front of the church until the early 2000's. It had been painted a few times, but due to the difficult task of sanding the peeling paint and painting a 50 foot pole, the decision was made to remove the pole.

## Pages from the 1972 Parish Directory

The following two pages are copied from the 1972 Parish Directory. Page 28 describes the accomplishments of the group, and page 29 is titled THE CODE AND THE CREED OF TIME, INC. – THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP.

# TIME, INCORPORATED

## *St. Barnabas Episcopal Church*

721 HALL STREET  
BRIDGEPORT, WEST VIRGINIA 26330

TELEPHONE: (304) 842-3125

"... and a TIME for PEACE ..."

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
OFFICERS:

MISS BERNADETTE ASHY  
MR. RICHARD NUZUM  
MISS PAT BARRICK  
MR. JERRY ERAMBERT  
MR. SAM HANKINS  
MISS LESLIE BARTLETT  
MISS VIKKEY MATHENY  
MR. ROB AZINGER  
MISS KAREN WENTZ  
THE REV. ANDREW J. TIBUS

PROJECTIONIST  
TIMEPEACE EDITOR  
DIRECTOR

### TIME, INC. - TUNED-IN, TURNED-ON TEENAGERS

TIME, INC. total 1971 membership consisted of 68 members and 13 honorary members from 1970 thru August 1971 (total: 81); and 27 members now in this Fall Membership. This means TIME, INC. has provided programs for 108 members!

In some 14 months of existence, TIME, INC. has managed to raise (and spend) over \$5,300.00. Included in the expenses were the fabulous SEVEN SPRINGS SOJOURN, The Love-In, movies, food, purchase of the movie projector, stationery and envelopes, three previously stenciled editions of THE TIMEPEACE, underwriting of all TIME, INC. programs. This listing, with all the other expenses, constitutes a meaningful and happy investment in the now and the tomorrow of our youth. This is the cost of THE GOOD LOOK!

Our TIME, INC. has inspired a group in Maitland, Fla. to start a TIME, INC. program in The Sunshine State!!!

TIME, INC. has sponsored some 80 programs over 14 months. Never has there been an adult chaperone to watch over the activities conducted at St. Barnabas Church.

The hours of private counselling (teenagers and parents) provided by The Padre cannot be numbered.

TIME, INC. rented muscles to purchase and build the TIME, INC. Flag Plaza - a 50 foot flag pole and paved site serving as a symbol of pride and accomplishment of the youth and concerned adults of Bridgeport.

Time alone will tell what all TIME, INC. has meant!!!!

THE CODE AND THE CREED OF TIME, INC.  
THE VALUE OF MEMBERSHIP

THE THRUST OF TIME, INC. IS THE POSITIVE GOOD LOOK OF YOUTH

TIME, INC. offers an opportunity to develop a wholesome leisure-time culture with teenagers concerned with living a good wholesome life now and in all their future.

A SENSE OF BELONGING - THE SPIRIT OF BEING A CHAMPION

TIME, INC. is an opportunity for teenagers to handle responsibility, be trusted, and become involved in the realization that goodness promotes goodness, even more steadily and with greater rewards than wasting time, being indifferent, or doing wrong.

A TIME TO FEEL WANTED AND IMPORTANT

The motto of TIME, INC. is "... A Time for Peace...". Peace in the heart of an individual is a springboard to the Good Look of Life. TIME, INC. promotes the love of life, appreciation for accomplishment by developing the individual's personal dignity, talents; by investing in the Importance Quotient of every member.

TIME, INC. IS A PLACE IN THE SUN

St. Barnabas Church, the TIME Capsule, the TIME, INC. programs assure both teenagers and parents that adolescent maturity is developing within a wholesome, healthy, and clean atmosphere.

THE AVAILABILITY OF AN EXPERIENCED YOUTH DIRECTOR

- a. An experienced guidance counselor.
- b. Recommendations for job, college, or character.
- c. Confidence.
- d. Liason with parents, school and community.
- e. Availability - to both parents and teenagers at whatever time the need may occur.

TIME, INC. IS AN OPPORTUNITY.

A young person will spend his or her future either thriving as a mature (Christian) man or woman - capable of contributing to the good of this world OR spend his or her adult life continually repairing a broken childhood. With TIME, INC., a member at least has the opportunity to see the future and to make a choice.

TIME, INC. IS NOW!

TIME, INC. is an ecumenical, community youth organization involving teenagers in promoting personal initiative to develop those positive values upon which a strong character to learn, a healthy attitude, and a dynamic faith to love of Christ depend for both the today and the tomorrow of the teenagers life.

# Father Tibus' Page from the 1972 Parish Directory

## THE PADRE'S PAGE: SIGNS ALONG THE WAY

From North, East, West or South, from no matter what direction one chooses to enter Bridgeport, W. Va., there are signs along the way that tell the traveller of something wonderful happening in this town. Once humorously described by the Padre thru the borrowed phrase as "The Church of What's Happening Now", St. Barnabas is indeed a wonderful happening in Bridgeport, W. Va.

In addition to new highway church signs, there are many indicators of a dynamic parish life witnessing the blessings of Jesus Christ here in our beloved "Barney's Place". We take not individual nor collective credit. Such is the due of the Holy Spirit. Such is the claim for the honor and glory of God, our Father.

Although we have only just begun to realize what all an active parish can be, our three year log reveals an abundance of accomplishments: Baptisms, Weddings, Funeral Services, church attendance topping 4,000 per year, a well organized program of Christian Education, an involved Vestry, a cooperative, hard-working congregation, large Confirmation classes. We labor on in the love of Jesus Christ and marvel at the results of a Family Festival. Our parish hosts exciting ecumenical, community youth organizations (TIME, INC., DISCOVERY) an Area School of Religion, a B 4 SKOL and AFTA. We begin a parish library. We expand the Friendship Garden. We dedicate a Flag Plaza. We see our way through financially. Such are the signs of how much has been acclaimed through the learning, loving, and living of Jesus Christ - the RAISON D'ETRE of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church!

Still there are more types and figures of strength and potential. We share the Holy Eucharist on a first-name basis. Childrens' laughter echos thru the halls. Our children know they are loved, important, trusted, and wanted in this joyful Christ-life we call St. Barnabas Church. We help the needy without fanfare. Individuals are greeted, welcomed, remembered as brothers and sisters in Christ. We are proud to hear our congregation and choirs sing. National holidays are venerated in our family services. We open our doors to community groups and projects. We correspond with our youth on campuses or at military establishments. We know that families who pray together stay together.

And to the traveller who leaves this town, perhaps a tear fills his eye as he ponders these signs along the way. For amid this account of wonders, comes the subtle revelation that the hope of the harvest is in the promise forecast by the planting. The good seed of faith has fallen on the fertile ground of St. Barnabas. If this parish appears to boast, it is only the joyful, justifiable pride of a people who are merely the instruments by which God writes a unique love-story of Jesus Christ in Bridgeport, W. VA.

In September of 1971, Mrs. Marion Kniska submitted a plan to provide a "Special B-4 School" utilizing St. Barnabas facilities. Authorization was granted by the vestry on a rental basis, and this same school has been in continuous operation, resulting in substantial benefit to the community, as well as fuller utilization of the church facilities.

Bishop Campbell's third annual visitation occurred on August 29, 1971, and at that time he confirmed fifteen people.

St. Barnabas held its first Fall Festival in October, 1971. This festival was a resounding success considering the short period our church had been in operation. Also, in October of 1971, Father Tibus secured the statue of St. Peter that is now located on the east side of the church.

Father Tibus announced that he would be leaving effective December 31, 1971, to become a Chaplain in the Air Force. Arrangements to call a new vicar were made with Bishop Campbell, and The Rev. W. Frank Carr was called and scheduled to arrive on January 24, 1972.

St. Barnabas' fourth congregational dinner was held on January 25, 1972, and new vestry members elected were: Howard Blayney, Robert Claus, and Joan Rauch. New officers for the ensuing year were: R. M. Orr, Senior Warden; Robert Claus, Junior Warden; Mary Weatherwax, Registrar; and A. R. Campbell, Treasurer.

Father Carr initiated the practice of having Wednesday evening soup dinners during Lent, prepared by the men of the church and followed by a brief study period.

The outside storage building, located on the back (south) side of the church, was designed and constructed by M. K. Hager in October and November, 1972. Its unusual appearance is due to the fact that it is constructed of old core boxes and was built to house seldom-used items and equipment necessary to take care of the church grounds.

St. Barnabas' second Fall Festival was held on September 29-30, 1972, and it was well attended and successful due to the efforts of all members of the church. It was decided at this festival that St. Barnabas would make this a biennial event instead of an annual event.

So, who is the statue? This statue has been standing in the raised flower garden by the front door to the church since the early 2000's. Some say it is Joseph holding baby Jesus. Others see it as Jesus holding a child. So, Jesus, Joseph, St. Peter, or whoever you are, we at St. Barnabas are grateful to the donors of this beautiful marble statue.

It is believed the marble statue and the crucifix hanging in the sacristy were gifts to St. Barnabas from the old St. Mary's Hospital in Clarksburg. The hospital was closing at the time St. Barnabas was opening and the hospital was sharing their artifacts throughout the community. Thank you, St. Mary's Hospital.



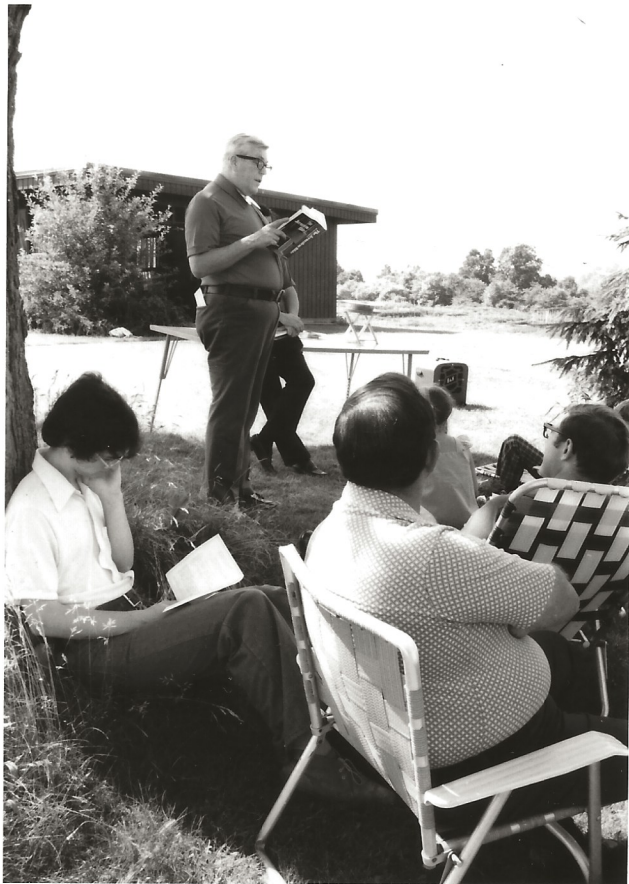


**The Rev. W. Frank Carr**  
He was the Vicar from January 24, 1972, to July, 1975.

# Holy Eucharist on the Lawn With Father Carr



# Holy Eucharist on the Lawn With Father Carr



# Fun and Games on the Lawn



# Fun and Games on the Lawn



Father Carr and his wife, Lena, visited England for three weeks between October 1 and October 24, 1972. Bishop Campbell's fourth annual visitation to St. Barnabas occurred on August 23, 1972, at which time he confirmed seven people.

Father Carr was appointed to a committee for the selection of a Bishop Coadjutor after the 1972 diocesan convention.

Joan Rauch resigned from the vestry in January of 1973 because of her husband's transfer to Massachusetts. Howard Blayney also resigned from the vestry that month because of his transfer to New York City.

St. Barnabas' fifth congregational meeting was held on January 11, 1973. Those elected to the vestry were: Miles Beech, Mary Koepka, Tom Stamp, Doris Shay, and Bill Webb. New officers elected by the vestry after the congregational meeting were: Rick Orr, Senior Warden; Tom Stamp, Junior Warden; Mary Koepka, Registrar; A. R. Campbell, Treasurer.

During January of 1973, M. K. Hager designed and constructed the cabinets located in the present parish hall. The materials for these cabinets were donated by Mr. and Mrs. John Hart of Bridgeport.

Bill Crutchley and Miles Beech were appointed to a planning committee in January, 1973, to determine and recommend covenants for St. Barnabas to be submitted at the 1977 diocesan centennial convention. Covenants finally submitted and recommended to the St. Barnabas congregation were:

1. St. Barnabas was initially committed and is now committed to achieving parish status, and will submit a financial plan to the 1977 diocesan convention and apply for aided-parish status at that time. In addition, the same submission will include the financial plans for St. Barnabas to apply for full parish status at the 1979 diocesan convention.

2. St. Barnabas will strive to maintain its high level of participation in Peterkin and its programs by increasing its attendance to Peterkin by 10% per year through 1976. (1972 will be the base year and will include all children and adult attendance to Peterkin.)

3. St. Barnabas desires to increase its participation in the West Virginia School of Religion and will increase its same participation by 10% per year over the base level of year end 1972.

4. St. Barnabas will develop a continuing plan for the support of St. Gabriel's Mission at West Virginia University.

5. St. Barnabas will improve its Christian Education program.

The first formal wedding at St. Barnabas was held on May 19, 1973, with the marriage of Elizabeth Jean Walker and Doyle Sickles. Beth Walker is the daughter of Dr. William Walker and Jo Ann Walker.

### **The First Wedding May 19, 1973**



# First Wedding at St. Barnabas Church

## Forty Years Later

The Exponent  
**Telegram**

### ANNIVERSARIES



Doyle and Beth Sickles

### Doyle and Beth Sickles celebrate 40th anniversary

Doyle and Beth Sickles of Bridgeport will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary today, May 19, 2013.

They were married at Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church in Bridgeport.

Doyle is the son of Gillian Sickles and the late Halden Sickles. Beth is the daughter of Dr. William and JoAnn Walker.

They have three children, Russell Sickles and Becky

Hutchinson of Bridgeport, Amy and Scott Kneller of Southern Pines, N.C., and Kimberly and Andrew Horne of Bridgeport. They have five grandchildren (plus one on the way): Violet, Phoenix and Bodhi Sickles, Landon Kneller and Adeline Horne.

Mr. Sickles is an orthopaedic surgeon at Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital, and Mrs. Sickles cares for her grandchildren.

Don Kauss resigned from the vestry in May of 1973, due to a transfer to Indiana, Pennsylvania. Jean Eyer was appointed to fill the vacancy on the vestry. Bishop Campbell's fifth annual visitation occurred on July 22, 1973, at which time he confirmed eleven people. Bishop Coadjutor Robert P. Atkinson made his first visitation to St. Barnabas on November 8, 1973.

Due to a shortage of funds, "A Vacation Tithe Plan" was initiated in August, calendar year. 1973, and sufficient funds were contributed to carry the church through the rest of the

Arrangements were made for Alcoholics Anonymous to meet at St. Barnabas every Saturday night beginning in October, 1973. AA has continued to use the church facility since that time.

The ECW of St. Barnabas donated \$1,000 to the church in October, 1973, to be used exclusively for debt reduction. This money was applied against the Lowndes Bank loan.

The sixth congregational meeting of St. Barnabas was held on January 20, 1974. The vestry members elected were: David Weatherwax, Jean Curtin, and Jean Eyer. New officers elected to the vestry were: Jean Curtin, Senior Warden; Bill Webb, Junior Warden; Mary Koepka, Registrar; and Dick Campbell, Treasurer.

In February, 1974, Willis Shay presented the idea to the vestry that St. Barnabas utilize its unused land for gardens, and St. Barnabas Farms was born. Up to thirty-five gardeners have participated in subsequent years.

Detailed status reports with respect to St. Barnabas' financial condition and its 1973 covenants were submitted to the vestry in February, 1974. Forms were designed to report periodically on the status and achievements of our 1973 covenants to be redeemed at the diocesan centennial convention in 1977.

St. Barnabas co-sponsored a rock dance in April at the Bridgeport Civic Center for the benefit of the St. Gabriel's Mission in Morgantown, West Virginia.

A group of Bridgeport Presbyterians began using the facilities of St. Barnabas in September, 1974, for the purpose of planning the formation of a Bridgeport Presbyterian Church. This same group began holding regular services, utilizing our church facilities, on January 19, 1975. We have continued to share the use of St. Barnabas since that time, holding individual church services but having a combined church school. Joint services have been held on various occasions.

### Sunday Schedule

8:00 a.m.....	Episcopalian Communion
9:00 a.m.....	Presbyterian Service
10:15 a.m.....	Joint Sunday School
11:15 a.m.....	Episcopalian Family Service

**November 10, 1974**

**Standing left to right: The Rev. Frank Carr, Bishop Atkinson, and The Rev. Lin Gross  
Order of Jerusalem Members: Robert Thompson, Mary Weatherwax, Jean Curtin, and Tom Stamp**



The third St. Barnabas Fall Festival was held in October, 1974. Participation by church members was very good, and the festival was a financial success. The ECW group donated the funds from the festival - over \$4,000 - so that there was sufficient money available to retire Advance Fund loan No. 1 to the diocese. The check was presented to an incredulous Bishop Atkinson in November, 1974.

Bishop-coadjutor Atkinson made his first formal visitation to St. Barnabas on November 10, 1974, and confirmed nine individuals. This was our church's sixth annual Bishop's visitation.

The seventh annual congregational meeting of St. Barnabas was held on January 19, 1975. Elected to the vestry were: Bill Walker, Dan Lynch, and Ben Cooksey. New officers elected to the vestry were: Miles Beech, Senior Warden; Tom Stamp, Junior Warden; Mary Koepka, Registrar; and Dick Campbell, Treasurer. Jean Eyer resigned from the vestry in January for personal reasons. Ann Webb was appointed by the vestry to fill the vacancy.

St. Barnabas began 1975 for the first time with no apparent financial difficulties facing it. Since it took seven years to arrive at this point, it was indeed a historic event.

Every-member visitations by vestry members were initiated and completed during the spring of 1975. The information secured from these visitations was summarized for use by the vestry.

On May 12, 1975, St. Barnabas' vestry endorsed Mary Weatherwax' application to become its first candidate for Holy Orders.

Father Carr informed the vestry on June 2, 1975, that he had received a call from St. John's Huntington, which he accepted in July of 1975. Plans were initiated with Bishop Atkinson to find a new vicar. The Rev. Curtis L. Cowell was called on November 21, 1975, and arrived at St. Barnabas on January 15, 1976, with his wife Elinor, and two young daughters.

The Portrait of Christ from the Book of Kells was donated to St. Barnabas by Mr. and Mrs. Willis O. Shay in August, 1975. This portrait is presently hanging in the chancel area behind the altar, above the credence table.



Plans were initiated in the summer of 1975 to pave the driveway access routes and partially pave and put crushed stone on the remainder of the parking lot. This work was completed in December, 1975, much to the appreciation of all the people utilizing St Barnabas' facilities.

Bishop Atkinson's second annual visitation, and St. Barnabas' seventh Bishop's visitation, occurred on November 10, 1975, and two individuals were confirmed.

St. Barnabas' choir provided the music for Father Carr's installation service at St. John's Huntington, on November 15, 1975, an event which was also attended by other Bridgeport Episcopalians.

Ben Cooksey and Miles Beech were selected by the vestry to represent St. Barnabas at Bishop Atkinson's installation on January 5.

Plans were initiated in November, 1975, to convey a strip of land along Johnson Avenue to the City of Bridgeport for the construction of a sidewalk, primarily for the use of school children.

## **Advent Pictures December 1975**



Advent 1975



**Advent 1975**



**Advent 1975**



**Advent 1975**

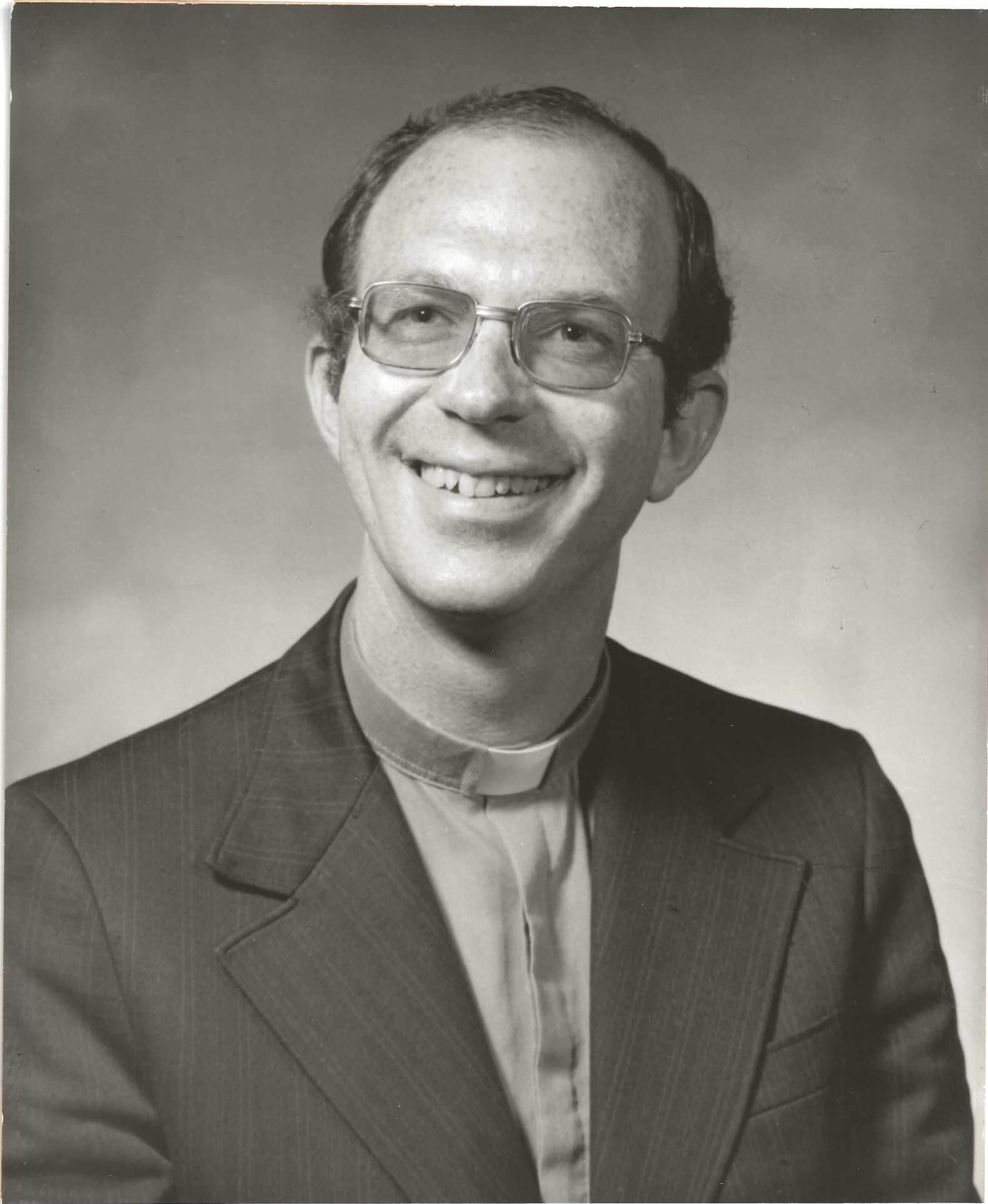


Advent 1975



Advent 1975





**The Rev. Curtis L. Cowell**  
He was the Vicar from January 15, 1976, to January 31, 1977.

St. Barnabas' eighth annual congregational meeting was held on January 18, 1976. New vestry members elected were: Randy Smith, John Harris, and Suzanne Gocke. New officers elected were: Dave Weatherwax, Senior Warden; Dan Lynch, Junior Warden; Suzanne Gocke, Registrar; and Dick Campbell, Treasurer.

While a specific status report was not required of our delegate to the 1977 convention, we were prepared to report redemption of our covenants with respect to Peterkin attendance, School of Religion participation and support of St. Gabriel's Mission. Status of the covenant regarding improvement of the Christian Education Program was more difficult to ascertain, due to the enthusiastic participation of the Presbyterians in our combined church school. Progress had also been made toward achieving parish status, but the target date appeared unrealistic in view of our lower-than-anticipated growth rate.

In August of 1976, a detailed submission was made to the Benedum Foundation of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, seeking a matching grant of funds for capital improvements and debt reduction. No acknowledgement of this submission was received until December of 1977, when a negative reply was finally received.

A capital improvements committee was appointed to determine what improvements in facilities should be undertaken, in advance of any application for parish status. The committee consisted of Ben Cooksey, Chairman, Jean Curtin and Randy Smith. Acting on the committee's recommendation, we succeeded in raising \$4,350 to pay for the installation of pews furnished by the Ware Planing Mill in Belington, West Virginia. Carpeting for the nave of the church was donated by the ECW, at a cost of nearly \$1,900.

During the year, St. Barnabas granted an easement to the State Department of Highways for the improvement of Johnson Avenue, for a consideration of \$1,700. An unsolicited gift of \$1,000 was received from Mr. C. E. Compton. The financial health of St. Barnabas was good enough to enable the vestry to apply an extra payment of \$11,000 to the loan at Lowndes Bank.

In December of 1976, Archdeacon Glover visited St. Barnabas to conduct the performance audit provided for in Father Cowell's contract with the Diocese.

St. Barnabas' ninth annual congregational meeting was held on January 16, 1977. Those elected to the vestry were: Kingsley Smith, Howard Joiner, and Pat Orr. Officers chosen by the vestry for 1977 were: Ben Cooksey, Senior Warden; Randy Smith, Junior Warden; Suzanne Gocke, Registrar; and Dick Campbell, Treasurer.

A further performance evaluation, this time by Bishop Atkinson, took place in April and was followed by a letter from the Bishop affirming Father Cowell's ministry at St. Barnabas.

Dick Campbell resigned as Treasurer and Dave Weatherwax was selected as his successor.

John Harris resigned from the vestry due to his transfer to Charleston. The vestry selected Sarah Yeater to fill the vacancy.

A very successful Vacation Bible School was held at St. Barnabas in the summer of 1977, with many people working hard under the direction of Solina Fiorito.

Ben Cooksey resigned as Senior Warden in October of 1977, and Bill Walker was elected by the vestry to take his place. In November, Father Cowell was reassigned by Bishop Atkinson to fill a vacancy at Welch and War, West Virginia, as of January 1, 1978. (Father Cowell remained Vicar of St. Barnabas through the end of January, 1978, at which time his resignation became effective.)

St. Barnabas' tenth annual congregational meeting was held on January 29, 1978. Those elected to the vestry were Sarah Yeater (to complete an unexpired term), John Arnold, Willis Shay, and Mary Weatherwax. The vestry selected the following officers: Kingsley Smith, Senior Warden; Randy Smith, Junior Warden; Mary Weatherwax, Registrar; and Dave Weatherwax, Treasurer.

Prepared by R. M. Orr, May 17, 1976

Updated by D. E. Weatherwax, February 22, 1978

Father H. White served as interim priest after Father Cowell left. He was with us until Father George Moses came on May 20, 1978. The Rev. George Moses served St. Barnabas until June 27, 1982.

The Rev. George Moses with his wife, Holly,  
and their daughter Christy



In the early years at St. Barnabas, there were always two real Christmas trees. The very tall tree by the altar was decorated by the adults. The tree, usually near the front door, was decorated by the children with their craft projects during Advent.