
UPDATE



Parish Newsletter of St Barnabas Anglican Church, St Lambert, QC
Christmas 2016

Meet Lucille & Quinn, our newest Barnabites



This fall we had the privilege of welcoming two beautiful baby girls into our flock at St Barnabas. Pictured above left, Lisa and Steven Jensen present Lucille Edna; pictured right, Lisa and Paul Carter along with older daughter Micheala and son Logan (looking out from behind the font) present Quinn Juliet. More details and pictures on page 5.

From the Rector's Desk



Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.

We sing these beautiful words each Christmas season, with visions of the brilliant angels lifting us out of life's somberness. Peace. Reconciliation. Mercy.

What would it feel like, if we let them transform us and our world right now? What would it be like if we could have mercy on each other, as individuals, and neighbours, as nations, if we could say 'Peace to you' and believe that the words carried divine power? What would it be like if military forces trying to bring peace to Syria could act with mercy – not a banal condoning of evils done, but a bold determination to look beyond the obvious, to the brokenness of all parties during and after conflict? What would it be like if our corrections system could find a better way to manage difficult prisoners than to put them in windowless isolation cells 'for their own protection'? What would it be like if we caught ourselves each time we were feeling reactive, in whatever large or small wars rage in our lives, and whispered a little prayer, 'God, where my mercy falls short, may yours prevail'?

What would it be like if we stoutly insisted on believing that reconciliation is possible between nations, family members, disenchanted co-workers, if we took that stance, not in a smarmy way, but just by quietly, tactfully making emotionally neutral, modest gestures that might allow peace to quietly settle in as everyone realizes how much easier it is to live that way? What if we believed that peace was a force, like gravity, or magnetism, that is more than the absence of its opposite, a force that can be released into apparently hopeless situations and turn them round?

Ah, so much fine rhetoric! But it is just such a transformed world that Christmas invites. A bedraggled, hungry, penniless couple travels under duress to Bethlehem on orders from the colonial overlords of their country, to be registered: just one of the moves by the Romans to keep tabs on everyone and make sure no one escaped their head tax. Let us try to imagine them, without the benefit of the choirs of angels that Luke shares with the young church several generations later, somewhere between numb resignation and rage, in a state of sheer exhaustion. Let us try to imagine them pleading with an innkeeper for somewhere dry and private to spend the night, because the young woman's waters have just broken. I like to think that perhaps some stouthearted fellow traveller who knew about births agreed to give up her precious few hours of slumber to request a bowl of hot water and some clean scraps of cloth of the innkeepers, so that the couple did not have to face this all on their own. Let us allow ourselves to imagine the relief when everything works out well with that birth, and the milk drops, and the child is able to suckle, and the physical wrench of the birth on the woman's body heals well. Let us imagine, if we can, that they make it through this ordeal, and those that will follow, so much in love with this, their good son that they continue to give God profound thanks for the gift of this child, of this life, of their lives, despite all the daunting circumstances and loneliness that their life as exiles in Egypt might have brought them. In that spirit, let us sing it again this Christmas time, and resolve to live by those holy forces each day of the year to come: Peace, mercy, reconciliation. They are bigger than us; they have the force of a mighty torrent, a torrent of Love. Like that couple, we might feel bested by our circumstances, we might feel there is little to hope for, let alone hope for peace, new life, reconciliation and mercy where all we have felt for a very long time is tired discouragement. Years later, Luke told the now beloved story, because he knew then what that couple could not yet know, that God was at work, reconciling that tired (and often tiresome) lot of humans that languished in brokenness and despair. Already, God was at work through that baby, unleashing a love that would one day break the power of sin and despair through the force of fearless love.



Upcoming Christmas Services and Events

Lessons and Carols: Sunday, December 18th, at 10am. Carols sung by the choir and a chance for you to sing along as well. Get in the spirit!

Christmas Services

4pm Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24th, at 4 pm. Family Eucharist with the Men's Christmas Choir and participation by children. This service is a tradition at St Barnabas, for young and old.

11pm Christmas Eve: Saturday, December 24th, at 11 pm. Midnight mass, a reflective way to begin Christmas day.

NOTE: No service on Christmas Day

10am New Year's Day: regular Sunday service followed by **New Year's Levée.** (No service at 8 am)

10am January 8th, 2017: Epiphany Pageant by the Sunday School

Men's Christmas Chorus



*Come, the Eve is when, Pa rum pum pum pum.
We sing with boys and men, Pa rum pum pum pum.
Our voices fine we'll bring, Pa rum pum pum pum.
With red ties on we'll sing,
Pa rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum.
We love Christmas Eve, Pa rum pum pum pum
When we come.*

2016 marks the **27th** anniversary of the gathering of men at St. Barnabas on Christmas Eve. Please consider joining us for this very special service that remains so much a part of the St. Barnabas Christmas tradition. Remember, no experience is necessary. Fathers, sons, grandfathers, husbands and friends – all are most welcome, the more the merrier.

One rehearsal will be held – **Sunday December 18th** following the morning service of Lessons and Carols (at approx. noon). A short pre-service warm-up will also be held on the 24th, at 3:15pm in Dart Hall.

What to wear – blue blazer, grey pants, and red tie (or anything else that you feel is appropriate for the season).

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Andrew Louson dalouson@gmail.com or Laura Prince ljprince@videotron.ca

Souvenir photo will be taken after the service, in the church. Please stick around for this

Men's Chorus - 2015



Christmas Baskets



Our Christmas Basket Project once again is under the direction of Jeff Goernert and baskets will be delivered on December 21st. Many thanks to all parishioners who gave so generously that we were able to fill 3 cupboards full of food, household supplies, toys, and other gifts. A better selection of items came about this year because of an idea borrowed from the St Lambert United Church: shopping list slips, prepared by Wendy, were handed out each week in Advent with the church bulletins, asking for specific things to be donated. Barnabites came through in spades, as always.

Special thanks also goes to Mary Ann Digby and Heather Ann Dawson, each of whom hosted a Christmas tea, inviting their friends to come and bring a donation for the food baskets. Great initiative, ladies! Thank you.

Parish News

Lucille and Quinn were baptized

Lucille Edna Jensen was baptized on October 23rd in a traditional naval



baptism service. Her parents, Lisa and Steven, both navy people stationed at St Jean, were dressed in their formal navy uniforms (checkout Lisa's array of medals in the front page photo). Salt water from the Atlantic mixed with a little eau du Saint-Laurent filled an inverted ship's bell, serving as the font. And as part of the service, the congregation sang the official Navy hymn (#567), "Eternal Father strong to save..."

In the photo left, Lucille poses with her parents, sponsors and family after the service.

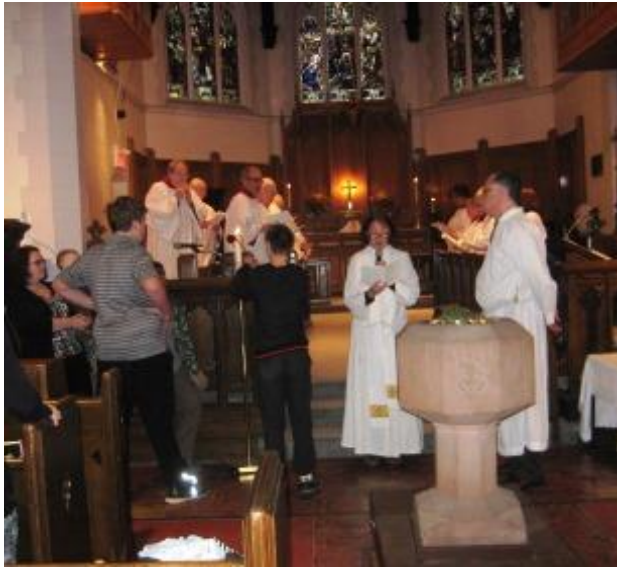
Quinn Juliet Carter was baptized on November 20th in a big family service.



Her older sister Michaela and brother Logan both participated in the service, as well as her parents, Paul and Lisa. Many aunts, uncles, cousins and family friends attended, and Reverend Gwenda involved all the children in the service.

In the photo left, Michaela makes the sign of the cross on Quinn's forehead while Logan awaits his turn.

Advent Candle Lighting



During Advent, children and youth participated in the lighting of the candles in the advent wreath. This year, as part of the ceremony, the congregation sang verses of a traditional hymn, *A Candle is Burning*, brought to us by our new members from St Mark's.

In the photo at left, children with the help of older ones light the candles as part of Quinn's baptism service.

Here is the verse we will sing on Christmas Eve as all the candles are lit:

*We honour Messiah with Christ's candle flame;
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.*

Men's Group Annual Roast Beef Dinner

This annual event on Saturday, November 19th attracted the usual large crowd of diners, there for a delicious roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. Special guests were the MacArthur's from Rougemont, where we go for apple picking. Thanks to the cooks Jim Grant, Paul Bonnell, Trevor Ingram with his brother and Jeff Goernert.

Bake Sale, Mini Book Sale and Tea

Wendy Beausoleil and "her gang" organized what has become our annual fall tea and sale. The bake table featured the usual delicious goodies prepared by our very best St Barnabas cooks, and Glenn and Toulia offered a great selection of best sellers. In total, the event netted \$1100. Wendy says thanks to all who helped and all who attended. See you next year!



Afternoon Guild

In early December, the Guild members had a good time at their Christmas party. Alan Ford played Christmas music on the piano & we sang, Tom Rodden played his mouth organ & we sang some more, Tom & Alan played a duet & Rev. Gwenda sang a solo. There was lots of good food & fellowship all of which was enhanced by the sherry sent by Jean Bradwell.

We were very pleased to welcome 5 of our new St. Barnabas members from St. Mark's. As we have already learned from the church coffee hour- these ladies are gracious & friendly & we hope they feel at home with us.

Gayna Knowles, President

Advent Bible Study

Guy Tombs and the Reverend Gwenda led an Advent bible study for 2 alternate weeks on King David. They presented a lot of facts about the man and his times, followed by a round-table discussion of opinions and interpretations. About 12 people participated and enjoyed this format. Watch for the dates of another bible study to take place in the New Year.

(Info supplied by Barbara Brown)

Coffee & Conversation

Happily, this group is up and running again every Wednesday morning. This past Wednesday, they held their Christmas party. Gayna Knowles acted as MC with participation by many of the members. Everyone sang the traditional carols, Tom Rodden played Silent Night on his mouth organ, and Barbara Brown read two poems, The Night Before Christmas and another story of an unexpected traditional Christmas. Members also exchanged gifts, based on a lottery. What a fun party!

(Info supplied by Barbara Brown)

The Gift of Music



Our choir will be singing in the annual Gift of Music, taking place this Sunday, December 18th, at 4pm, at Paroisse St Lambert on Lorne Street. Freewill offering for the Christmas Basket Fund

Choir Christmas Party

Members of the choir and their significant others gathered to celebrate the festive season at a pot-luck "5 à 7" (actually 3 to 6!), graciously hosted by Edgar and Ginette Hay-Ellis, assisted by Andrew and Linda Louson. Despite the fact the Hay-Ellis's have a piano and several piano players were present (including our organist Andrew Staples), the food and conversation proved too big an attraction for there to be any singing! Needless to say, a good time was had by all!



L to R: Betty Poulton with Hostesses
Ginette Hay-Ellis & Linda Louson

"Sometime"

*Sometime when you're feeling important,
Sometime when your ego's in bloom,
Sometime when you take it for granted
You're the best qualified in the room;
Sometime when you feel that your going
Would leave an unfillable hole,
Just follow this simple instruction,
And see how it humbles your soul.
Take a bucket and fill it with water,
Put your hand in it, up to the wrist,
Pull it out and the hole that's remaining
Is a measure of how much you'll be missed.
You may splash all you please when you enter,
You may stir up the water galore,
But stop, and you'll feel in a minute
That it looks quite the same as before.
The moral in this quaint example,
Is do just the best that you can,
Be proud of yourself, but remember,
There is no indispensable man!*

Author Unknown - Submitted by Tom Rodden

Organic Food Drop-Off

Did you know that you can order organic farm produce all year long and have it dropped off at St Barnabas? Every Thursday, at 4pm, a truck arrives from Les Jardins de la Montagne in Rougemont with boxes of vegetables from their organic greenhouses and farm. Orders are then picked up at the church. This initiative is run by Wendy Beausoleil and Lee Ann Clarke. To find out more or to find out how you can place an order, go online to jardinsdelamontagne.com.

Wendy and Lee Ann supervise pickup of orders after delivery to Memorial Hall.



Contributors to this edition of Update: The Reverend Gwenda, Wendy Beausoleil, Laura Prince, Glenn Smith, Jeff Goernert, Barbara Brown, Tom Rodden, Ginette Hay-Ellis, Judith Austin, Gayna Knowles, Lee Ann Clarke, Lisa Harrison, Toula Harrison, Mary O'Malley (Editor).



A blessed Christmas to all.