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FROM THE RECTOR:

A Gift Given

Yesterday afternoon over a pot of tea, Chris Mitchell and I reflected on his ministry as custodian of the Memorial Garden, founded in 1992 thanks to the generous gift of the late Jessamine Patton Haff. Listening to Chris, it became apparent that this ministry is very much a labor of love. Perhaps you have experienced first hand, feeling "well held" as you purchased a plot for a loved one, recently departed. If

so, I hope that you take comfort from knowing that they rest in the shadow of our church. Given the importance of this particular ministry Chris and I envision the formation of a small committee that will take shared responsibility for this sacred space. Following a Memorial Service on January 5th, the family of the late Allison Crane, will tenderly lay her to rest in the very good company of the fifty-two souls who are memorialized in our garden.

Coincidentally, I had prepared a poem by Mary Oliver for the Wednesday Morning Book Group and it fits the sentiment here. It's entitled, The Gift:

Be still, my soul and steadfast.
 Earth and heaven both are still watching
 though time is draining from the clock
 and your walk, that was confident and quick,
 has become slow.

So, be slow if you must, but let
 the heart still play its true part.
 Love still as once you loved, deeply
 and without patience. Let God and the world
 know you are grateful.
 That the gift has been given.

From Devotions, The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver,
 2017.

See you Sunday,
 Gareth



Office Hours:

Call the office (914) 591-8194 to make an appointment or if you need Pastoral Care

THIS WEEK

Saturday, December 22nd: Pageant Rehearsal and Caroling, Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 23rd: Greening of the Church continued

Monday, December 24th: Christmas Services (see below)

PAGEANT REHEARSAL AND CAROLING: 12/22

**Our Christmas Pageant will be on Monday, December 24th at the 4pm Service.
Rehearsal for the pageant is on Saturday, December 22nd 9am-11am (with caroling to follow)**

See below for more info:

[Signup for Pageant](#)



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND REHEARSAL

As always, our pageant is open to anyone that would like to take part so feel free to tell friends/relatives/visitors that their children are welcome. Angel wings and shepherd's crooks provided!

Rehearsal on Saturday, Dec. 22nd 9am-11am

If you have questions, feel free to email Gabriel Boozer - ggautrau@hotmail.com.



CAROLING

We will be caroling at Andrus on Hudson immediately following pageant rehearsal.

Caroling will begin around 11:30, but please meet at the church at 11am.

If you'd like to participate, please email Susan Brunenavs - susan.brunenavs@gmail.com

GREENING OF THE CHURCH



Please consider helping us make the church beautiful and festive for Christmas services:
Saturday, December 22 at 8 am- strong parishioners needed to set up the trees.

Sunday, December 23, right after Church, everyone needed for the Greening of the Church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Monday, December 24th

4pm Pageant and Holy Eucharist

9pm Candelight Eucharist

ONGOING

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

If you would like to give flowers in memory of loved ones at Christmas, please fill out a Christmas flower envelope, available at the church entrances and in your bulletin, and drop it into the collection plate or into the envelope on the office door. Names will be listed in the Christmas bulletin. To have your loved ones listed, please submit envelopes by Sunday, December 16th. Call Sue in the office with any questions or requests at (914) 591-8194.

SECURITY DONATIONS

Did you know you can make a security donation to fulfill an annual pledge, or any donation, to St. Barnabas?

If you wish to make such a donation, please contact the church office to get specific instructions so your donation can be properly credited. Alternatively, e-mail Cynthia Ferguson at ferginvestcf@gmail.com for instructions.

It's important to let the parish office or Cynthia Ferguson know what security you are donating because St. Barnabas doesn't receive the name of the donor. Only the shares. Let us know what you're donating and we will track the receipt and proper crediting! Thank you.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The St. Barnabas Church staff contribute to the smooth running and overall wellbeing of our parish in both obvious and hidden ways. If you would like to donate to our staff Christmas gifts, please make your check to The Church of St. Barnabas, mark "Staff Gifts" in the memo, and deliver it by Wednesday, December 19th to my attention.

Thank you so much,

Gareth
Your Rector



UPCOMING IN THE NEW YEAR

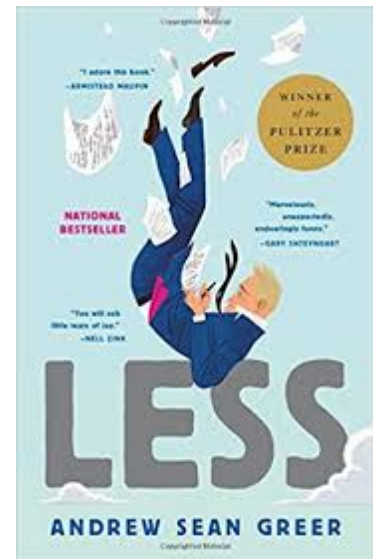
BOOK GROUP: 1/30

The St. Barnabas Book Group will meet on Wednesday, January 30th, to discuss *Less*, a novel by Andrew Sean Greer. We will meet at 7:30 in the lounge.

All are welcome!

If you have any questions please email Lea Carmichael Richardson at Paintmoth@gmail.com

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Service Times

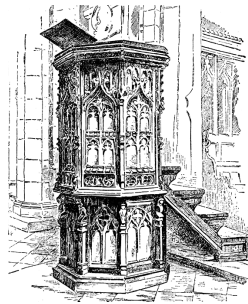
Sunday, December 23rd

8:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite II



The Readings

- **Micah 5:2-5a**
- **Hebrews 10:5-10**
- **Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)**
- **Canticle 15 (or 3)**



Goings On

Friday, December 21st

7:30pm - 8:30pm

AA in Roane Room

Saturday, December 22nd

9:30am - 10:30am

AA in Colwell Hall

[CLICK FOR THE LECTIONARY](#)

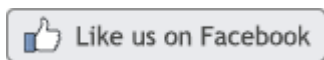
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