

The Profile of St Barnabas  
Episcopal Church  
Portland, Oregon 2024

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.”  
Matthew 7:7-8

# Who We Are



**“A dedicated, hardworking parish.”**

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church is located in Southwest Portland 5 miles from downtown Portland, between the quiet residential neighborhoods of Multnomah Village and Hillsdale. The church has been in the area since its founding. The area is diverse, with Muslims, Somalis, Jews, Orthodox Jews, and people of all socio-economic status among the residents. Our parish is just blocks away from the Jewish Community Center, the Portland Jewish Academy, Rieke Elementary School, and Ida B. Wells High School. Within 3 miles there is a mosque and the campus of the non-profit organization [Neighborhood House](#).

Currently, St Barnabas has 166 members (including children) with 97 pledging members/ households. The parish is a [Believe Out-Loud](#) church. “We are a caring, loving and



close community” - a family that welcomes all people with love and respect. Our mission states that “as followers of Jesus Christ, the people of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church are called to **learn, serve, welcome and celebrate.**” These actions are important to the entire congregation and were frequently mentioned in our survey and listening sessions. We recognize that despite our genuine value of being welcoming, we do not yet reflect the diversity of our neighborhood. We would like to become much better at appealing to and incorporating a more diverse population.



In addition, St. Barnabas serves the needs of our aging parishioners well. But as one survey respondent said so succinctly, “Our parish is ‘aging out’ which limits both financial growth, as well as the ability to maintain programs.” We recognize that our future requires that we not only increase our relationships with our surrounding neighborhood, but also to listen to what families need so that we can provide a place for them to gather and grow.

The health of our congregational family and the community we live in is important to parish members. We have deep commitments not just to our communal worship but also to social ministries and social justice.

## History

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church was founded in 1949 in Multnomah, then a small community adjacent to Portland. The property where the church now sits was bought in 1951 and a building was constructed. By 1954, the growing church needed a larger structure. A church building with a nave that could seat 400 was finished in 1955. The original building became the parish hall. With upgrades and changes over time, these buildings are still in use. Our organ was installed in 1956, and continues to be integral to our worship services today.

In 2009, a strategic “Mission and Ministry” plan was adopted to better utilize the assets of the church. The rectory was sold, with a portion of the funds used to renovate the church building and the parish hall. Various forms of mission and community service came out of this plan - particularly our food ministry. This vision continues to guide the programs and ministries of St. Barnabas.

During Covid, St. Barnabas built a media booth in the back of the sanctuary. We continue to offer online services for our 10 am Sunday and some other services. [A more detailed history is available on our website, as is our annual report.](#)



**"I dream of more people in the pews. I dream of families, with children, sitting in the pews. I dream of financial security for the parish and the building."**

**"We have come a long way with contemplative services (Taize). Would like to see us pursue even more contemplative prayer options."**

**"Maintain the warm and welcoming atmosphere. Support outreach that serves Hillsdale/ Multnomah and SW Portland neighborhoods."**

**"Programmatic approach - Adult formation... continuing education - so we can continue to grow into Baptism."**

**"Keep our music program - choir, special unique guests (violin, cello, flute, and soloists)."**

**"Expand the organ (through fundraising) and music program."**

**"Continuity as community."**

**St. Barnabas has always felt like a really welcoming place, very loving, from the time I attended as a little kid up to now as an adult (19).**



# Worship

***“St. Barnabas provides relevant and meaningful worship services - music, sermons, announcements.”***

St. Barnabas [offers a variety of worship services](#). We offer a 10 am Sunday worship (in person and via zoom), as well as weekly centering prayers, morning prayers (online), and healing services. We also hold a monthly 8 am Sunday service, which has a small but devoted following. Music is a hallmark of our worship services. The music at the 10 am service consists of a choir, an organ and a piano. Special music is provided from time to time by our tone chime choir, as well as guest vocalists and instrumentalists.



Additional activities and services are offered seasonally. We offer Faith at Home adult Christian education typically using zoom. Currently, we are holding an in-person Lenten Study Series at 8:30 am on Sundays. There is a desire among the congregation for additional educational and social activities at our parish.

# Internal Ministries

The parishioners of St. Barnabas are hardworking, active volunteers who frequently utilize their talents by participating in the various [ministries within](#) or [without](#) the church.

In-house volunteer options include:

- Altar Guild
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors
- Acolytes
- Ushers
- Media booth (video and audio)
- Music (choir and tone chime choir)



- Prayers of the People
- St. Honoré's Guild (baking our communion bread)
- Education
- [Parish Communications](#) (weekly and monthly e-news, plus social media)
- Hospitality (our weekly Coffee Hour & the annual Oktoberfest event)
- Pastoral Care

# Outreach Ministries



Serving the surrounding community is important to our parishioners. For decades, feeding the hungry has been our signature mission. Prior to the pandemic we hosted a monthly meal for the hungry, and served meals at Portland Rescue Mission and at Shepherd's Door Residential Treatment program for women and children. During the pandemic (2020-2023) we hosted a weekly food market. Several parishioners continue to volunteer at the new version, which moved to our neighbor at Greater Portland Bible Church. We are open to seeking additional ways to serve the community around our parish.

Our [current outreach to the community](#) includes:

- Shepherd's Door
- Monthly dinners and crafts are provided for this facility that hosts women recovering from addiction and their children.
- Portland Rescue Mission
- Provide cold weather supplies and other necessities for the homeless



- Knitters
- Produce prayer shawls, squares and hats for those in need.
- Community Outreach/Evangelism is becoming more of an area of focus
- Trunk or Treat
- Planning for Vacation Bible School in 2024

## The Rector We Hope to Partner With

***"...rather than any specific characteristics one would look for an overall personality ... that enjoys a challenge."***

***"Commitment to social justice, to the community around St. Barnabas, to the gospel in action."***

We hope to find a rector who is able to connect with all kinds of people. Our ideal rector makes everyone feel welcome, regardless of age, race, gender identity, or sexual orientation. We seek someone energetic, positive, outgoing, and can think outside the box. We want someone willing to do outreach to attract and retain young families. Our parish LOVES children and would love to grow this group! We hope for a rector who is filled with love, but who also doesn't take themselves too seriously. Ideally, the rector is someone who can see and appreciate our strengths, but who is willing to challenge us to grow and strengthen. And yes, someone who gives a good sermon!



# Finances

Saint Barnabas is a small, but financially healthy, congregation. We operate from a balanced budget, assisted by a small endowment. We also have reserves from the sale of a rectory that was completed over 5 years ago. About 20% of our operating budget comes from the rental of a basement space to Portland Kindershule German Immersion Co-op Preschool, and from 2 cell towers, under long-term leases, located on the roof of the sanctuary. Over the past 3 years, we have concluded some minor projects, financed by generous gifts from the parishioners, such as restoring and refinishing the wood floors in the parish hall, refinishing the tile floors in the sanctuary, addressing exterior lighting issues, and servicing our boiler. We are expanding our reach into the community through evangelism, outreach, and providing space for local non-profits, all financed by pledges and gifts.

# Building, Grounds, and Resources

The church building and parish hall, although quite attractive, are older and present maintenance challenges. Our vestry has made significant progress catching up with some deferred maintenance projects with more in the planning stages:



parking lot lights and structural work, window replacements, boiler upgrades, the church roof, and possibly upgrading the pipes in the organ. See our [2022](#) and [2023 annual reports](#) for further details.





## Location

***“Oregon is an inspiration. Whether you come to it, or are born to it, you become entranced by our state’s beauty, the opportunity she affords, and the independent spirit of her citizens.” --Tom McCall, Governor of Oregon 1967-1975***

From the majesty of the Pacific Ocean to the desolate Alvord Desert, Oregon offers diversity. Its largest city is Portland. The City of Bridges. The Rose City. Rip City. The city whose unofficial motto



is “Keep Portland Weird.” Portland has many different neighborhoods and a wide



variety of ethnicities. Culture flourishes here with the Oregon Symphony, the Oregon Ballet, Portland Center Stage, the Jazz Festival, and the Blues Fest. It is the city of the Church of Elvis, the naked bike ride, and a 50-year-old Saturday Mar-

ket. The area has many educational institutions. [Find out more about Portland Metro area’s K-12 educational opportunities.](#) All cities face challenges. Portland is no exception. Is this why Saint Barnabas feels so strongly about feeding the hungry?



Yes, there is rain!

There are also over 200 parks and gardens, including 57 community gardens through Portland Parks and Recreation.



Discover [more about the pros and cons of living in Portland.](#)

Yes, St. Barnabas is ripe with opportunity!



# Our Diocese

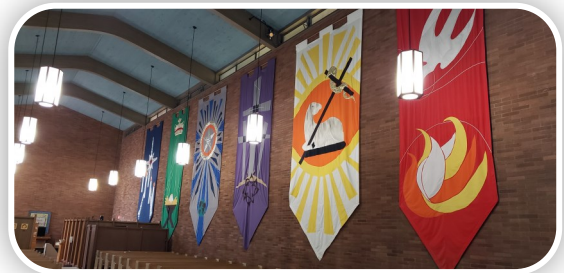
St. Barnabas is part of the [The Episcopal Church in Western Oregon](#), which consists of 60+ faith communities dedicated to growing, expanding, and redefining what it means to be the Beloved Community of Christ in western Oregon. Our diocese originated as part of the Missionary Jurisdiction of the Oregon and Washington Territories in 1853 and became its own diocese in 1889. Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Northwest Portland serves as our diocesan cathedral and the seat of the bishop. The Rt. Rev. Diana D. Akiyama was ordained and consecrated as the eleventh Bishop of Oregon on January 30, 2021. She was the first Japanese-American woman ordained Bishop in The Episcopal Church.



## Current Staff and Vestry

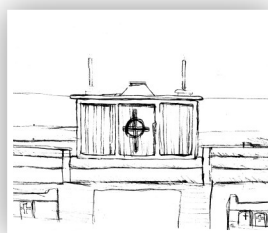
Clergy – [Get to know our clergy and staff on our website.](#)

- The Reverend Bonnie Stewart, Priest-in-Charge
- The Reverend Jeff Frost (Retired), Associate Clergy
- Deacon BJ Finch
- Stephan Galván, Music Director
- David Wills-Ehlers, Organist/Pianis
- Clerk of the Vestry/Co-Treasurer—Vicki Church



Current Vestry - [Meeting minutes and financial narratives are online.](#)

- Senior Warden – Liz Perkins
- Junior Warden, Building & Grounds, Service Commission – John Ingram
- Stewardship Commission/Co-Treasurer – Liz Martin
- Evangelism Commission – Shelley Engle
- Pastoral Care Commission – Elizabeth Draper
- Worship Commission – Betty Woerner & Meg Evans
- Outreach Commission – Leslie Coefield



Original artwork of objects in our sanctuary courtesy of Sammie, our 10-year-old member of the Profile Committee.

