

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
Bainbridge Island, Washington
Mini-Profile for Interim Ministry
March 18, 2025

The St. Barnabas Mission Statement

We are a community of faith that welcomes and values all people. We commit to follow Christ, serve others, grow in faith, and transform the world by sharing God's love.

About St. Barnabas

Guided by the Gospel and our Baptismal Covenant, St. Barnabas vibrates with hospitality and Holy Spirit. We are committed to growing in discipleship and love of God through inclusive theology, instructed by scripture and the rites found in the Book of Common Prayer. Central to our identity is worshipping in the beauty of holiness, whether it is Rite I at 8:00 on Sunday (ASA 25) or Rite II at 10:00 (ASA 100, plus streamed on YouTube), mid-week contemplative and healing services, compline online three times per week, monthly sung vespers, or special seasonal offerings. Our robust and varied worship is foundational to our parish life and gives us the strength and conviction to move through the rest of our days seeking and serving Christ.

Music elevates the holiness of our worship and is an important ministry that reaches out into the community. Our music director leads the choir and Schola Nova, as well as presenting at the cathedral and other locations. Both the parish hall and the sanctuary have been used for community choral and instrumental concerts. The Bond organ, installed in 2005, is the centerpiece of our music program, accompanying the choir and played for public concerts.

The authentic welcome practiced at St. Barnabas is evident in the greeters at the door, the passing of the peace, and the well-attended and enjoyable coffee hour after Sunday services—where the buzz is genuinely friendly and where a member at the Welcome Table greets visitors and newcomers as part of our developing practice of sharing our Good News. Events beyond our sanctuary include Carols & Cocoa, Film Night, Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, Church on the Beach, and others that occur throughout the year, open to the larger community. Recently we learned about the “Invite, Welcome, Connect” program, and we continue to find clues there for expanding inclusion and connection at deep, meaningful levels.

Christian formation is an important part of St. Barnabas’s mission to grow in faith. Adult formation is organized by a committee of knowledgeable parishioners and clergy and is presented in formats such as book study, speakers, or seasonal seminars facilitated by our rector, one of the retired clergy who worship at St. Barnabas, or skilled lay leaders. Offerings may be an evening series, a coffee hour program, theological film nights, or special presentations. The number of youths participating in our parish is small but has increased recently through the focused efforts of our rector and our family ministry coordinator. Our family ministry coordinator leads Godly Play, regular youth group meetings,

and programs such as “Messy Church” and movie nights. She co-facilitates an island-wide youth group as well.

The St. Barnabas outreach committee has a long history of financial support for charities locally, regionally, and beyond, with an outreach endowment fund supplemented by individual donations. We are always seeking new ways to engage the parish in outreach projects and volunteer opportunities. We participate as members of the Interfaith Council in both Super Suppers (offering meals the last week of each month) and Fresh Start Mondays (showers, laundry, and lunch). We offer our facilities to the community for a variety of events, including AA meetings, blood drives, quilt guilds, library board meetings, and others. The commercial kitchen is used at low cost by charitable organizations and budding caterers. We operate a preschool as an outreach ministry, with fees lower than comparable local schools. We have just begun to explore and engage Social Justice in more depth in pursuit of becoming beloved community.

The St. Barnabas campus is largely wooded, tranquil and serene—part of the DNA of this congregation. The sanctuary is a lovely brick structure that is beloved by parishioners, draws newcomers and visitors, and is an iconic structure on the island. The parish hall has a wall of floor to ceiling windows opening out to a courtyard, labyrinth, and trees beyond. The parish offices need attention. We are in the process of creating a ten-year master plan to care for all of our facilities. We expect that this will lead to a capital campaign within the next few years.

Pastoral Care is an essential ministry, and one that needs broader involvement. Our Deacon, Dan Fowler, provides weekly services at various senior assisted living centers on the island, with some participation from others in the parish. The rector provides much of the pastoral care for parishioners in need. Members offer rides, write cards, and prepare meals for others, but we hope our new ministry leader will help us be more effective in our support of fellow parishioners.

We observe year-round stewardship in all its forms. We have a Campus Stewards committee and a Stewards of Creation climate change/environmental justice group. As to the annual campaign, we have recovered from the setbacks of the pandemic and have two years in a row achieved a balanced budget, supported by 134 pledging households, carried by the theme “Be the Mission.” We supplement plate and pledges with proceeds from an unrestricted endowment. Our treasurer and finance committee are both skilled and transparent, and they regularly communicate with the parish.

Our community is strong, healthy, and financially sound. We are also in transition as we say goodbye to our beloved Rector of seven-plus years, Karen Haig. We are sad at her leaving and need tender time to grieve our loss, but we also embrace this as a time of change and renewal and welcome the Holy Spirit to lead us into what God is calling us to be. We are currently in early stages of forming a profile committee.

Who We Seek

We are seeking an interim priest who will guide us as we grieve and reflect on what we loved about Rev. Karen Haig's ministry. We are looking for someone with clear boundaries who seeks and serves Christ as our mutual partner in ministry, someone who will help us learn from each other and recognize our strengths and challenges, someone who will help us maintain the Holy Spirit in our sense of community, and who will help open our eyes to new possibilities and move ahead. We also dearly want this to be a meaningful experience for our interim priest.

Specifics:

- full time position
- starting between 6/22 and mid-July
- strong preaching, beautiful liturgy
- collaborative approach with vestry and ministry leadership
- engagement with faith formation
- pastoral care

Preliminary questions:

- What are your priorities in the role of interim?
- Will you attend vestry meetings?
- How would you describe your leadership style?
- Where will you be commuting from?
- Will the length of your commute affect your ability to offer pastoral care?

Faithfully Submitted by the Wardens of St. Barnabas, on behalf of the Vestry and Congregation

- Barbara Bolles, Rector's Warden
- Phil Fergusson, People's Warden
- Mary Anne Smith, Property Warden

Interested candidates should email a cover letter, resume, and OTM profile to The Rev. Canon Cristi Chapman (cchapman@ecww.org).