

# St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Berlin, NH

[www.stbarnabasberlin.org](http://www.stbarnabasberlin.org)

## Introduction

*The process of developing a Parish Profile has been enlightening for this committee and our entire Congregation. It has brought us together through storytelling, spiritual sharing, and fellowship. It has united us in ways we did not anticipate and has shown us how the Holy Spirit is at work in each of us, as well as in our greater community. It has also pointed out our shortcomings and many challenges that we face. We are a hopeful, faithful, and loving congregation who would like to build on our strengths, and are looking for a rector who will join us in looking at challenges as opportunities for improvement, not as limitations. . We are hard-working, dedicated people willing to go the extra mile to make things work. One of the challenges we identified was how to transform St. Barnabas from a building to a community of worship, yet maintain what we have that is so precious. The following profile reflects the responses and feelings expressed by parishioners during open discussions and a Parish Self Survey. The overwhelming theme gathered through this process was the sense of community, inclusiveness, and belonging. There is a deep Pride in who we are in the community.*

## Our Mission

The mission of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Hampshire is initiated and empowered by the baptismal covenant with Almighty God through which its members have been incorporated into the Body of Christ and are led by the Holy Spirit – in their congregations and communities, through their institutions and as persons, in their worship and in their lives:



- to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ;
- to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.

*"Our worship is a balance between freedom and structure,  
intellect and mystery, physical and spiritual"*

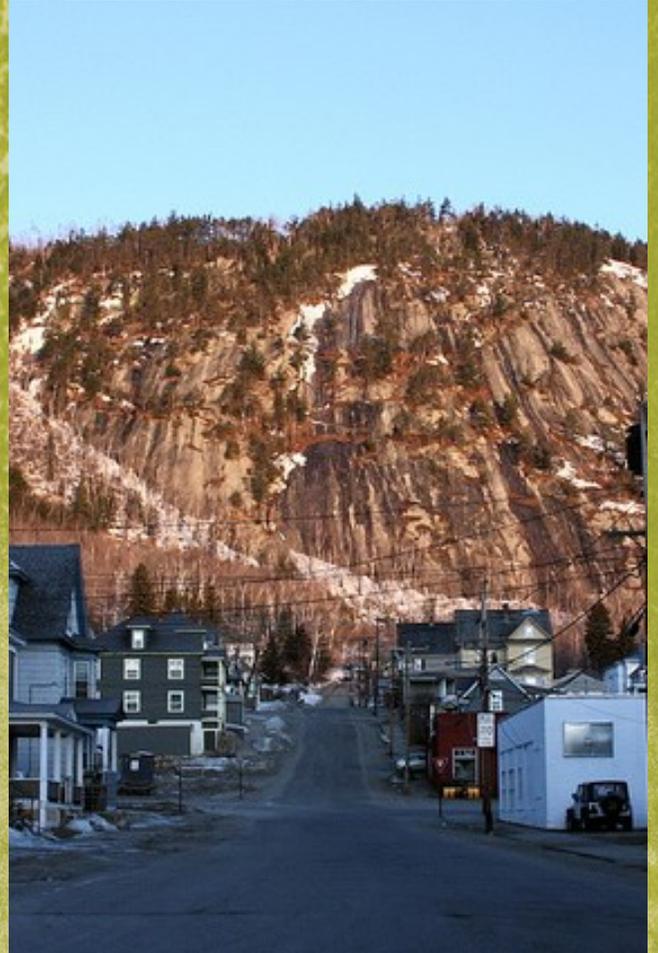
## What We Seek

### Hopes and goals for our new rector

Without a doubt, the feeling of welcome and inclusiveness for all people is at the heart of the people of St. Barnabas. Ours is a valued family, who support each other in good times and bad. A sense of pride shines through both long-term and new members. The gifts and talents that new members bring are embraced and valued, creating a feeling of Love, Trust, and Hope. We would like a compassionate, humble, loving, and understanding long-term rector to become part of our close-knit family and who will continue to expand this network out into the greater community. It will be important for our next rector to be able to assimilate into our North Country way of living, and truly get to know the people they will be shepherding.

We envision our new rector as

- ◇ A Preacher who is able to articulate the Gospels through deep and meaningful sermons and create gentle, unforced liturgies where *music and silence* are integral parts of prayer and devotion.
- ◇ A compassionate and loving pastor-counselor who truly listens and seeks to understand the needs of anyone seeking help or a better understanding of God in their lives.
- ◇ A mature Christian, who turns to the Holy Spirit as a source of strength and guidance, walks the talk, speaks with authority, and maintains a voice on local and national issues.
- ◇ A teacher who will provide educational opportunities that will continue to increase our faith and insure that we are nourished with spiritual food; and one who is open to the experience of learning through the experience of teaching
- ◇ A person who loves children and will treat them as valued members of the congregation and include them in all aspects of church life.



*Mt. Forist, nicknamed "elephant mountain"*

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## What We Seek

Skills and abilities important for our new rector to possess are as

- ◇ An Administrator with technology skills, a good working knowledge of finances, and organizational management skills.
- ◇ An organizer who is able to form networks within the St. Barnabas community, but also in the Greater Berlin community and surrounding areas. They need to be ready at the nexus of social change.
- ◇ An overall enthusiastic, energetic person who is able to dream with a sense of adventure, and is open to new ideas.
- ◇ An overseer of the maintenance and upkeep of our facility, who will value its importance as a Main Street location where opportunities are abundant for community outreach.

We are looking for a rector who will challenge us by asking important questions such as who are we; how can we be God's hands in our community; who are our neighbors and what are their needs; how can we best serve these needs? We want a rector whose focus is not on how many people are in church on Sunday or how much money we do or do not have, but rather believes that people will come because they feel safe and welcome here and that they know that they are loved by God and that together we can accomplish anything with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.



*The red doors stand out on a prominent corner of Main St.*

*“St. Barnabas is my family. My family died. I’ve outlived them all. My future is in the breeze. Sometimes violent winds—sometimes a gentle breeze. When I attend St. Barnabas I feel humble like the gentle breeze” - JW*



Eucharist is every Sunday at 10:15. In 2012, the average Sunday attendance was 49 people per Sunday. Once each season, St. Barnabas also hosts Evensong and Compline, sung services in the evenings, which are well attended.

At St. Barnabas, the congregation overwhelmingly agrees that music and motion play a large role in our worship service. The blend of movement, ritual, and sound combine to open our minds to a transcendent worship. During the Prayers of the People, led by a lay reader, the congregation prays aloud for intercession and thanksgiving. When we remember the dead, we also list the deceased members of the community from the week, and memorialize the military service members who gave their lives. When we pray for the sick, we name members of our congregation who are too ill to join us in worship. These prayers build in us a sense of solidarity and closeness that we can rarely find in other prayers.

Lay people from the congregation also assist in reading lessons, bearing the chalice, and collecting the daily offerings. Acolytes, under the guidance of our outstanding Acolyte Master teacher, participate in the service throughout the year. We have seven acolytes, who take turns fulfilling duties at the altar. The altar guild works tirelessly to make sure the altar and sanctuary are prepared for service.

The sermon is most often given from the aisle rather than the pulpit. This is not an official decision, but rather one that has been made by installed and visiting clergy alike because the congregation is small and close.

## Worship



During “the peace,” it is often possible to reach everyone in the sanctuary. Everyone leaves their seat and wanders around, checking in with family and friends, and meeting new people. For communion, everyone present, including the youngest of children, comes forward, in front of the pews. Often, the entire congregation can fit in this area. At dismissal, the congregation amends “thanks be to God” with “woohoo” during all seasons except Lent. It truly is a worship *celebration*.

On special Sundays, we change the prayers and hymns a little, often making room for a children’s lesson or presentation. On these days, the psalm choir shares more varied music. The processions on these days also include more elements, such as an increased number of acolytes, or a lengthier route.

The typical Sunday service follows this general form:

- ◇ Bell
- ◇ Prelude
- ◇ Processional with Hymn
- ◇ Opening Sentences
- ◇ Gloria
- ◇ Collect of the Day
- ◇ Reading
- ◇ Psalm
- ◇ Reading
- ◇ Hymn
- ◇ Reading of the Gospel
- ◇ Sermon
- ◇ Nicene Creed
- ◇ Prayers of the People
- ◇ Confession
- ◇ The Peace
- ◇ Announcements
- ◇ Offertory Hymn
- ◇ Liturgy of the Table
- ◇ Sanctus
- ◇ Communion and Communion Hymn
- ◇ Prayer after Communion
- ◇ Benediction
- ◇ Recession and Hymn
- ◇ Dismissal

<i>Average Sunday Attendance</i>	<i>3yr avg: 40</i>	<i>5yrs ago: 27</i>	<i>10yrs ago: 35</i>
<i>Christmas Service Attendance</i>	<i>3yr avg: 54</i>	<i>5yrs ago: 42</i>	<i>10yrs ago: 65</i>
<i>Easter Service Attendance</i>	<i>3yr avg: 61</i>	<i>5yrs ago: 45</i>	<i>10yrs ago: 50</i>

## Music

“The music we experience each Sunday is created by a series of little miracles. We don't have an official rehearsal time, but each Sunday morning, singers gather near the organ in order to learn the Psalm settings for the day, usually those written by Peter Hallock, which we then offer during the service. It fills us, spiritually because we feel the spirit of God moving through these ancient texts. It saves our lives from despair and hopelessness. It makes us ready for a new vision, to be re-born in the Spirit, to experience God with us, God still speaking, and at the hour when our tongues are unloosed and the Spirit soars, that is how our resurrection happens. Our musical choices are therefore important, not arbitrary, not self-centered, but represent the best we can offer. Thanks be to God!”

These are the words of Dr. Susan Ferre, who is music director at St. Barnabas. Her dedication to the parish and the music is outstanding.



In November of 2009, a handcrafted pipe organ, built by Gene Bedient, of Lincoln, Nebraska, using historical building principals, was leased and installed over a 10 day period. This organ now leads most of our services. In June of 2010 Susan Ferrè was hired as Music Director and Organist. Susan is often accompanied by her husband Charles Lang on the cello or viola da gamba.



*The organ panels were painted by Andre Belanger, a parishioner.*

***Organ accompanies most of our worship music. Each Sunday, parishioners sing five hymns and a psalm.***



## Education

St. Barnabas has offered Sunday School for many years; now, when some of our children have grown into teenagers, we have two groups. For the dozen children who range in age from five to eleven, the Sunday School teachers follow a curriculum called *Weaving God's Promises*, which is designed to be used by many ages in one class. Old Testament stories, weekly feasts, and interesting crafts are interwoven with learning to care for each other and discovering God's care for us. The children share their new learning and their joie-de-vivre with the congregation, this year joining the church parade as saints from history on All Saints Day, writing and performing a Christmas pageant, sharing their beautiful crafts at Easter and dancing with fiery streamers on Pentecost.

While the younger children are in their school, our older students are progressing through J2A, the *Journey to Adulthood* program. One of these teenagers is our Chief Acolyte, and indeed many of the Sunday School students serve as acolytes from time to time. Parents talk with appreciation of the balance of freedom and structure which St. Barnabas has been able to offer her children—'our' children, as members of the congregation are wont to say, whether the speaker is a parent or not.

## Education

### Sunday School and Adult Formation



#### Adult Formation

In the hour before the church service, while the younger members of the congregation are at Sunday School, some of the adults meet to discuss the readings for the day. We, like the children, find parallels between the lessons and our own lives. From week to week the emphasis in the morning Bible study varies; sometimes situations in the news occupy our discussion, and at other times the focus is on making sense of tricky or unpalatable Bible passages. This group has had a variety of leaders—St. Barnabas' priests, interns, and visiting priests—but consistently, open discussion including critical or challenging questions has been encouraged, and doubts and uncertainties explored. Prepared with clearer understanding of the day's readings, we can better hear and feel the following worship service, that central font of our Adult Christian Formation.

In addition to the Bible study on Sunday mornings, St. Barnabas has a book group, which meets once a week. As a group we have chosen novels and autobiographies, Bible books and books of popular theology, movies and science fiction stories. All are meat for good discussion of ethical, emotional, social, and religious issues, during which we try to dig into the heart of our shared or separate beliefs. Although the discussions have usually been led by a St. Barnabas priest or by a divinity student, within the group cradle Episcopalians are a minority and often members of other churches—or of none—join in, especially during the summer, so this becomes a good forum to learn how the Episcopalian take on a large range of issues differs from other ways of looking at them.

*Pictured above: The Last Supper, modeled in clay by Sunday School children*

## Stewardship and Membership

### Stewardship

St. Barnabas parishioners have a strong history of sharing time, talents and treasures throughout the year. Traditionally, we have a fall stewardship program, involving parishioner witnessing, intertwining sermons and lessons, and sending related newsletters to all friends of the parish family. The pledge card mailer, that goes out to all, allows for consideration of a tithe and a personal commitment of time to the various aspects of church life. St. Barnabas has always met its expected contribution to the Diocese.

### Membership

The St. Barnabas parish conducted a "Come and See" program two years ago with modest success. Our most important invitation is our community reputation for radical hospitality and our parishioner base that invites people to visit with us. While not a formal program, visitors are welcomed and offered guidance through the service as they may require or allow. Parents, whether parishioners or not, are invited to send their children to Sunday school programs.

While St. Barnabas is physically located on Main Street in Berlin, the northern-most 'city' in the State of New Hampshire, and home to one-third of the population of Coös County, participation is comprised of residents of Berlin, Milan, Gorham, Shelburne, Randolph, and beyond. We represent a cross-section of these areas as well, in age, income, and education. Some of our members are professionals in medicine, education and the business community; others work in manufacturing and the service trades; some are unemployed or retired.

Year	Number of pledges	Total amount	Average weekly	Other income
current	27	\$46,515	\$10.00	\$33,750
2011	29	\$46,218	\$10.00	\$35,400
2010	27	\$40,740	\$10.00	\$39,000
2008	26	\$30,511	\$10.00	\$35,000
2003	38	\$23,900	\$10.00	\$29,000

*A summary of pledges and income in recent years.*

***"I make a pledge of money, but more so, a pledge of faith that through our Church Leadership, it will be used to take care of others in ways only God knows best."***

## Service Outreach to the Community

St. Barnabas provides meeting locations for Alcoholics Anonymous and the After School Program for grades six, seven, and eight. Thus, our undercroft sees a lot of use and varied activities. For almost three hours daily the after school program meets 176 days of the year in the church undercroft. Many of the students come to think of St. Barnabas as a familiar place. The Project Youth Afterschool Program also hosts a summer program for several weeks.

St. Barnabas is working with the Berlin School District and the Family Resource Center to begin the Need2Feed project. For the children who rely on the district for breakfast and lunch during the school year, the weekend can be a tough time that ultimately impacts learning. We have acquired a grant and are seeking work and distribution space. Once we have that, we can start sending children home with enough food for the weekend so they can come to school ready to learn on Mondays.

St. Barnabas volunteers and clergy have been extremely welcome at the prisons and nursing homes.



Local churches take turns offering Sunday Eucharist at the Coos County Nursing Home. At the prison, some of our church's members have taken to calling themselves "St. Barnabas Behind the Walls."

From October to April, St. Barnabas also hosts a community supper once a month. The church has received a grant to continue for the year. To prepare and serve the meal, members from St. Barnabas, the Gorham Congregational Church, the Gorham Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the open community, volunteer time in the kitchen and dining room. We serve about 200 people each supper. For some families, this is a rare opportunity to eat in a restaurant-like setting. When people arrive, they help themselves to a beverage and a seat. The pastor is often there to greet them. After grace, tables are called up one by one for their meal. From prep to dishes, the church kitchen is busy for about nine hours on a supper day.

*Pictured above: volunteers at work during a community supper*

## Parish Life

St. Barnabas is a place where people are invited, not pressured, to worship. As one parishioner so eloquently described it, it is a place of balance: a “balance between freedom and structure, intellect and mystery, physical and spiritual.” Maintaining tradition is very important, yet the melding of new traditions into our worship keeps us relevant and refreshes our understanding that the scriptures are the Living Word of God. This is a place where people feel safe to ask both simple and difficult questions about faith, diversity, spirituality, and world issues, because every question is viewed as important and can lead to an open discussion where there may be an answer, but more often than not will lead to more questions and inner discernment.

Our parish family is unique and cannot be summed up in one word. It is a blend of young and old, rich and poor, educated and uneducated from very diverse backgrounds. What makes it unique is that these societal and cultural distinctions fade within our doors and everyone is treated as a fellow human being. Newcomers and guests are welcomed with enthusiasm and friendliness rather than through a formal process. Someone in the pews will provide guidance to those unfamiliar with the service or to anyone needing physical or emotional support. After the service, coffee hour is provided by volunteers and allows time to gather and catch up on news, meet guests and develop friendships. We often gather together at pot-luck luncheons where everyone is welcome.

As a congregation we share each other’s joys and accomplishments, be it the winning of a gold medal at Special Olympics or finding employment that will pay the rent. Being part of the community also helps lessen the sorrows and burdens of everyday life. Spontaneous crying, laughing, listening, and praying, are often manifested through announcements, the sharing of the peace, or during the prayers of the people.

Sharing in the life of a small congregation is an essential part of our family. It may come gradually to some, but eventually the Holy Spirit leads each and every member to participate in some way or share their gifts towards the life of the Parish. There are many jobs to be done, and often times not enough people to do them.

Some of the opportunities that we share are:

- ◇ Acolytes
- ◇ Altar Guild
- ◇ Bible Study
- ◇ Chalice Bearers
- ◇ Choir
- ◇ Community Dinners
- ◇ Coffee Hours
- ◇ Greeters
- ◇ Musicians
- ◇ North Country Convocation
- ◇ Parish Gatherings
- ◇ Pastoral Care Home Devotions
- ◇ Stewardship
- ◇ Sunday School Teachers
- ◇ Vestry Members
- ◇ Worship Committee

The Sacraments are an important part of life at St. Barnabas and are viewed as “outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace” BCP, pg. 857. Baptisms are shared with the entire congregation during the regular worship service, and anyone entering its doors and wishing to share in the Eucharist is welcome to do so.

Children and youth are welcomed and contributing members of St. Barnabas. Their presence is an integral part of parish life. You will find them on the altar as Acolytes, presenting the gifts during the Offertory, helping their Grandpa pass the collection plate, processing down the aisles waving flames made of ribbon on Pentecost, or dressed as a donkey at the Christmas Eve Nativity.

At times, issues and events come up that create differences of opinion. In these cases, the basic norms used by a Christian community are followed. Transparency and openness are essential to overcoming any conflict or misunderstandings at both the local and Diocesan level. Therefore, it is important to us that our new Rector maintains an open dialogue among us and the leadership of the Diocese.

## Evangelism

In 2011 the book group used the “Come and See” program that was written by Charles LaFond as a Lenten study. St. Barnabas held two special “Come and See” Sundays, and with this encouragement members of the congregation invited friends to join us for worship. In fact, in a less formal or deliberate way, this is how Evangelism usually happens at St. Barnabas. Many members of the church work in the area, and invite their colleagues to join them at St. Barnabas. The children are especially good at asking their friends to come to Sunday school with them. This summer and also in the summer of 2012, seminarians have had a St. Barnabas stall in the weekly Farmer’s Market and have invited members of the congregation to join them there.

Berlin as a town has traditionally had a large Roman Catholic population, with French Canadians, Irish, Norwegian, and Italian groups; as in the country as a whole, in recent decades fundamentalist sects have been sometimes stridently evangelical here. In this context, where the usual Episcopalian reticence is joined with a reluctance to stir up old cultural divisions, the congregation of St. Barnabas often chooses to let our community suppers, our musical events, or our book group be our voice for outreach, as these are advertised and often open up conversations about our church.



*A pot luck spread*

***Evangelism in St. Barnabas is individualized and personal rather than publicized and general. Rather than crying out for parishioners to join us, we whisper to souls to become a part of our family.***



### Profile of the Community

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church is a small congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire; housed in a beautiful building on the corner of Main Street and High Street, it is often referred to as “the beautiful stone church on the corner”. Berlin is the largest city north of the State’s capital, Concord, with an estimated population of 9,700. It is two and a half hours north of Concord, and three and half hours north of Boston, Massachusetts. Berlin is surrounded by beautiful mountains, and is situated on the Androscoggin River in the Great North Woods Region of NH. Its location provides endless opportunities for outdoor recreation such as hiking, biking, rock-climbing, skiing, snowmobiling, canoeing, kayaking, hunting, and camping to name a few. The river divides the city into what is known as the East and West side and is known as the City That Trees Built. For over a century it was a thriving Mill Town. Since the closure of the pulp mill in 2001, Berlin, NH has struggled with unemployment and underemployment. St. Barnabas also attracts parishioners from the surrounding towns of Gorham, Milan, Randolph and Shelburne. Together, we have tried to do two things: To live fully into our motto: “St. Barnabas – A Church where All are Welcome!” and to use our centrally located downtown space for the benefit of our community.

### Community Facilities and Life

Berlin is home of the *Androscoggin Valley Hospital* (<http://www.avnh.org/>), named on the nation’s top 100 critical access hospitals, and the *White Mountains Community College* (<http://www.wmcc.edu/>) offering many Associate Degree and Certificate Programs. Economic development efforts by City, State, and Federal officials

## The Berlin Community



have resulted in the building of both a NH State Prison (<http://www.nh.gov/nhdoc/index.html>) and a Federal Prison (<http://www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/ber/index.jsp>) within the Berlin City boundaries, thus creating employment opportunities. The creation of an ATV (all terrain vehicle) park at Jericho State Park, providing over 80 miles of trails, has resulted in a positive impact on bringing tourism to town. There is also a very active Main Street Program working toward vitalizing the downtown area. There are many independently owned shops within town, as well as a small local grocery store. Many people shop at the local Wal-Mart 5 miles down the road in Gorham. North Conway, one hour to the south, provides ample opportunities for Outlet Shopping. Cultural opportunities include *St. Kieran’s Center for the Arts* (<http://www.stkieranarts.org/>) which provides a wide range of year-round entertainment. *Music in the Great North Woods* (<http://www.musicgnw.org/>) created to promote classical music in Northern New Hampshire. They are also sponsors of the annual *Big Moose Bach Festival* held each year on Labor Day Weekend. There are also many opportunities to enjoy local theatre and to take advantage of visiting artists and performers brought to the area by local libraries, schools, and other organizations.

The majority of children attend the Berlin Public Schools (<http://www.sau3.org/>). There is also a small Community Bible Academy (<http://berlin-gorhambible.com/>).

All this said, however, the effects of poverty are still evident in the faces and stories of people on the streets, in shops, and in churches. The charts below compare some key financial indicators for Berlin to the rest of New Hampshire. Clearly, Berlin is continuing to feel the effects of the mills’ closure and the domino effect it has had on the region’s economy.

*Pictured above: During the Annual Jericho ATV Festival, Berlin Main Street is open for ATV parking. The local ATV trails have increased tourism in recent years.*



### **Berlin History**

Berlin was first known as Maynesborough, incorporated in 1771. After the establishment of the mills and a growth in population, the city of Berlin was incorporated in 1829.

### **Municipal Services**

Type of Government: Manager & Council  
 Budget: Municipal, 2012 \$13,268,719  
 Budget: School, 2012 \$17,494,633  
 Zoning Ordinance 1964/09  
 Master Plan: 2010  
 Capital Improvement Plan: Yes  
 Industrial Plans: Reviewed By Planning Board

### **Boards and Commissions**

Elected: City Council; School; Library  
 Appointed: Planning; Zoning; Berlin Industrial Development; Park Authority; Recreation; Water  
 Public Library: Berlin Public

### **Emergency Services**

Fire, Police: Full Time  
 EMS: Commercial  
 Nearest hospital: Androscoggin Valley Hospital

## **The Berlin Community Demographics**



### **Utilities**

Sanitation: Municipal  
 Curbside Trash Pick-up  
 Mandatory Recycling  
 Telephone: Fairpoint  
 Cell Phone Service avail.  
 Cable Service avail.  
 High speed internet avail.

### **Property Taxes**

2011 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value) \$31.70  
 2011 Equalization Ratio 113.9  
 2011 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value) \$40.78  
 2011 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type:  
 Residential Land and Buildings 62.5%  
 Commercial Land and Buildings 12.3%  
 Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other 25.2%

*Picture Above: In October, Berlin holds Riverfire, a festival in which bonfires are lit on the boom piers. When the mill collected lumber from upstream, men would stand on the piers to monitor the logs and prevent log jams.*



## Berlin, continued

### Demographics

2011 population: 9,945

Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over:

High school graduate or higher 79.6%

Bachelor's degree or higher 11.4%

### Income

Per capita income \$20,418

Median 4-person family income \$52,743

Median household income \$38,107

Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers

Male \$41,915

Female \$27,313

Families below the poverty level 10.3%

Unemployment rate: 9.1%

### Education

Public schools: 4

Public school buildings: 3

Public school enrollment: 1,292

Private schools: 2

Private school enrollment: 45

### Largest Employers

Androscoggin Valley Hospital

City of Berlin School System

Northern NH Correctional Facility

City of Berlin

Northern Human Services

### Housing

Total Housing Units 5,040

Single-Family Units, Detached or Attached 2,895

Units in Multiple-Family Structures:

Two to Four Units in Structure 1,691

Five or More Units in Structure 421

Mobile Homes and Other Housing Units 33

## Surrounding Towns Demographics



### Attractions

ATV trails, hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, moose tours, skiing, canoeing, kayaking

For comparison purposes, the average home value in NH is \$249,700. The median household income for NH is \$60,567. The following data is based on data collected in 2009.

### Randolph, NH

Population: 327

Median household income: \$61,362

Median home value: \$258,788

### Milan, NH

Population: 1,600

Median household income: \$50,135

Median home value: \$145,108

### Gorham, NH

Population: 2,848

Median household income: \$39,464

Median home value: \$112,809

### Shelburne, NH

Population: 372

Median household income: \$54,307

Median home value: \$199,703

*Picture Above: Randolph, NH is home to Ice Gulch, a ravine of boulders in which ice can be found even in the middle of the summer. As a result, plant and insect life in this small valley reflects ecosystems normally found at altitudes thousands of feet higher.*



### North Country Seminarian Interns

Each summer St. Barnabas welcomes an Intern from the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church in New York City. This intern becomes part of our family and works with and among us and other North Country churches on all aspects of Parish life. Our congregation looks forward to engaging this intern each year, and the overall program provides focus and energy towards our mission of being God's hands in the world.

The Internship is an 8-10 week program in the Diocese of New Hampshire that provides an immersion experience to help the seminarian gain knowledge in the practice of rural and small church ministry, while exposing the host parishes to the vigor, enthusiasm, curiosity, and imagination of seminary students. The goals of the internship fall into two broad categories:

- ◇ To learn more about the specific context of rural northern New Hampshire and what that context means for ministry in the small churches there.
- ◇ To gain skills and knowledge that will help the seminarian be prepared to work in a small church after graduation from seminary.

Interns meet one on one with the clergy of the North Country to hear about their particular context, the history of their parish, and the components of their community. Opportunities for the interns to reflect on those conversations and what they are learning happen throughout the summer. Each intern preaches weekly in a North Country parish, throughout the course of the internship. The seminarian is also a full participant in all worship planning at St. Barnabas, and participates in any other

## Wider Church Involvement Convocations and Missions



worship opportunities that arise (baptisms, funerals, graveside services, etc.)

The interns are invited and encouraged to participate in the full range of activities at St. Barnabas and other congregations – community suppers, Vestry meetings, adult formation, bible studies, etc., and are encouraged to reach beyond what they may already know and feel comfortable with. The purpose of this is both to help them gain experience with a population they may have less experience working with, and to reinforce the point that the church must be engaged in the world.

Meeting with a spiritual director is a vital component of the program that provides an opportunity for interns to reflect on their experiences. At the end of the summer, the seminarian writes a paper about the summer's work. The congregation of St. Barnabas has had the opportunity to read several of these papers. It is always intriguing and educational to see our community through the seminarian's eyes.

### Ecumenical Involvement

There is a small ecumenical group made up of clergy from the Episcopal, Catholic, Congregational, Lutheran, and Methodist denominations. The group used to be larger, but split up over the issue of Gay clergy. The current group holds a weekly bible study and a monthly business meeting for the overseeing of the local food pantry and the planning of joint services on Good Friday, Easter Sunday Sunrise, and Thanksgiving. Parishioners of St. Barnabas have also participated in the World Day of Prayer.

*Pictured above: Ordination of Richard Davenport, the current North Country Missioner.*



### North Country Missioner

St. Barnabas benefits from the services of a North Country Missioner. This position was originally held by the Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith of St. Barnabas, but was shifted to the Rev. Richard Davenport of St. Stephen's Church, Colebrook. While fulfilling the role as Rector of that congregation and working closely with the Rector of St. Barnabas, the Missioner's responsibilities also include Congregational Outreach initiatives such as:

- ◇ Assembling a council from North Country churches to discuss programs and services, and encourage clergy and lay leaders in their congregational development work in the North Country.
- ◇ Maintaining and drafting grants for and growing the Winter Hot Meals Program and maintaining contact with the NH Charitable Foundation.
- ◇ Assisting in the planning and execution of the North Country Internship Program.
- ◇ Working with the Canon for Congregational Life to raise major gifts for the benefit of North Country groups and individuals in significant financial need.

## Wider Church Involvement Convocations and Missions



### North Country Convocation

St. Barnabas is one of six parishes that make up the North Country Convocation (NCC) in the Diocese of New Hampshire. Other parishes include St. Stephens, Colebrook; St. Paul's, Lancaster; All Saints', Littleton; St. Luke's, Woodsville; Church of the Epiphany, Lisbon; and Church of the Messiah, North Woodstock.

The NCC meets several times a year at St. Paul's Lancaster. A representative of the Bishop's office is often present with updates and presentations, which impact the entire Diocese and also provides guidance in decisions which affect the North Country. St. Barnabas is represented by one clergy and three lay delegates, one of whom is a vestry member. This is an active group focused on sharing ideas, challenges, and successes, and most recently was challenged by the Bishop to begin the conversation of creative ways for congregations to cooperate and share resources. It brings us together in realizing that we are not alone in the challenges facing small rural congregations as well as the larger Church as a whole. This collaboration between the NCC and the Bishop's Office provides a link to information and communication and prepares delegates to make informed decisions on matters that come before the Convention. NC delegates attend the Annual Diocesan Convention in November as voting clergy and lay delegates.

One clergy and one lay representative from each of the six convocations, not members of the same parish, are chosen as members of the Diocesan Council. St. Barnabas presently has a lay deputy at General Convention.

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*Pictured above: Bishop Gene Robinson dedicates the church organ in 2010*



## Building

St. Barnabas Church was built of stone and mortar by Italian stone masons in 1928. With its gothic-style of architecture, it sits prominently on approximately half an acre on the corners of High St. and Main St. in Berlin, NH. The nave is 2,400 square feet with a seating capacity of 120. There is a small chapel at the front of the building which is used for weekday worship and Sunday morning bible study. On the opposite side is a small “quiet room” wired with sound and fronted with a large window for parents and young children to actively participate in the services when necessary. This room is also used for Sunday School by the Youth class. The Sacristy is to the right of the altar, adjoined by a large storage closet. The Nave is handicap-accessible via elevator from the undercroft which is accessed via the Main Street entrance.

The lower level, known as the undercroft, is made up of a 2,000 square-foot multi-purpose meeting space, 3 storage closets, 2 offices, a large “commercial” kitchen, two bathrooms, and a boiler room.

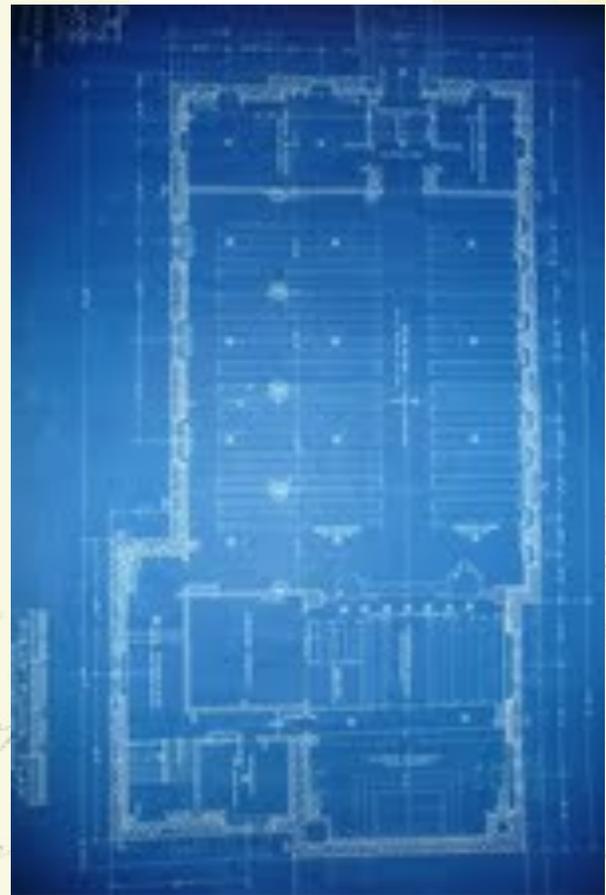
We have done a great deal of work to make our building useful as community space to various organizations, including an after-school program, 5 days a week. In 2009, we renovated the undercroft, moving the Rector’s and Seminarian’s offices into the space for convenient Main St. access. In 2010, with generous support of the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund and many local donors, we replaced the aging heating system with a pair of energy efficient System 2000 furnaces. In addition, we insulated the Undercroft and replaced the old windows with energy efficient ones. Even with rising fuel oil costs, we have seen savings from this work.

## Building



This fall, with funding from a UTO Grant and the Tillotson Foundation we are scheduled to insulate and replace the entire roof structure on the building, resulting in a substantial reduction in energy consumption.

The exterior of the church is surrounded on two sides by pedestrian sidewalks, and the west side of the building is landscaped with an open lawn area.



*Pictured above: The laying of the cornerstone in 1930*



### History

The first Episcopal Service in Berlin, NH was on June 6, 1888, the Feast of St. Barnabas. The first building, made entirely of wood, was a gift from Henry Hart Furbish, who built the first paper mills in town. He did much of the carpentry himself, including the altar, pulpit, and lectern that are still used today.

St. Barnabas has been home to rectors who made impressions on not only the Berlin community, but the Episcopal community. Dr. Ladd later became Dean of Berkely Divinity School. Another parish member went on to become Dean of St. John the Divine in New York.

Parishioners became interested in a new church. Work on the current stone church began in 1930, with the first service held in the undercroft at Christmas.

The week before Easter of 1957, the church suffered a fire, completely destroying the chancel. Services were still held in the sanctuary, and rebuilding began the next day. A teakwood cross, carved by Robert Hughes, became the focal point of the chancel. The apostles faces on it were modeled after members of the community. The same cross is there today.

The original organs, destroyed in the fire, were replaced by an electric one. Several years ago, parishioner Susan Ferre brought her own freestanding organ that now sits in the nave.

In more recent history, St. Barnabas has had many rectors, each serving for several years before retiring or taking up duties at another church.

## History



### Former Rectors

1950-68 Rev. John Schmalstieg  
 1968-72 Rev. David Stoddard III  
 1974-76 Rev. David Belden  
 1978-83 Rev. Elliott Gauffreau  
 1984-88 Rev. Joseph Trask  
 1990-99 Rev. Todd Hall with Rev. Ken Lindsay Assisting.  
 2000-01 Rev. Kenneth Lindsay  
 2001-08 Rev. Ellie McLaughlin  
 2008-13 Rev. Fran Gardner Smith

### Baptisms in recent years

2003: 5  
 2004: 1  
 2005: 7  
 2006: 1  
 2007: 2  
 2008: 0  
 2009: 3  
 2010: 1  
 2011: 4  
 2012: 2

*Pictured above: The original wooden church, built mostly by Henry Hart Furbish*

## Useful Resources for the North Country

[www.stbarnabasberlin.org](http://www.stbarnabasberlin.org)



City of Berlin, NH

[www.berlinnh.gov](http://www.berlinnh.gov)

Berlin Public Schools

[www.sau3.org](http://www.sau3.org)

Coos County

[www.cooscountynh.us](http://www.cooscountynh.us)

NH Division of Forests and Lands

[www.nhdf.org/events-tours-and-programs/](http://www.nhdf.org/events-tours-and-programs/)

Episcopal Diocese of NH

[www.nhepiscopal.org](http://www.nhepiscopal.org)

### Leadership

#### **Bishop of New Hampshire**

The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld

#### **Canon to the Ordinary & Deployment**

The Rev. Canon Hannah Anderson

#### **Staff of St. Barnabas**

*Interim Rector*, The Rev. Dr. Janet Lombardo

*North Country Missioner*, The Rev. Richard Dav-  
enport

*Lay Preacher*, Tim Brooks

*Senior Warden*: Cindy Morin

*Junior Warden*: Larry Jenkins

*Clerk & Financial Secretary*, Pamela Carrier

*Treasurer*, David Morin

*Vestry Class of 2013*: Andre Belanger and  
Beverly Higgins

*Vestry Class of 2014*: Leo Carrier and Guy  
Stever

*Vestry Class of 2015*: David Graham  
*Sexton*, Lynn Dion; *Junior Sexton*, Leah Dion

*Organist & Music Director*, Susan Ferrè

*Acolyte Master*, Betsy Hess

### Search Committee

*Search Consultant*: The Rev. Susan J. Buchanan, Christ Episcopal Church, North Conway

Yvonne Jenkins, *Chairperson*

Anne Dignard

Tim Dion

David Morin

Barbara Turnbull

Ben Mayerson