

# Carillon

## St Barnabas Episcopal Church

---

Our Mission: To Share the Love of Christ / Compartir el amor de Cristo

---

Borrego Springs, California

June 2005

Volume 8, No. 6

---

### *Reflections from the Desert*

---

## Life of Abundance

Nancy+'s current article describes our week long silent prayer also known as our annual retreat. Here I will offer a few thoughts which highlighted our next three days, of continuing education.

Earlier this year Jim/Jill Bennet introduced us to two of their visiting friends, a fascinating Episcopal couple who are also priests and Ph.D.s: Art/Judy Stevens. We were their guests at their home just south of Santa Barbara. Do you remember connecting instantly with someone whom you had just met? That was our case with Art+ and Judy+.

This year Art+ published a book entitled *Abundant Living for Christians: Making Decisions in Church Family*. On the back cover the author reminds us that human life is full of decisions which often generate great anxiety. He asks: how can they lead to fullness of life and further the promise of the Gospel? He calls his method of decision making Transformation through Cooperative Discernment (TCD). He is convinced that this method represents a seismic change in how people make choices. Jesus said: "I have come that they may have life, life in abun-

dance." (John 10:10b) The TCD method begins with Gospel principles for decision making, including:

- \* having faith that God loves everyone unconditionally and is present to help us;
- \* mutually honoring everyone directly involved;
- \* treating diversity as an invitation to cooperative community;
- \* handling conflict as a reminder to use a prayerful process; and
- \* discerning and pursuing shared hopes.

TCD honors God and human beings. It is hope-based, not fear-driven. It creates a positive common vision, mission, and priorities. It is intensely Christian.

With regard to life, I suspect that most of us - and

**Do you see life through  
a lense of scarcity?**

certainly speaking for myself! - were raised with an outlook, a mentality, a framework of fear and scarcity. Perhaps it was a defense mechanism that assumed that if things could go wrong, they probably would. We had to be protective of the little we owned. We were worried about losing our friends at school, our jobs at work, our health. Regardless of the topic, there would never be enough. We saw life through scarcity lenses.

*continued on page 7*

## Random Thoughts from our Retreat

It was indeed timely that we took our annual retreat; as we were nearing the end of it I got the call that my Dad had passed away. Fortunately, too, we were with dear priests/friends and after Alex let folks know at St. Barnabas, I felt your prayers and support prior to getting the e-mails and messages in all forms. Thank you, from me and my family.

Going on retreat, where we spent hours daily in silence, we were able to pray, evaluate and discover meaning in a deeper way than we could at home. Prayer time allows one to connect with the Divine within and to transcend our being. Our perspectives are chosen but in the silence of a retreat we each gained insights that helped to re-define some of the perspectives we held. Each day we took time to take walks but it was the path toward meaning that enriched us the most.

**“A retreat helps you to change the way you see things ... helping you to change the way you choose to live.**

When we are at home we tend to multi-task. Multitasking certainly accomplishes many things but it cannot aid you in “knowing.” Many of our experiences are reflections of our internal self because we see and do things through filters. A retreat helps you to change the way you see things thereby helping you to change the way you choose to live. That is one of the grace-filled moments, when you begin to see some of the unfolding of your life in a new way and it helps you to find and maintain balance.

Learning is the foundation for growth. By going on retreat, taking time to pray awhile, to listen and be still, brought home, in that silence, just how much we need to live in the present moment. If we don't learn the lesson of the moment we will not move on, we will not grow. There is a great need for “being present” to every situation, every person, every experience in order for this growth to take place. It takes a retreat, a “time out” to realize just how much we needed to slow down!

At the end of our retreat we had some days of on-going education. Our ten days away were well spent. We are grateful for the time spent away, and for our returning. To work on your interior life, to search for meaning in your vocation, is hard work. It is to wonder and reflect combined with the actions of doing and learning, questioning and practice. Our time away gave us an opportunity to integrate the various aspects that make up who we are and to align them, bring about integrity. It's good to be home! – Nancy+



# Gifts to the Community

Although many of our parishioners are in Borrego Springs only part of the year, members of St. Barnabas are sharing their time and talents for the community. How about you?

There are many gifts and many ways to share them. In the next year, the Carillon will highlight opportunities for you to share yourself with the parish community. Meanwhile, how many of the following parish members can you match with their community activities?

Can you match the parishioner to his/her community service?

- A. Richard & Ann White
- B. Alex Nagy+
- C. Fred Jee
- D. Joanie Cahill
- E. Nancy Nagy+
- F. Bob Mendenhall
- G. Nancy Bye
- H. Richard Bye
- I. Bob Cassidy
- J. Gary Haldeman
- K. John Richen
- L. Dudes Pelly, Kay Sharkey, Ann Nourse, Tootie Hatch

1. \_\_\_\_\_ serves on the School Board
2. \_\_\_\_\_ one of many who deliver Meals on Wheels
3. \_\_\_\_\_ secretary for the Youth and Senior Centers Board
4. \_\_\_\_\_ serves on the Civic Foundation
5. \_\_\_\_\_ president of the Performing Art Center Board
6. \_\_\_\_\_ just a few of our State Park Volunteers
7. \_\_\_\_\_ serves on the Borrego Medical Center Board
8. \_\_\_\_\_ former president of Children's Center Board
9. \_\_\_\_\_ serves on the ABDNHA Board
10. \_\_\_\_\_ serves on the Water Board
11. \_\_\_\_\_ serves on Rotary and Chamber of Commerce Boards
12. \_\_\_\_\_ president, Friends of the Library

**Editor's Note:** This quiz introduces a year-long series exploring our gifts: the ways in which we receive them, and the ways in which we are called to share them. We hope it will remind each of us to take time to appreciate what we have been given and to recognize God's gifts in each other.

Answers to Quiz:

1.J; 2.A; 3.G; 4.I; 5.C; 6.L; 7.E; 8.D; 9.K; 10.F; 11.B; 12.H

## *From the Altar Guild*

by Nancy Bye

# The Gifts of Summer

Summer is here even though it is only late May! It was 117 degrees downtown on Saturday. Our flowers are wilting very fast! For the single 8:30 a.m. service during the summer, flower duties will be shared among a faithful four. Tootie Hatch will bring flowers for the first and last Sundays of the month. Martha Mitchell, Kathleen Killman and I will fill in on the other weeks.

Usually we rely on natives, oleander, and bougainvillea, and we don't even cut them until about an hour before the service. To be sure, the look is often *au naturel* or *trés sauvage*. However, it is fun; the flora is beautiful, and they are a gift to God representing life on earth. This effort to lift our sights upward toward heaven during our worship is celebrated with great love.



Now that the Easter season is over, Kathleen will take all the white vestments to a spiffy and very careful cleaner in La Jolla. LLouise will hem and embroider crosses on some new credence cloths. Because our numbers are reduced, Kathleen, LLouise and I take turns at setting up and cleaning up. Now it is very quiet and we are content to go about our chores in good cheer and solitude. Come October, however, be assured we will welcome the return of our loyal sister altar guild members. Meanwhile, *vaya con Dios*.

## *The People's Corner*

by John Drum, *The People's Warden*

# The Nave

If you have traveled extensively and attended church in various parts of the country or the world, you will have experienced the warmth of any Anglican church as soon as you enter the Nave.

Three very significant things tell you immediately that you are "home."

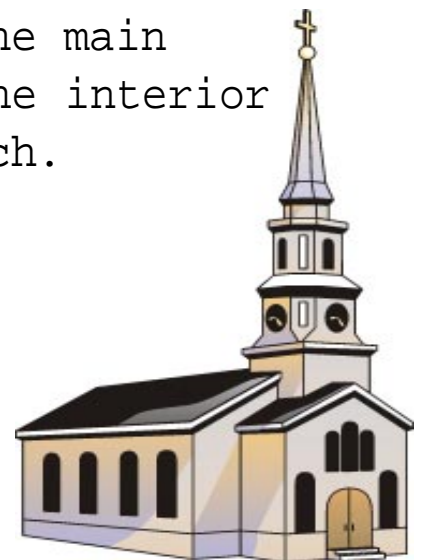
In the pew is a Prayer Book. This document, with revisions, dates to the year 1549 and is the cornerstone of the Anglican community.

Second, there are kneeling benches or pillows for prayer and meditation.

Of most importance is the Altar Rail. All people are welcome and equal here. Young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor, visitor and regular. When we are at the altar rail differences in social, political, and philosophical ideas all fade away as we partake of the sacrament.

As dessert we also have Greeters, Music, Sermons and additional parts of the ritual. Aren't we fortunate.

**nave** *n*: the main part of the interior of a church.



## ***Vestry Report***

*by Nancy Bye, Clerk to the Vestry*

# **April and May 2005**

The timing of our Carillon deadlines was just right this month to bring you up to speed on the vestry meetings the last two months. We'll just run through it in inverse order. The May 23rd meeting was our last to include our dear snowbirds. John Drum, Judy Settle and now Bonnie Walker and Addis are off to cooler climes until fall.

Alex+ has been very dogged about the financial reports and has now cut a new agreement with our accounting firm and has selected a new treasurer. You'll hear all about this after our next meeting, for we expect them both to sit in with us on June 27. Our heartfelt thanks to Bonnie Walker for her very responsible and helpful step up last winter to fill the position of interim treasurer.

Toward the end of the meeting Alex+ suggested that we consider some better way of handling weddings, christenings and other events using our facilities, but outside of our own schedule. Events that might require cleaning, hospitality, arrangement of chairs and tables, receiving food from vendors—and other things outside of the altar guild's purview. Mary Levine volunteered to oversee such events.

There ensued a somewhat spirited debate about the celebration of death itself—that of ourselves (parishioners all) in particular. We agreed that, in general, memorial services/funerals are for the solace and uplifting of the living. On the other hand, some of us feel the need to direct things from the grave. Personally, I would certainly hope for no rendition of "Amazing Grace", neither sunflowers nor gladioli. Others have favorite prayers, hymns, psalms, and scripture. Addis will send us a form used in his church in Lincoln to help guide family, friends and clergy, and you will hear more of this as we develop directions for St. Barnabas! Many live half our lives in other places; many are without kith and kin. But we

want our souls lifted upward in a happy, peaceful way. Your suggestions are welcomed. Help us!

The April meeting dealt with many "housekeeping matters": fixing the malfunctioning swamp cooler at the rectory, installing fans in the church (cool, silent, angel wings— just what we wanted!), and the now almost eternal discussion of repairing/resurfacing the parking lot. We reviewed the bishop's time spent with us, and our gratitude for his real interest and concern about who we are and what we are trying to accomplish. His check for \$100 (from his family's personal tithe) will go into our supplemental outreach fund. Next year we will look forward to celebrating the Eucharist and his being among us at one service.

Kathleen continues to report good news about her stewardship drive—78% of goal in April and 81% in May. Plate offerings exceed our prayers!

## **Mark Your Calendar**

### **JUNE**

- Wed. 15th      Men of St. Barnabas meet at the home of Richard White
- Wed. 25th      Sarah's Circle meet at the home of Mary Levine.

***Sunday Service***

***8:30am only***

***May through October***

# *Episcopal Life* Celebrates 15 Years of Existence

“Break out the sodas, pretzels and...balloons!” Those are the editor’s words in the lead article in April’s issue of *Episcopal Life*, the national publication of the Episcopal Church.

Why the celebration?

*Episcopal Life*, a 32-page tabloid newspaper, was 15 years old, this April. When it was founded in 1990, it was charged with the purpose of “strengthen[ing] the faith” via balanced reporting of events within the Episcopal community. It has proved a steady success doing precisely that since that auspicious founding day. Its success is measured by its circulation, which keeps rising. It has won numerous awards for the excellence of its writing and format.

If you’ve read the latest *Episcopal Life* or seen a copy at any time in the past, you will not be surprised at its varied content, its wide range of opinion, or its journalistic excellence. One thing it is not, and that is a narrow-gauge publication, focused on itself and its parochial concerns.

Sure, it was founded by members of the Episcopal Church, to replace the failing *The Episcopalian*, and is authorized by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church. And, sure, it was founded on the vision that a new national publication was needed “to strengthen the faith of Episcopalians and offer encouragement to those who wanted to know more about [the Church].”

**“...the high quality of its writing, the choice of topics covered...and the very readable format, a mix of words and pictures.”**

But it has taken an independent editorial tack from its founding. That was its intention and, in that, it was fully supported by the General Convention. Since April of 1990, it has demonstrated that independence in the range of its reports on important issues, especially controversial ones. That sense of independence has allowed it to be unfailingly balanced and objective.

Of course, its principal concern is the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion in general, and it covers happenings within that context. But its concerns are broad and its approach critical in the best journalistic sense. What has always helped, from the beginning, is the high quality of its writing, the choice of topics covered in each issue and the very readable format, a mix of words and pictures.

Some examples of topics covered include: people in the news, including a monthly column by the president bishop; the Episcopal connection in Haiti, same-gender blessings and the ordination of bishops; Anglican women and the UN Commission on the Status of Women; the sharing of basic values for nations and religions; reflections by readers and founders on the first 15 years of *Episcopal Life*; efforts by Episcopal Churches to promote interfaith and interracial harmony within their communities; ministry and mission in Myanmar; book and movie reviews; classified ads; letters to the editor.

For the record, *Episcopal Life*’s circulation is 285,000. It has published 155 issues since April, 1990. It has won a total of 191 writing and design awards during the 15 years of its existence. An Associated Church Press award for 2003 read in part: “*Episcopal Life* honors the craft of writing and the diligence of good reporting in a solid mix of news, features and opinion...”

**by Victor Levine**



*Reflections continued from page 1*

How different this was from what Jesus taught about what God has in store for us! If we begin by remembering and then focusing on the lavish gifts with which God continues to bless us: life itself, how uniquely God created us with our very own talents and opportunities in which to develop those aptitudes in the service of everyone and finally people: those who in God's infinite wisdom were just the right ones for us: family, friends and those with whom we share ourselves most intimately.

According to this way of looking at reality, a hope-based, God-centered starting point, there will always be enough. In fact, there will be abundance. God is not, because God cannot be, stingy. There will always be grace enough, love enough, faith enough, hope enough. The irony is that the more we share, give away, do without, the more we experience. In the Gospel (old English for Good News) Jesus invites us to follow Him to God. The Spirit of Jesus will lead us into the fullness of truth. What better time than the summer to think and grow in God's promise that Jesus came that we might have life, life in abundance.

Thank you for the time of our annual week of prayer and study. Thank you Bart/Tony for your hospitality for our retreat; thank you Jim/Jill for introducing us to your friends; thank you Art+/Judy+ for reminding us of our God of abundance.

Sincerely,  
Alex+/Nancy+

**“There will always be  
grace enough, love  
enough, faith enough,  
hope enough.”**

***To Cal and Trent on their 25th***

*Marriage is what lasts  
becomes permanent*

*Call it by other names  
The word is mere reference:*

*metaphor pointing  
toward an objective*

*instance  
of the tie between*

*two adults who continue  
consenting throughout*

*their mortal lives  
and perhaps ever after*

*when memory survives  
and events*

*possess half-lives  
which is immortality*

*or whatever one calls  
divine presence*

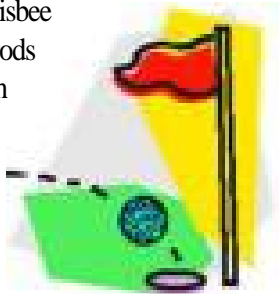
©valevine 2005



# Congratulations!

to Frisbee Killman on his HOLE in ONE!!

Hit on May 31st with his new club, a #9 wood, Frisbee claimed, "the golf gods were with me..." In addition to feeling great, Frisbee won \$52 and helped his foursome earn second place in the tournament.



## Fellowship, Education & Support

**Men of St. Barnabas** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm. All men of the parish and their guests are invited.

**Women of St. Barnabas** meets the first Wednesday of each month at noon. All women of the parish and their guests are invited.

**Sarah's Circle** meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6pm for a potluck and fellowship. All women of the parish and guests are invited.

**Cursillo** meets Monday morning in the parish room at 8am.

**Alanon** gathers in the parish room every Saturday at 8am.

## St. Barnabas Carillon

### Editing, & Design:

Joanie S. Cahill  
sealion@cabusa.com  
760-791-4553

### Production:

Lynn Wilderson, Bob Cassidy, Victor and Mary Levine,

### Newsletter Committee:

Nancy Bye, Victor Levine, Lynn Wilderson, Alex and Nancy Nagy+ ; photographer Faye Dorsey

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church  
2680 Country Club Road  
P.O. Box 691  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004-0691

Church Office: 760-767-4038

Rectory: 760-767-3620

Alex's email: [nagya@cabusa.com](mailto:nagya@cabusa.com)

Nancy's email: [nagyn@cabusa.com](mailto:nagyn@cabusa.com)

Website: <http://www.stbarnabasborrego.org>