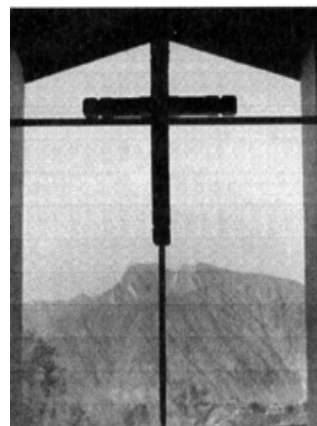


Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

March 2006

Volume 9, No.3

Reflections from the Desert

Our Lenten Journeys

In seminary I found the history of liturgics (how we pray as a community of faith) quite enlightening. For example, while today we in the West emphasize Christmas; the East celebrates the Epiphany as the more important event in the early life of Jesus. In fact, during the first centuries neither was considered to be very important.

It may surprise us to learn that the Passion/Death/Resurrection of Jesus was (and still is) the core event of Christian belief. What we today refer to as the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil) was the principal feast for the first followers of Jesus. It was only with time that these three holiest of all days had a 40 week day preparation which we call Lent.

This year, the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, fell on March 1st. I used the past tense since we distribute the March *Carillon* on March 5th, which is already the First Sunday in Lent. Since the number 40 has special significance for the Jewish people, our ancestors in faith, every year Lent begins on a Wednesday. Those skilled in math would say that there are

more than 40 days between March 1st and April 16th (the date of Easter this year). Of course they are correct. However, since every Sunday is a little Easter, Sundays in Lent are not part of the number 40.

How can we best use this time of preparation for Easter? By remembering the love of Jesus for everyone which his death signified. As children we were taught the He died for our salvation. While this remains true, there are other ways in which we can understand his life. Jesus came to show us how to live with God and with each other. He showed us how to live: in intimate relationship with God and as a direct consequence, to champion for the dignity of every human being. Jesus spoke against the religious oppressors of his day. He spoke on behalf of the rights of the dispossessed; he cured the sick in body and in spirit. He offered people hope, a new way of relating to God - not in fear but in intimacy and awe.

**Jesus came to show us
how to live with God and
with each other.**

Lent is the ideal time for us to examine our attitudes and patterns of speech and action. On whose be

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St. Barnabas' Annual Meeting,

Having one service on February 12th brought us closer together. There were 75 attending, Martha Mitchell's lovely memorial bouquet graced the niche, and the music was joyful and strong. Following the Holy Eucharist, in his most dazzling CEO manner, Alex+ whipped us through a ten-item annual meeting agenda in twenty-seven minutes. Nothing was given short shrift—simply well planned. Acknowledgments for service, elections, reports, updates, all were carefully covered. The meeting ended with a blessing for our to-follow brunch in the courtyard.

As is his wont, God smiled on us and the day was lovely and warm, calm and sunny. Pretty round cov-



ered tables were decorated with bright Mexican paper flowers, napkins and cutlery were bound in sparkly red heart twists. Once again, our "Fearsome Festival Five" plus five prevailed! Scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, potatoes, biscuits and gravy, and fresh fruit were served with coffee, iced tea, mimosas, and homemade cookies and brownies. Piano and violin music of Msrs. Otis and Salt soothed our souls. Organizers Bye and Killman were disappointed that donations did not cover expenses (the anticipated \$10 from each participant would have taken care of it all, with change) but next year we'll know enough to just ask. Thank you all for a good morning!

-Nancy Bye



*Enjoying the festive brunch,,
Clockwise from upper left:
Richard and Ann White;
_____ ; Jim and Jill Bennett;
_____ ; Kitty _____ : _____;
_____ ; Louise Burmester;
Kathleen Killman; Joanne
_____ ; Jean Smith; Irene Foster.*

Bishop to Visit March 12th

Our Bishop's annual visit is a joyous occasion for bishop and congregation alike. On Sunday, March 12th, at 9:30 am Bishop Jim Mathes will preside, preach and confirm Brad and Ann Marie Tidwell and Victor Levine from our parish and 12 candidates from St. Margaret's in Palm Desert. (Their rector, the Rev. Robert Certain, will concelebrate the Holy Eucharist with us.)

In the Episcopal (a Greek derivative for "bishop") church, the bishop symbolizes the unity among Episcopalians in a diocese. The ministry of the bishop is to assist congregations and their clergy to focus on their mission and on how they can better carry it out.

St. Barnabas has as our mission: "To share the love of Christ/Compartir el amor de Cristo."

The bishop will lead us in prayer, confirm, preach and meet with us and then with the vestry to focus on the mission we have articulated for ourselves and how we are living it out.

During the festive coffee hour following our prayer, the bishop will be available for questions and interaction. If you have family or friends who have not yet met our new bishop, please do invite them.

Since there are so many visitors for that service, Alex+ will preside/preach at the 7am service at which the bishop will not be present.

Catechism of Creation – An Episcopal Understanding

The central point of the Episcopal Church's 2005 document, *A Catechism of Creation*, is that the conflict between religion and science is a non-issue unless one reads the Bible literally.

There is no conflict as long as one accepts the fact the universe is very old, on the order of 14 billion years, and that the common ancestor to all primates, including modern humans, lived 7 million years ago.

Contrast that with the literal reading of Creation that the world and all the creatures in it were God-made within human memory and in the literal span of six days.

Scholarly research in a wide range of fields has undermined that approach as we've moved into the 21st century. The research has been in a wide range of fields, all of which support a verifiable scientific explanation of how the universe was formed and how we came to be.

The position of the Ecumenical Council of the United States of America? (ECUSA) is that there need be no conflict between scientific and Biblical studies because 1) the *ultimate* mover is always the familiar God figure that bestrides the world of most major religions and 2) the science of Evolution works independently of religious faith.

The difficulty, as *Catechism* sees it, is that literalist churches have tended to take the Biblical narrative as historical truth. They aren't interested in scholarly research, including Darwin's *Origin of the Species* (1869) which offered the first systematic evidence of the evolution of living things, from simple to complex.

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Vestry Report

by Nancy Bye

New Vestry Gathers to Plan

On February 28th your Vestry gathered for an all-day, new vestry planning meeting in the board room at De Anza Country Club. Alex+ opened the meeting with excerpts from the *Service for Morning Prayer*. He introduced the new Rector's Warden, Ann White, who will fulfill Richard Mills term. In classic "human resource development" style we were "broken into small groups" (in this case, pairs) to facilitate learning about each other and then sharing those insights with the group.

- ◆ What do you find most rewarding about our church?
- ◆ What are the greatest challenges facing us in the next 5 years?
- ◆ What are the greatest opportunities?
- ◆ What is God's plan for St. Barnabas?

These four questions provided the framework for a long hard look at St. Barnabas today and tomorrow, and raised issues of the meaning of our church in the social and spiritual lives of parishioners, our strengths and place in the community and the diocese, and our best discovery and use of the time, talent and treasure so abundant in our midst.

Responsibilities always change with incoming vestry members; this group eagerly stepped up to fulfill necessary work and monitoring of resources, as well as creating new services. Bill Walker becomes our Peoples' Warden. John Drum continues on the finance committee and will serve as our ombudsman or critic (both positive and negative!). Addis Ward will form an aggressive committee to inform and guide the vestry on capital improvements and prioritize their budgeting and scheduling. L.Louise Jee will once again shoulder (with help) the care of our buildings and grounds and Mary Levine will continue as liaison with the worship committee. Kathleen

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The People's Corner

by John Drum, *The People's Warden*

Retiring Thoughts

My term as *The People's Warden* is about to expire, and with it this series of thoughts entitled *The Peoples' Corner*.

My sincere thanks and appreciation to Alex and the Vestry for naming me to this important position at St. Barnabas. This position was formally known and the "Junior Warden" whose principle duties were the preservation and maintenance of the physical plant (sometimes referred to as Chief Janitor.)

Now, the People's Warden's duties are quite different in that he or she becomes the sounding board for the congregation. Whether it be complaint or praise, the Warden is there to receive the thoughts of the parishioners and to do something to implement or eliminate those thoughts.

By creating *the Peoples' Corner* this year, I have tried to emphasize the strengths and traditions of our church. During these times of controversy and strife throughout the Episcopal Church family, it is very easy to lose sight of the many positives that make our faith so strong and everlasting. Many of your comments have been rewarding and appreciated by me and others who have benefited from your thoughts.

As long as we have the Laying On of Hands, the Prayer Book, the Altar Rail, the Kneeling Benches, and inspirational leadership, St. Barnabas and the Episcopal Church will grow and prosper and be a source of good will in the community.



Excerpt from Episcopal News Service, Feb. 6th

Mission Mississippi's Camp Coast Care

relentless in relief and recovery

By Pat McCaughan

[ENS, GULF COAST, Mississippi] Camp Coast Care feels somewhere between church camp and the TV series MASH, and even for an extrovert like the Rev. Joe Robinson, site director, the combination can sometimes be overwhelming.

"Who just arrived today?" Robinson calls out to some 100-plus volunteers assembled on the Coast Episcopal School gymnasium bleachers for 6 p.m. Evening Prayer and the next day's work assignments. "Well, we saved some work for you! Where are you from?"

Answers vary: Tulsa, Oklahoma; Stanton, Virginia; Loudon, Tennessee; Heath, Texas; Laguna Beach, California; and, enough cities in Alabama-Prattville, Montgomery, Anniston-to prompt a follow-up: "Is anybody left in Alabama?"

Next question up: "Who leaves today?" After the hands go up and appreciative applause rings out, Robinson instructs: "Our only expectation is you send us all your friends and all their money."

The daily ritual includes prayer, a review of the rules, and a reminder of purpose. "This is not about you or me but about the people you come to help and serve," Robinson tells the gathering.

"No one here complains about the color of the rug in the chancel or the misspelled words in the bulletin," he says. "The focus here is on the actual work of the church, about bringing God's presence to the lives of others through our labor, our time, our energy. This is what church was supposed to be about in the first place. Lives get changed while doing this work. Some will be yours."

Important, Holy, Shared by All

Volunteer doctors and nurses, a pharmacist and mental health counselor occupy a blue and white tent, pitched near the gymnasium on the grounds of the Long Beach school. The clinic, which has seen 20,000 patients since it opened, within weeks of the hurricane, is sandwiched between tents that house the 'Katrina Boutique' where donated clothing is sorted and distributed, and a tool shed where chain saws, wheelbarrows, ladders, axes and a host of other tools stored have been used in clean up, recovery and repair of more than 700 cracked and shredded homes to date.

Approximately 182,000 hurricane survivors have been served by the camp, a joint ministry of Lutheran/Episcopal Services of Mississippi. Shortly after Katrina struck August 29, the camp was organized, using tents, recreational vehicles, trailers and the school gymnasium as a combination volunteer sleeping area and cafeteria. It continues to serve as a distribution center for food and clothing, and cleaning and personal hygiene products, the clinic and a base for the work crews.

All with a permanent staff of eight and a total of 3,000 volunteers thus far, from a variety of faiths and denominations even "including a Confucionist," and some from as far away as South Africa, Russia, and Bermuda, who arrive and leave daily, Robinson says.

"All work here is important. All work here is holy. All work here is shared by all of us," Robinson tells the group regularly. It takes 35-40 volunteers to staff the camp, in addition to work crews. The camp can accommodate up to 200 volunteers a day at an operational cost of \$20 per volunteer.

But, five months later, the recovery work is massive and ongoing, Robinson acknowledges. Salvage and repair work has yet to begin on some homes; many people have not returned. Officials list the death toll at more than 1,300 lives and damages in the billions of dollars on the Gulf Coast. According to the Red Cross, Katrina destroyed 68,729 houses and

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Our Letter to Pass Christian

Dear Father Christopher and the faith community called Trinity Parish:

It is with great joy that we at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church continue to “Stand by You.” Since Katrina struck, you have been in our prayers and love. Four of our parishioners visited you in person. We have 8 x 10 pictures in the parish hall of their visit to you. We gladly shared our homemade Advent calendars and Christmas cards.

At this time we are sending you a check for \$3,172.20 for your immediate needs. We are convinced that y’all know better than we how you can best use the money.

This money represents our entire collection from our two services on Sunday, December 18, 2005 as well as the free will offering that afternoon during Lessons and Carols. The Women of St. Barnabas also sponsored a baked goods/crafts sale for our local community of Borrego Springs. Finally, the Altar Guild also added their contribution.

As we begin the season of Lent, we ask your prayers for us - as we also remember you in our prayers - that we may continue to deepen our walk with Jesus and recognize Him in everyone.

Sincerely,
The Revs. Dr. Alex and Nancy Nagy, priests at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Borrego Springs CA.

PS Before anyone asks, “Where in the world is Borrego Springs?” We’ll give you a hint by saying it is in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego CA.

Wonderful Website

Have you been to our website lately? Thanks to volunteer Pat McArron, St. Barnabas has a gorgeous website that also functions beautifully! Visit the site at www.stbarnabasborrego.com. Right away, you’re given these choices: Parish; Retreat Center; Labyrinth; Staff; Galleries; Carillon; Links; Map; and Calendar. There’s also a large photo of the church and a smaller rendering of St. Barnabas.

One of my favorite sections is the one called LINKS. Here you’ll find links to a variety of sites including: Episcopal Community Services; Episcopal Church USA; and the Worldwide Anglican Communion. There are also links to the Book of Common Prayer, the Lectionary, and information about St. Barnabas. Under the calendar section, there is even a “pop-up” on Sundays that tells visitors what time services are held.

Designer Pat McArron is a part-time resident of Borrego who moved here after 33 years of service with the US. Postal Service. He is now in business for himself as a website designer/ manager and a communications consultant. Pat has been designing websites for over twenty years and his experience shows in the simple, clear, yet striking design and easy function of the St. Barnabas website.

I asked Pat how he came to volunteer for St. Barnabas and it turns out he and Alex+ and Nancy+ all share a friend in San Antonio, Texas, who told Pat to be sure and contact them when he was in Borrego. Pat says, “If I have the time, the interest in the cause and the ability to contribute in some way then I volunteer my services. I guess you might say I am a volunteer at heart.”

Our parish is very fortunate to have volunteers like Pat who are sharing their gifts with the community. If you have a gift that you are “hiding under a bushel”, contact Alex+ and see how it can be put to use at St. Barnabas.

Creation continued from page 3

Creationism, as the literalist position, once stood alone but now has been joined by ID, or Intelligent Design. ID tends to be a more sophisticated explanation of how the world came about, though it insists that an Intelligent Designer was responsible for the creation.

ID's explicit argument is that humans and other animals are so complex that chance, as in Evolution, could never account for their creation or development. The same is implicit in Creationism.

The difficulty is that neither can be verified, except as statements of faith. Both fail to present scientific evidence (no artifacts=no verification). The evidence to support any theory of creation has to provide a coherent explanation which can be tested and verified.

Catechism argues that it is a disservice to confuse faith and science. They are separate endeavors and do not rely on one another for validation. That is the essential point. Science offers a comprehensive vision of the world and universe as they are, based on verifiable data.

Religion, as defined by ECUSA, relies on faith, the Bible and early Church fathers, as well as on mindful studies of issues central to the spiritual lives of its adherents. It acknowledges the validity of science, as in Evolution, but maintains its own integrity in asserting that the ultimate spiritual truth is that God exists and is the Author of Creation and its continuation.

There is no conflict, *Catechism* suggests. Faith-based narratives are complete in themselves. They don't require scientific validation. Why should they? Faith is not science. Accepting that as fact may require adjustment. But is there a reasonable alternative?

For more information

**A Catechism of Creation: An Episcopal Understanding:*
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/19021_58393_ENG_HTML.htm?menupage=58392

Reflections continued from page 1

half do we speak? For whose rights do we struggle? How eager are we as a parish to serve the needs of those in greatest need in Borrego?

We invite you to write out one thing which will serve as a daily reminder of what you will do this Lent to better pattern your life after that of Jesus.

Sincerely,
Alex+/Nancy+

Vestry continued from page 4

Killman's role as Stewardship Chair is a work in progress, so we should all be prepared to uncap our pens! Nancy Bye will press on with the Gifts, Endowments and Memorials work and also handle publicity. Jill Bennett strongly believes in the value of a pastoral care committee, as do we all, and she will chair and launch this new program. While neither is a current member of the vestry, Shirley Vialpando will serve as our Clerk, and Treasurer Margaret Orenyak will be liaison with Smith Barney.

This will be a very strong, visible, active vestry. We will each direct our own projects and share all the others. We will all work on welcoming newcomers, all be aware of opportunities for outreach, and all preserve and protect our lovely church. We will be asking for your advice and consent as well as your involvement. Go with God!

Mission Mississippi continued from page 5

apartments in Mississippi and another 65,237 suffered major damage and an estimated 100,318 had minor damage.

The difficult part, says Robinson, is figuring out the next steps. "There are no models for anything of this magnitude," he said. "But the good news is God and God's people are being served here.

"We need as much as possible for bishops and clergy and laity from across the country to come and see the needs and the response," he added. "They will be better ambassadors as a result. The best witness is witness. Nobody leaves here unchanged."

Mark Your Calendar

March

- 1st Ash Wednesday**
12pm Women of St. Barnabas meet at Irene Foster's home.
4pm Holy Eucharist with ashes
- 12th 9:30am** Bishop Jim Mathes' annual visit
- 15th 6pm** Sarah's Circle
6pm Men's Group at John Visser's home

Lenten Challenge:

Choose one thing you will do to better pattern your life after Jesus. Write it out and put it somewhere to remind you daily of your commitment.

Remember to
pray for the
people of Pass Christian,
Mississippi.

St. Barnabas Carillon

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