

# Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

June 2006

Volume 9, No.6

## ***Reflections from the Desert***

### **A Special Ministry**

Nancy+ and I spent the first week of May in silence and in prayer. It was our annual retreat at friends' retreat center, located on their ranch north of Paso Robles. Because it is remotely located, the silence was even more pronounced than in Borrego. And even though mail was delivered daily to their house, their mail box was physically located a half a mile from the house.

In reviewing our first five years of ministry with/ among you, and planning the next five to 10 years, it became obvious to us that we should begin to prepare ourselves now for a major change in membership. Each parish is unique. Two basic characteristics of our uniqueness is our average age of almost 70 and our great mobility. Our youngest girl and our youngest boy are in their mid 40s; there are nine parishioners in their 90s. More than half of our congregation does not live in Borrego 100% of the time; those who do, travel often. How do we turn these facts into assets and a specialization in ministry?

The starting point for ministry should be who we are and to whom are we being called. First, think

about who we are as a parish - age, experience, strengths and both physical/spiritual needs. Secondly, consider our calling in response to God's grace to minister to those who live in Borrego Springs and beyond. After you reflect on these points, what would you be willing to share and to discuss?

Some of you may recall the Rev. John Sanestil, a visiting Methodist pastor, to whose presentation and book signing Borregoans were recently invited. I read *Mrs. Hunter's Happy Death* during retreat and asked myself how we could use the ideas in his book for the special ministry to which I think God is calling our parish as a focus.

Whoever is conceived, will die. Death for a Christian is not the end but the completion of our earthly pilgrimage. As people of faith we see beyond death to the fullness of life. We don't fear death. We prepare for it. It is the final transition from life to life. As a parish, could we do better in sharing our faith as we prepare for death? Nancy+ and I think so.

**“We don't fear death.  
We prepare for it.”**

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## Patience, and a Long, Bumpy Road

Women who have responded to God's call to the ordained ministry have brought a wealth of experience and involvement to the local church. The main visible change was their leadership style with emphasis on shared involvement and mutual journeying. They challenged the traditional sources of religious authority and thereby expanded the understanding of religious life; they continue to change the style of clergy leadership today. It wasn't easy getting here from there; the road was filled with heartaches and disappointments, year after year.

As early as **352** the Council of Laodicea stated that Women were forbidden from the priesthood. In **398** the Fourth Synod of Carthage stated: "A woman, however learned and holy, may not presume to teach men in an assembly." In **451** Council of Chalcedon states: "No woman under 40 years of age is to be ordained a deacon, and then only after close scrutiny." Apparently, the council wanted to start restricting the ordination of deaconesses, which had been a common practice at the time.

In the US it was the Congregationalist Church, who first ordained a woman in **1853**. The Episcopal Church began in **1862** when Bishops of Alabama and New York ordained women as deaconesses, followed by England's Anglican Church in **1885-1887**, restoring the Ancient order of deaconesses to Anglicanism. From then on it was a **long and bumpy road**.

In 1920 Lambeth Conference (the regular meeting of all Anglican Bishops held every ten years) resolved that "ordination of a deaconess confers on her holy orders." In 1930, Lambeth Conference withdraws the assertion that deaconesses are in holy orders. In **1935** a report of a commission on the ministry of women, appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, found no compelling theo-

logical reasons for or against the ordination of women, but it affirmed the male priesthood "for the Church today."

Years of commissions and studies followed, both here and around the Anglican Communion. In **1973** our General Convention voted against women in the priesthood, and the following year **1974** eleven women were ordained irregularly in Philadelphia and in **1975** four more women were ordained irregularly in Washington, D.C.

Finally, in **1976**, women were declared to be eligible for priesthood and the episcopacy by General Convention. A rash of ordinations quickly followed and the women who were ordained in Philadelphia and Washington were accepted as "regularly ordained" effective January 1, **1977**. In **2006**, General Convention will commemorate the anniversary of Women's Ordination through a special Episcopal Women's History Project.

**"In 2006, General Convention will commemorate the anniversary of Women's Ordination..."**

The growth of women's ordained ministry has been among the most remarkable and significant development in the recent history of our Church, yet many still experience opposition and resistance to their ministries and desire for ordination. Let us keep all these women in our prayers.

Nancy+



# The Sin of Racism: A Call to Covenant

## A Pastoral Letter from the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church

March 2006

Episcopal News Service

**Editor's Note:** *This is the second half of the Bishops' letter. Part one was printed in the May 06 Carillon.*

The world has witnessed the evil of institutionalized racism and classism in the United States in the aftermath of the hurricanes of 2005. The poor and persons of color were often served last — or not at all — while wealthy and privileged residents had greater resources to escape the immediate danger of the hurricanes and begin the process of rebuilding. We are all shamed by the sin of racism in the reality of inequity in housing, employment, educational and healthcare opportunities, and the disaster response.

This House of Bishops, meeting in Hendersonville, North Carolina on 21 March 2006, which is the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, commit ourselves as bishops to discern and confess our own prejudice and complicity in the pervasive sin of racism, to confront it, and make amends for it in intentional ways every time we gather as a House. We ask the Holy Spirit to empower the House to fully live into this covenant, and we invite the members of this Church to covenant with us, in the following actions personally, corporately, and globally. With God's help, we will:

- ◆ renew our commitment to the 1994 pastoral letter, "The Sin of Racism"; take responsibility to expose, dismantle and heal those situations of injustice based on racism;
- ◆ seek forgiveness for our lack of charity and consciousness in recognizing those situations which degrade the image of God in our neighbors;

- ◆ make amends for our undeserved position and benefit as a result of unjust situations both now and in the past;
- ◆ empower all members of God's human family, that they may live into the fullness of what God intends;
- ◆ encourage the larger church to continue and expand its work of education, spiritual formation, and anti-racism training, that all might discover the riches of God's diverse creation, especially in those who differ from us;
- ◆ advocate for the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals by the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, our respective dioceses, the parishes which comprise them, and our governments, as well as our own households, that God's desire may become increasingly evident for all of humanity;
- ◆ recruit and empower people of all races and ethnic origins as leaders in our church, and as members of all boards, agencies, commissions, and committees;
- ◆ dedicate equitable resources for all races and national origins in the funding of theological education for all ministries, lay and ordained;
- ◆ advocate for continued response to the sinful legacy of slavery; expose situations of environmental racism and classism which poison and threaten the poorest among us, and seek justice for those communities; and
- ◆ advocate for compassionate care of the stranger in our midst, and demand just immigration policies.

**"With God's help, we will...  
advocate for compassionate  
care of the stranger in our  
midst..."**

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# General Convention, 2006: June 13-21

by Victor Levine

The 75<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church will meet in Columbus in June of this year.

The Convention will be composed of nine hundred clergy and lay representatives elected by each of the Episcopal Church's one hundred, ten dioceses. Each diocese sends eight deputies, four clergy and four lay persons.

The General Convention is the Episcopal Church's chief legislative body (established in 1785). Its mandate during the eight days is to encourage deputies to reflect on four major thematic areas: *Growth in Spirit, Growth in Love, Growth in Hope, Growth in all ways into Christ.*

The first order of the Convention is to elect the Church's next presiding bishop. The president-elect will succeed current Presiding Bishop Frank Griswold whose 9<sup>th</sup> year term expires November 1, 2006.

The presiding bishop serves as chief pastor and primate of the Church and is responsible for formulating Church policy and carrying out Church decisions and programs authorized by the General Convention. He also presides at the meetings of the House of Bishops.

The General Convention will, in addition, elect a secretary and treasurer of the Convention and members of other Church-related boards, such as the Church Pension Fund and the General Theological Seminary.

A particularly difficult task will involve debating eleven resolutions whose purpose is to encourage deputies to respond with recommendations that will enhance "the further unfolding of our common life together in the Anglican Communion."

The reference to "our common life together" grows out of the issues covered by the Windsor Report which chastised the Episcopal Church (and Canadian Anglican Church) for breaching the bonds of affection which bind the 38 Anglican provinces into one by, in effect, treating gays and lesbians as persons entitled to enjoy all the rites of the Anglican Communion. Those included ordination as well as the blessing of same-gender unions.

The deputies will be walking a tight-rope on that issue and there will be according, to Bishop John Pater-son, chair of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), much debate on those resolutions and the debate will be rigorous. The ACC was the body that took the step, by a margin of two votes, of recom-mending that the Episcopal Church (and Canadian Anglican Church) remove itself from full participa-tion in the affairs of the Anglican Communion.

The issue of ordination of gays and lesbians is remi-niscent of the battle to ordain women which raged for several years within the Episcopal Church, though it was resolved amicably in the General Convention of 1976 when full rights were extended to women.

For more, see Episcopal Life for April and May, 2006 or check their web-site:

<http://www.episcopal-life.org/>



## ***Vestry Report***

by Nancy Bye

# **Vigorous Vestry!**

Your 2006 Vestry is full of vim and vigor and plans to serve St. Barnabas with new vitality. Ann White has been chosen as the Rector's Warden. In that role she has already had to step up for Alex+ when he was called away on an emergency; she conducted the May vestry meeting. Bill Walker, the People's Warden, has decided that health and physical fitness should combine with Godliness in a strong parish, and is already hard at work to see that we all stand straight, eat right, do the scapula stretch, and BREATHE.

Jill Bennett has suggested, and will manage, a pastoral care committee. This group will see that frozen meals are available for the homebound or those with family emergencies. They will provide caregiver relief and help with memorial services. Your help and ideas essential to its success. Please talk to Jill! Louise Jee, buildings and grounds, is encouraging us to look at long-term opportunities for better use of our "campus", including stable paths and effective irrigation (as well as seating) for the palapa.

Mary Levine will continue in her role as liaison with the worship committee, and Kathleen Killman stands tall as our stewardship chair (we're almost there!). Addis Ward guides our capital improvements, and working with the finance committee, will meticulously oversee both immediate and long-term maintenance and renovation projects. I have picked up the task of handling our publicity and will build a group to help us give credence and consistency to our memorials. John Drum serves as ombudsman to see that we are of clear eye and sound mind and watch that bottom line.

Happily, we are ably assisted in all this activity by our treasurer, Margaret Orenyak who also serves as our liaison with SmithBarney; by our very competent clerk Shirley Vialpando; and by our heads-up office manager Lynn Wilderson.

## ***Women of St. Barnabas***

by Mary Levine

# **Camp Stevens**



The Women of St. Barnabas, at their May meeting were impressed by the slide program presented by Eva, the coordinator of youth programs for Camp Stevens.

It was an opportunity to see fresh young faces engaged in the joy of the great outdoors, sharing their faith and exploring their individual strengths in building relationships, testing their mettle and developing trust in their fellow campers and themselves.

The camp serves the youth of San Diego and Los Angeles dioceses regardless of ethnicity, religious background or income. It also has an international tie to the Rikkyo School in Japan whose students attend the INTERNATIONAL ODYSSEY at camp in August. The camp charges on a three-tiered system ranging from sponsored or partially-sponsored to full cost. For those who need assistance campships are available.

We all saw great opportunity to give a life-changing experience to a child. Giving opportunities range from \$50 to pay for the bus to camp, to \$495 to give a week of summer camp, to \$7000 to endow a week of camp always!

To learn more and to see some of the shining eager faces just glance through their brochures. Mary Levine will be glad to share hers, or you can call Camp Stevens at (760) 765-0028. They also have a website: [www.campstevens.org](http://www.campstevens.org).

*Photo(above): Children explore the pond as they learn about God's creation at Camp Stevens.*

# Meet the New Wardens!



## Ann White

Our new Rector's Warden is Ann White. This is her second term on the Vestry and in this capacity, Ann acts as the Vestry's principal advisor to Alex+. Ann has lived in Borrego Springs for ten years, and enjoys traveling with her husband Richard. She's a member of Rotary and a volunteer at the Chamber of Commerce. In her spare time (spare time?) Ann creates hand-crafted greeting cards. She's proud to be a grandmother and great-grandmother! You can reach Ann at 767-0120.



## Bill Walker

Our new People's Warden is Bill Walker. As People's Warden, it's Bill's role to represent the congregation to the rector. If you have questions or problems related to St. Barnabas, Bill invites you to contact him. He has lived in Borrego Springs for 18 years and is serving his first term on the Vestry where he is also a member of the stewardship and finance committees. In the community, Bill has been very active in fundraising for the Woolcott Committee for the last 13 years. As you'll soon find out, Bill is enthusiastic about sports, and especially enjoys cycling and skiing. You can call Bill at 767-5510.

by Victor Levine and Joanie Cahill

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## ***The People's Corner***

*by Bill Walker, The People's Warden*

### **To Your Health**

The People's Warden is taking on a new area of responsibility, the physical and health life of the congregation. Since we have a mature congregation, I highly recommend that everyone read the book, *Younger Next Year* by Chris Crowley and Henry Lodge.

Here is a place to start right now even before you get the book. One of the most important muscles in your body is the one between the scapula

(shoulder blades). Try squeezing your scapula together for ten seconds, five times a day. It will open your chest for breathing and it will improve your posture.

When I return from Canada early in September, I hope you will let me know how you are doing and who may need a special home-visit from the People's Warden.

Having entered into covenant with each other to root out the sin of racism in very specific personal and corporate ways, we, the bishops of the Episcopal Church, invite all members of our Church to join us in this mission of justice, reconciliation, and unity. This is an expression of our commitment to the fundamental covenant each of us entered into at the moment of our baptism.

**“...we, the bishops of the Episcopal Church, invite all members of our Church to join us in this mission of justice, reconciliation, and unity.”**

May God give us the will to do this reconciling work, and the power and grace to accomplish it.



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## Rector's Note

On May 29, 2006, surrounded by her family, Joni Lowe completed her earthly pilgrimage. A memorial service will be held in November.

(I just received a call from our editor, Joanie Cahill, informing me that her father-in-law just completed his earthly pilgrimage. He would have been 92 in August.) Because of our age, we have much to share with those who are younger. Many from our parish have enriched our local students through tutoring. Regardless of your age, have you considered assisting people to die well? That is what a “happy” death is supposed to be. You may feel called but feel unprepared.

In January Horizon hospice will offer a complimentary 24 hour long class for hospice volunteers. After you complete the program, you may conclude that at this time volunteering in this way is not for you. Nevertheless you will have received useful information in interacting with the dying person as well as their family and friends.

To compliment these physical and emotional considerations, in the Fall Nancy+ and I will teach the spiritual and religious dimensions of ministering to



the dying and to their families.

The Burial Rites in our Prayer Book contain many inspirational passages that we will highlight.

The summer is a privileged time for reflecting on our own lives on where we are on our spiritual journey and where we discern God's calling to us in being with and for others along that walk.

Sincerely,  
Alex+/Nancy+

**Editor's Note:** Don't forget that Nancy+ is available throughout the year to lead a retreat for you or your group. It's yours for the asking!

## Mark Your Calendar

The *Women of St. Barnabas* will gather at Kendall's for lunch at noon on the first Wednesday in June, July, August and September.

Only ONE Service  
through October!  
Join us at  
8:30am

## St. Barnabas Carillon

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