

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

September 2006

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Reflections from the Desert

The Power of Love

“When the power of love overcomes the love of power, we will have peace.”

Jimi Hendrix

While Nancy+ and I vacationed in Washington state last month, we took a ferry from Anacortes to Guemes Island. After a four mile walk around the coast, we had lunch at the only café there. The clam chowder was tasty and so too was the half a sandwich. We then made our way down the hill to where the “walk-ons” gathered. That’s where someone had planted a sign with Jimi Hendrix’s words.

I had seen the sentence before. In fact, I had used it in one of my homilies this year. It occurred to me that we all long for peace - for peace with God which we manifest in peace in our hearts, in peace in our relationships, whether they be social or professional, in peace in the world and in peace in our church.

In June, for our annual on-going education, Nancy+ and I attended our fourth consecutive General Convention. There we visited with the Assisting Bishop of the diocese of Olympia, Washington. Over the eight years we have been vacationing in Washington, we have had several conversations with +Sandy Hampton and Mari after Sunday morning services. He told us about St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church in Oak Harbor. The priest had left the Episcopal Church and placed herself under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Recife, Brazil. Many laity from that parish went with her. She and they refuse to vacate the property.

Those who didn’t follow the priest, the “Episcopals in exile,” as +Sandy referred to them, meet in parishioners’ homes where for the last two years he has been ministering to them. We told him we would be in La Conner in August and asked if in support we could join them on a Sunday morning. He was delighted. We drove down to Oak Harbor for the Holy Eucharist on August 20th. In addition to the three of us, there were 19 laity there.

**“It occurred to me that
we all long for peace. . . ”**

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75th General Convention

by Victor Levine

Editor's Note: This is the third and final part of our series highlighting the events and actions of this year's General Convention.

The June '06 Convention of the Episcopal Church considered 355 potential pieces of legislation.* This series has looked at some of the more noteworthy pieces that passed muster in Columbus during its eight days of deliberation.

A biggie was General Convention's support for the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which proposed to eliminate poverty worldwide by 2015, also to raise living/working standards and to extend civil and other protections more uniformly to children, women and men.

Convention, as we saw in part two of this series, recommended that dioceses and individual churches set aside a percentage of their budgets in support of the UN program. In addition, it urged action by the church members to petition the Federal government to invest more in countering global poverty.

But there were other issues that merit inclusion. A sampling includes: the war in Iraq. Here, Convention restated its opposition to the war and called on the government to produce a plan that would stabilize Iraq and bring the troops home. In the same resolution, Convention suggested that Episcopalians treat their opposition to the war as an act of penitence and advised they articulate that position through advocacy and electoral action.

There was additional penitence called for in several resolutions on the payment of reparations to the descendants of peoples enslaved and oppressed through earlier U.S. history. Attention here was paid in particular to black slavery and the treatment of American Indian peoples.

Also at home, Convention directed that decision-making bodies within the Church should provide

for equal complements of men and women. It reiterated the Church's concern for equality of treatment across the spectrum of gender and sexual orientation. It stressed the need to afford all couples the same rights and supported civil regularization of same-gender unions.

On ecumenical relations, Convention resolved to begin interim Eucharist sharing with the UMC (United Methodist Church) and Moravian Church in America. It recommended continuing dialog with Iraqi Muslims & Christians on nonviolence action, as well as prayer for those at war & those working for peace.

In matters of theology, deputies and bishops at Convention modified an earlier understanding to read that ultimate authority was to be seen as centered on the triune God whose sovereignty was filtered through the medium of Scripture. The previous understanding had been that Scripture was "the church's supreme authority in point of focus and unity".

Also potentially far-reaching could be Convention's work on baptism and the Eucharist in which deputies and bishops asked that a new understanding of that relationship be explored, so that consideration was given to the possibility that baptism might not be necessary to receiving Eucharist.

Convention, following the trend of clarification and evolution, offered a series of revisions, new prayers and experimental rites to the current Book of Common Prayer. Those included changes and additions for various "passages of life", such as space-exploration and joining the military, reconciliation and alternative burial rites.

For more detailed information, *see the complete set of resolutions from the 75th General Convention at: <http://gc2006.org/legislation>

Bishop Mathes Reminds Us We Are Called

What follows is an excerpt from our bishop's most recent pastoral letter, reflecting on the General Convention and the challenges that face us as Christians and Episcopalians at this time. You'll find the complete letter on the webpage of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego: <http://www.edsd.org/>

We have been called by God to be the Church in the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego in these first years of the Twentieth-first Century. We have been called to be in conversation and at times in conflict over vexing issues. And we are principally called to be about the ministry of sharing our proclamation of hope, meaning, and purpose.

Therefore, I call on the people of our diocese to renew our discipleship as a *COMMUNITY OF GOOD NEWS*. The Good News in Christ is what feeds us; it is what the world hungers for. It is the good news of

- **Hope through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ**
- **Meaning through the gift of baptism in the name of Jesus**
- **Purpose through service in the name of Jesus.**

In order to live more fully into this Good News, I call us to strive for three ambitious, yet simple tasks over the course of the next year:

- Every Episcopalian in our diocese will bring one person to full participation in the life and ministry of their congregation. This simple act will lead to real evangelism. We will change lives through the love of Jesus Christ. We will meet hurt with hope. We will also strengthen our faith as we share it and strengthen our congregations for ministry.

- Each congregation will develop effective life-changing ministries for children who are disadvantaged, in poverty, or at risk in other ways. The hope is that this will be a mission of adoption that will focus the servant ministry of our congregations on those who are thirsty, hungry, and naked. By doing this, we will give hope, meaning, and purpose to children who will do the same for their children and for generations to come.

- Each congregation will provide for excellent Christian education and formation programs for all ages. Lifelong formation in the Christian life is essential if we are to become the vibrant, faithful community God calls us to be.

As we grow in our evangelism, education, and service, the Holy Spirit will take us to new and greater ministry. It begins with the simplicity of small steps that change our lives and those whom we encounter. It is all about being the Community of Good News: bringing hope, meaning, and purpose through Jesus Christ.

In order to support this call, plans are already underway to design and present learning opportunities and workshops this fall to assist you in bringing others to full participation in your congregational ministry, to guide you in the development of servant ministries for and with children and to develop opportunities for lifelong learning.

“It is all about being the Community of Good News: bringing hope, meaning, and purpose through Jesus Christ.”

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Vestry Report

by Nancy Bye

Hot Topics

It was 96 degrees when we pulled into the church parking lot (still rough) a little before eight on the morning of July 27th for our last meeting of the summer. There was not a quorum, but we reviewed previous minutes and financials anyway. And then we even made some decisions we were sure you would all approve. A sign, "In memory of Terry Hildebrand" will be staked in the cactus garden because he did so much unsung work there-planting, pruning, caring for the specimens he so loved. We also decided to tap our community outreach funds to send more water over to Slab City in August and September. The heat has been brutal this summer, and a gift of water seems worthwhile.

Mary Levine raised her very real concern about "cool rooms" for people who can't afford air conditioning and in the event of a power failure of any duration. Team Jee will be looking into this as it impinges on the earthquake preparedness efforts, and Alex+ will check to see why SDG&E has never installed the long-promised generator at the high school gym.

We talked about our new Presiding Bishop-elect who will be installed in a service at the National Cathedral in Washington. Nancy+ will attend! Alex+ shared a detailed, thoughtful letter from +Jim Mathes outlining the financial, legal, and philosophic repercussions that occur when parishioners and clergy leave the diocese.

Last, but certainly not least important, our annual celebration to welcome back our wonderful snow-birds will be a chili fest in our own courtyard beginning at 5pm on Sunday evening, the 12th of November. As the dear children say, "Be there or be square!"

The People's Corner

by Bill Walker, The People's Warden

Connect & Commit

I really appreciate the opportunity the Carillon has offered for me to keep in touch with all of you this summer. In another week I will be back in Borrego ready to take up my duties as your People's Warden.

My motto for the fall is CONNECT & COMMIT. See you soon.



Carillon Classifieds:

HELP WANTED

New members needed for St. Barnabas altar guild. Behind-the-scenes preparation for our services. No pay; excellent benefits. Please contact Nancy Bye at 4781 or Box 1232.

Imagine what will happen in our congregations if we accept this challenge. Our churches will grow by leaps and bounds. Lives will be transformed through a commitment to providing tools for Christian formation. Children will be nurtured and cared for in new ways. The communities we serve will grow stronger and healthier. We will feel the winds of the Holy Spirit move among us. Our tongues will speak words of faith. Our Church will become even more the Church of Pentecost. And when people talk about the Episcopal Church in our Diocese, they will say that it is the Church that shares the hope in Christ, gives meaning to those who come through the waters of baptism, and finds purpose in building up God's reign particularly as it cares for God's children. With this, Jesus would be well pleased. Let's get to work!

Faithfully,

The Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes
Bishop of San Diego

**“Imagine
what will happen. . .
Our churches will grow. . .
Lives will be transformed. . .
Children will be nurtured. . .
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When the
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PEACE.

Jimi Hendrix

The setting reminded me of “home church” as practiced by all Christians for the first 300 years. We celebrated the Holy Eucharist using the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal. The only difference, until the diocesan bishop resolves the property issue, was where we prayed.

This week we went to a lecture/book signing by Robert Parson Crosby. He highlighted his sixth published book, *Get Unstuck from Fundamentalism: A Spiritual Journey*, and then interacted with the audience. What impressed us was his insistence that any limiting and rigid beliefs - religious and otherwise - can cause divisiveness and deep misunderstanding within ourselves, our communities and our world. His solution is a thought-provoking spiritual journey toward openness, compassion and faith without boundaries. It is only when we mistake our current opinion with unalterable truth both for ourselves and for everyone else, and worse, when we make agreement to it the touch stone for orthodoxy, that we have made, as Jimi Hendrix said, love of power more important than the power of love.

Sincerely,
Alex+/Nancy+

Mark Your Calendar

September

Sept. 6th

The **Women of St. Barnabas** will gather at Kendall's for lunch at noon.

VOLUNTEER!

St. Barnabas is looking for a pianist to accompany occasional church services.



Are you a computer whiz? We're also looking for someone who would be on call to help with computer questions and problems.

To share your time and talent, call Alex.

St. Barnabas Carillon

Editing, & Design:

Joanie S. Cahill

JoanieCahill@stbarnabasborrego.com

760-791-4553

Production:

Lynn Wilderson and Bob Cassidy.

Newsletter Committee:

Nancy Bye, Victor Levine, Lynn Wilderson, Alex and Nancy Nagy+, Faye Dorsey, photography.

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@cableusa.com

Nancy's email: revsngn@yahoo.com

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