

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

October 2006

Volume 9, No.10

Reflections from the Desert

The House of the Lord

"I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'" What a profound truth the Psalmist uttered! While we can and do worship God anywhere, there is an inexplicable feeling about going to a house, a spiritual home, to pray. For believers, there is an anticipation of good things which will happen when the congregation gathers in "the house of the Lord."

Part of the American dream is to own your own house. At the age when people usually decide on their life's companion and begin their life's work, most of them rent. Only with time, hard work and much saving, do people begin to look to buying their first house. This pattern is normal for congregations as well. In our history, however, St. Barnabas both followed and dramatically broke the pattern.

For the first 10 years of our existence, we did not have our own house. As Frances Brainerd wrote on the first 20 years of our history, beginning on "April

23, 1975 the first 11 committed members met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fletcher III... On June 11, 1975 the first service in a church was the Holy Eucharist, celebrated on St. Barnabas day, in the Methodist Community Church at the invitation of the Reverend Albert E. Jansen, pastor... In April of 1976, at the invitation of Father Lawrence Gatt, worship in St. Richard's Catholic Church began" which lasted until 1986.

"... after three years of dogged effort" (so little of "life in Borrego changes!) the Building Permit for our church was received. Construction began on January 6, 1986. The buildings were completed on June 21 - two weeks ahead of schedule! The day of the first service in the new church was September

"I rejoiced when I heard them say, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'"

21. Bishop Brinkley Morton consecrated it on January 4, 1987. What made this building project so unique was that Frances did not call the bishop asking him to break ground until the last penny for the entire construction was collected and banked! I know of no other church that has made our claim.

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Blessing Of The Animals

The Feast of St. Francis will be celebrated at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, on Wednesday, October, 4th at 4 pm, with a Blessing of Animals Prayer Service. Held outdoors in the Friendship Circle Courtyard, everyone in the community is invited to come and bring their pets; dogs, cats, birds, fish to name a few.

St. Francis lived his life believing that every creature is important. Certainly we need to care for the poor and hungry, but the love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator.

For single householders, a pet can be a true companion. Many people arrive home from work to find a furry friend overjoyed at their return. Many a senior has a lap filled with a purring fellow creature.

The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye-to-eye, a man and his dog, or a woman and her cat, are two creatures of love.



No wonder people enjoy the opportunity to take their animal companions to church for a special blessing. Church is the place where the bond of creation is celebrated.

Francis saw the world as an integrity of creation - St. Francis of Assisi experienced all of God's creation as sacred. He saw God in "Brother Sun" and "Sister Moon." He preached to the birds and animals.

"St. Francis of Assisi experienced all of God's creation as sacred."

Once when he and his companions were on a trip walking through the Spoleto Valley near Bevagna, Francis spotted a great number of birds of all varieties. There were doves, crows and all sorts of birds. Swept up in the moment, Francis left his friends in the road and ran after the birds, who patiently waited for him. He greeted them in his usual way, expecting them to scurry off into the air as he spoke. But they moved not.

Filled with awe, he asked them if they would stay awhile and listen to the Word of God. He said to them: "My brother and sister birds, you should praise your Creator and always love him: He gave you feathers for clothes, wings to fly and all other things that you need. It is God who made you noble among all creatures, making your home in thin, pure air. Without sowing or reaping, you receive God's guidance and protection."

At this the birds began to spread their wings, stretch their necks and gaze at Francis, rejoicing and praising God in a wonderful way according to their nature. Francis then walked right through the middle of them, turned around and came back, touching their heads and bodies with his tunic. (This no doubt gave rise to the garden statues of St. Francis with a bird on his hand.)

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Thoughts To Share

Back in 1982, I was asked to start a book department at a Catholic store that had mainly religious articles. I did and it was very successful.

Then the owner asked my opinion on what he should include for the 30 second radio advertising spaces he had just purchased. I suggested that rather than the business hours or specials that we had been running, we use the 30 seconds to put out a thought for that day. We'd say it was "sponsored by Cathedral Book Store" and then give the address. He liked the idea and asked if Alex and I would write them. "Of course!" I replied, and we did!

When I took the pieces that we had written to the radio station the DJ decided that I read them much better than he did since I knew them so well, and so for a number of times a week you would hear these "spots" on that station. We were in San Antonio, Texas, and my reason for suggesting these "sponsored" thoughts was to show that Catholics knew the Bible too (which was a new concept for many!).

It was a grand success, and the owner of the bookstore decided to print them up in a booklet and sell them. Alex just ran across a copy and suggested that we periodically share them with you in the *Carillon*.

Today will be a Great Day!

It's going to be a great day today!

I have so much to look forward to because there will be opportunities that I have never had before.

God has blessed me with many talents, and it's up to me to recognize them and use them. I will not spend the day lamenting.

With Psalm 146, I will thank God by saying: "I mean to praise God all my life. I mean to sing to my God as long as I live."

Nancy+ & Alex+



A group of hearty and dedicated parishoners and their friends, under the direction of People's Warden Bill Walker, spent a Saturday morning leveling and smoothing the parking lot at St. Barnabas. Photos by Alex Nagy+ and L.louise Jee.

Beyond the Call of Duty!



Dissidents in ECUSA

by Victor A. Levine

It's not as bad as it looks, despite headlines reporting the imminent break-up of the Episcopal Church (ECUSA). The conflict seems to be between the left and the right or, put another way, the conservatives and the progressives.

The conflict grows most immediately out of decisions made at June '06 General Convention in Columbus, when a host of operational decision (i.e., laws) were agreed to by assembled delegates and bishops. Some decisions proved to be highly controversial.

“It's not as bad as it looks, despite headlines...”

Those included the election of a progressive and female bishop as the next primate (presiding bishop) of the ECUSA and the refusal of a majority of the assembly to back down from a 2003 decision to accept the validity of an election in which a priest in a committed homosexual relationship was raised to a bishop. In addition, the assembly refused to outlaw public blessing of same-sex unions.

Those decisions roiled the waters big-time. In fact they've been identified by some pundits (*Christianity Today*) as the key events which “accelerated the break-up of the Episcopal Church”.

The reality sounds somewhat less drastic, though still of great concern. One church in Texas (Christ Episcopal in Plano) voted to leave the denomination by joining, as their rector put it, “into a more direct relationship with the Anglican Communion.”

Eight dioceses (there are 110 in the ECUSA) — in Texas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Fresno, California, South Carolina and Illinois (2) — signaled their intention to seek a presiding bishop from another prov-

ince within the worldwide Anglican Union (38 provinces, total).

A recent meeting in New York (September 11-13 '06) brought together bishops from both camps in an effort to calm the atmosphere and, if possible, find a way out of a situation that might well fulfill the somber promise implicit in the quotation given above.

The meeting failed. Despite “honest and frank conversations” the bishops were unable to find agreement that would satisfy the needs of the several dioceses cited. They agreed to call another meeting later in the fall of '06 but the time and date were not specified.

As a footnote, there has also been dissident activity within the San Diego diocese. Several churches — Christ the King, Alpine; St Anne's, Oceanside; St John's, Fallbrook; All Saints, Vista; Grace, San Marcos; Holy Trinity, Ocean Beach — have lost ministers and part of their congregations.

In some cases there is litigation concerning the ownership of church buildings and grounds. Those cases are pending. In other developments, the bishop (James Mathes) has released several departed clergy from the priesthood of the Episcopal Church.

The larger question — Is a compromise possible? — remains, and further discussion on this will comprise Part Two of this series.

“The larger question — Is a compromise possible?...”

Rebuilding Takes Time in Pass Christian

Editor's Note: St. Barnabas, Borrego was just one of many churches who adopted Trinity Church in Pass Christian, Mississippi. The following is a recent article by a San Francisco Bay Area newsgroup. We hope to have our own interview with Reverend Colby soon. Meanwhile, our prayers are still much needed.

Source: insidebayarea.com

Instead of stained glass windows, Trinity Episcopal Church in Pass Christian, Mississippi, has DuPont Tyvek HomeWrap. The industrial plastic does the job well enough, filtering the light that falls on worshippers from three sides of the chapel's upper reaches on Sunday mornings. Incandescent work lights, folding chairs and a small electronic organ now complete the Sunday-morning ambiance.

"This is our plywood cathedral," the Rev. Christopher Colby told insidebayarea.com, the website of a group of newspapers in the area surrounding San Francisco, California. San Carlos, California, residents adopted Pass Christian after the hurricane last year and local churches have chipped in to help the Mississippi community rebuild.

Trinity's building, blown out by Hurricane Katrina a year ago, save for its ceiling and buttresses, still has a visible water line 22 feet high. No pews, hymnals or altarpieces were left behind after the storm. Even the floor was ripped away.

Established in 1849, the church once had 255 households in its congregation with about 165 people attending its Sunday services. Now, one year after the storm, about 50 households belong to the church, which draws about 90 worshippers each Sunday for one 9:00 a.m. service.

Fewer than 3,000 of Pass Christian's nearly 7,000 residents have trickled back to the Gulf Coast town, which lost all of its businesses and 80 percent of its homes when Katrina came barreling through.

Even if their house of worship was spared, churches' attendance is just a fraction of what it was before the storm. But the disaster has had its positive side, distilling attendance down to the hardest churchgoers and knitting closer relationships between them.

"People, before, they wouldn't even give you the time of day. I mean, they weren't ever nasty to you, but they're really nice now," said Marie Fry, 58, who lost her home in the storm and has been a parishioner at Trinity for three years. "We've all kind of been reduced down to the same level and people that are left here need to help each other. And they do, they really do. It just feels more like family now."

Katherine Foster, 34, a mother of two and oceanographer at the nearby U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, said that people now linger longer at Trinity after the service. Though she has moved back into her storm-damaged home, she said the church is a good distraction for those living in more trying situations, such as government-issued trailers. "You know that when you come here, you can not think about it for a while," Foster said.

The church's leader for nine years, Colby, 53, recalled that there were 15 people at services the first Sunday after the storm. That number grew over the last year and he is confident it will continue to rise. He has committed to rebuilding and is planning for an even larger congregation than he had before.

But rebuilding is the hardest job he's ever undertaken.

"I've started two churches from scratch, but this is like we have to build the town from scratch, then build the church," Colby said. "I never thought I'd be in a place that was obliterated."



Construction was completed on the church buildings at St. Barnabas twenty years ago this fall. This beautiful sign, by sculptor John Richen was added in 2004.

Vestry Report

by Nancy Bye

Autumn Update

So nice to have the Peoples' Warden Bill Walker back amongst us and looking as vigorous as ever. Not only that, he immediately put together a crew who raked the parking lot of its bigger stones and boulders to ease our way to the altar!

The financial committee and treasurer Margaret Orenyak in particular continue to wrestle with the confusion that has plagued the pension fund for Alex+; it will be cleared up eventually but inefficiencies in the diocese financial office have cost him future dollars and our stalwart team many hours of labor.

By the time you read this Alex+ will have returned from San Antonio where he worked furiously to prepare his late mother's house for sale. L.Louise will have returned from St. Peter's in Del Mar armed with plans for our earthquake preparedness, and Jill's pastoral care project will be looking forward to helping our returning snowbirds when they need us.

We are thrilled to hold our first "Blessing of the Animals" in the courtyard on the afternoon of October

From the Altar Guild

by Nancy Bye

Helping Hands, Rewarding Work

Ask, and ye shall receive. Jean Bradley ("Hi, this is Jean from Dr. Wimer's office"), Sue Dolkas and Mary MacDonald have stepped forward to offer much needed help on the altar guild. Mary is laundering our lovely linens as I write this! We welcome them all and are so grateful for their help. This is loving work and we hope they will find it peaceful, insightful, and rewarding.

As a little fund raising effort, we are encouraging small donations for celebrations as well as memorials. In July, Nancy+ honored Alex+ with flowers to mark the anniversary of his ordination. Frisbie Killman celebrated Kathleen on her birthday (the flowers were lovely blue hydrangea that Martha Mitchell brought from the coast) and Richard Bye noted the same-day birthdays of Shirley Vialpando and me.

The altar guild is happy to have donated \$1000 to the endowment fund and provided new prayer books and hymnals over the years. So let us know when you have an anniversary, birthday or special event coming up and we would be happy to arrange the flowers and mark your day in our bulletin. If it is a memorial ask us to mail bulletins to friends or family members.

4th—the birthday of Francis of Assisi. Watch for pictures!

Your vestry looks forward to hosting the annual "Welcome Back Snowbirds" event on November 12th. We will gather right here in our own lovely garden at 5 o'clock to celebrate renewal of our family and to enjoy a cocktail hour and chile festival. Looking forward to seeing you all.

Women of St. Barnabas

by Nancy Bye, Chair: Gifts, Endowments and Memorials

New President Announced

We are truly overjoyed to announce that Shirley Vialpando will become the new president. Our first meeting will be at Kendall's on Wednesday October 4th at noon. Please make every effort to be there to thank her and to offer your support.

We will soon be very busy preparing for the December bake sale. Jellies, jams, pickles, relishes, cookies, pies and cakes will be welcomed. Think small—we have many two-person families who simply can't deal with a huge layer cake, but would love two tarts or muffins.

Also, we had agreed in the spring (poor Shirley probably doesn't even know this yet) that this would be the year of the NEW COOKBOOK! Gather ye all good and easy recipes. We recently attended a memorial service here at the American Legion and at the luncheon one dish was a pea and toasted pecan slaw. So delicious, healthy and unusual that I tracked down the provider and got the recipe. This is what we have to do!

November 12th

 5pm 



Chili Fest

at St. Barnabas!

Reflections, continued from page 1

The root difference between renting and owning is the deep sense of being at home. It is through our living, our using, our making it unique that we make a house a home. So too the house/home for the church. Yet, the church is the people, not the building. We gather to pray in the joy of baptism and marriage, in the weekly nourishing by Word and Sacrament, and finally in gratitude for the life of a Christian who has completed one's earthly pilgrimage.

Everyone is welcome! Whether you were part of the building 20 years ago or have just arrived. You are welcome! Come, meet us; let us meet you. Together let us grow in our awareness of God's presence, blessing and forgiveness. Be enriched by the God to whose house we come rejoicing.

Sincerely,
Alex+/Nancy+

Blessing of the Animals, from page 2

Later, Francis wondered aloud to his companions why he had never preached to birds before. And from that day on, Francis made it his habit to solicitously invoke all birds, all animals and reptiles to praise and love their Creator. And many times during Francis' life there were remarkable events of Francis speaking to the animals.

We hope you will join us for this first annual event at St. Barnabas, and bring your friends: feathered, finned, four or two legged!

Nancy+



Mark Your Calendar

Oct. 4th Women of St. Barnabas meet at Kendall's at noon

Blessing of the Animals at 4pm in the Friendship Circle

Oct. 18th Sarah's Circle at Martha Mitchell's home, 6pm.

Men of St. Barnabas at the Rectory, 6pm.

Nov. 12th Welcome Back Snowbirds at 5pm at St. Barnabas

Blessing of the Animals

4pm

Wednesday, October 4th

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church

Celebrate the Feast of St. Francis at a special outdoor prayer service for you and your pets.



St. Barnabas Carillon

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