

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

November 2006

Volume 9, No.11

Reflections from the Desert

The Saints Among Us

November begins with the feast of All Saints. In Christian Scriptures “saints” is used to describe the entire membership of the Christian community. (The Collect for that day uses “elect” in the same way.) From very early times, however, “saint” came to be restricted - regrettably - to deceased persons of heroic sanctity, whose deeds were recalled with gratitude and served as inspiration for later generations. There is a movement now to restore the equating of “saint” with “baptized”.

According to Lesser Feasts and Fasts (4th ed., 1988) as early as the third century Christians wanted to express the intercommunion of the living and the dead in the Body of Christ. They began by com-

**In Christian Scriptures
“saints” is used to describe
the entire membership of
the Christian community.**

memorating those who, having professed faith in the living Christ, had entered into the nearer presence of their Lord.

Many scholars think that the commemoration of all the saints on November first originated in Ireland, spread from there to England, and then to the continent of Europe. That it had reached Rome and had been adopted there early in the ninth century is attested by a letter of Pope Gregory IV (828-844) to Emperor Louis “the Pious,” urging that such a festival be observed throughout the Holy Roman Empire.

On the first Sunday of November at both the 7am and the 9:30am services we will thank God for the lives of four parishioners who since last November have entered into the fullness of life:

Rodney Stevens died in the early morning of February 27th. We knew in the Fall when Nancy and he returned to Borrego that he was not well. No one suspected how quickly his health would fail. When we were between treasurers, his attention to the details of our financials was his gift which we all sincerely appreciated. Early next month Nancy plans to spend a week here.

continued on page 7

On the Way – Part One

In his book *Markings*, Dag Hammarskjold said, “In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action.” Well, as I strive for holiness, I find that I am indeed in the midst of action quite a lot of the time. And that metaphor of a journey captures well where I am now, where I’ve recently been and what I am about to be doing in the next week.

Actually, I am on my way. . . well, trying to be. Literally, I am sitting on the tarmac in a plane that is being held from takeoff due to a low ceiling at our first stop in Phoenix, Arizona. So, I have ample time in front of me to begin to reflect on the clergy conference I just left, mid-way through. In order to make this flight to Salt Lake City, and then the drive to Pocatello, Idaho, and the Woman’s Prison, I needed to leave Alex+ and the other clergy early. Too bad; also since we had the best speaker that I can ever remember! The Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Virginia Theological Seminary, was our presenter. The topic was, “Practicing Reconciliation in a Violent World” and that was the title of the book we worked from, which he also wrote.

“In our era, the road to holiness necessarily passes through the world of action.”
–Dag Hammarskjold

Through a combination of his presentations, individual and small group exercises, along with small group and whole group discussions, we discovered and explored how we as Christians resolve differ-

ences. It’s not easy, and in our society it is especially difficult when so many religious interpretations lead in many directions, except toward reconciliation.

But, no matter how difficult the concrete practice of reconciliation seems, it is possible, and I found a quote within Michael’s book by Richard Mouw, a philosopher and president of Fuller Theological Seminary, most helpful: “Reconciliation is the whole-hearted process of yielding negative conflict in exchange for God’s positive outcome.”

During the time I was there, we worked to discover the typology or approach that each of us has to this process of reconciliation. By knowing your own approach you can best understand the other three approaches. And, not only do we need to understand where others come from in their approach, but to realize that we need both their approach, and the tension that it brings, since no one approach trumps another. If I understand the other approaches to reconciliation and learn to appreciate them, I won’t be likely to do any stereotyping or seeing the other or their way as a threat, and I’ll avoid just “tolerating” the other approaches. (Seems this would be a good approach to a number of topics and situations!) And, too, learning to live with this tension helps us not to fall into extremes; but, it takes time and hard work.

To be continued.

Nancy+

“Reconciliation is the whole-hearted process of yielding negative conflict in exchange for God’s positive outcome.”
–Richard Mouw

Part Two: Dissidence Within the ECUSA

by Victor A. Levine

In the first episode, I asked if a reconciliation were possible between contesting elements in the Anglican Communion. I began by talking about the Episcopal Church and the problems it is having following last June's General Convention in Columbus.

The problems began following the election of Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori as primate or presiding bishop of the American Church, effective November 4, 2006. I stress the word 'American' because it is one of 38 provinces (that is, national churches) across the world that constitute the Anglican Communion.

The Backdrop

Briefly, several dioceses (8 in all, out of 111) have objected to the election of Bishop Katharine because they disagree with her publicly stated position that the Episcopal Church (ECUSA) should be open to all those who choose to join, including those who maintain an unorthodox life-style.

Her position is that all persons are entitled to equal treatment within the Church. She has in mind, and stated this explicitly, homosexuals and lesbians. That equality is total and extends to the raising of bishops who might be in a long-term, same-gender relationship, as demonstrated by the 2003 election of Gene Robinson as bishop of New Hampshire.

“ . . . all persons are entitled to equal treatment within the Church.”

The new primate, who assumed her position in early November, has carried her position logically to the next step by insisting that gays are entitled to have their relationships publicly blessed by the Church. In this, she's clearly affirming the overwhelming position of the majority of delegates to the last two General Conventions, in 2003 and 2006.



Katharine Jefferts Schori officially became the 26th Presiding Bishop and Pastor of the Episcopal Church on November 1, and her formal Investiture occurred Saturday, November 4, in the Washington National Cathedral. (Episcopal News Service photo)

What Bishop Katharine represents to the dissident minority is something they deplore. They do not want homosexuals, especially in an acknowledged sexual relationship, to be officially recognized or supported in any way, including in their bid for executive roles in the Episcopal Church. Their position, they argue, is affirmed by Scripture and tradition.

Their stance, though they do not acknowledge it, may also include the belief that women belong in subservient positions within the Church, despite the fact that women have been granted equal access to all offices in the Church, including ordination, since the General Convention of 1976, a full generation earlier.

That's the backdrop. So far as a reconciliation within the ECUSA goes, for awhile it looked like an insurmountable issue. Now a new wrinkle has been added. What it does is postpone imminent and perhaps even irrevocable action by the Church.

Dissident Reactions

What the dissidents have introduced is a 2002 ruling by the House of Bishops which provides the services of bishop ('delegated episcopal oversight') when a rector and congregation cannot reconcile their views with their own diocesan bishop.

The dissidents have applied the ruling to presiding bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori and in one inven-

Continued on page 7



Bless the Lord, all you his creatures!

Close to fifty humans and pets gathered for a special blessing on Oct. 4th at St. Barnabas. The lovely outdoor service gave participants the chance to share psalms, recite the prayer of St. Francis, and reflect on the gifts their pets provide them.

Alex+ greets Ann and Richard White's dog. Below: Bird Kato and owner Lynn Wilderness share the fun with our rector. (Borrego Sun photos.)

Blessing of the Animals



Be Prepared!

By Fred Jee

Editor's Note: The more we research the disaster plans for Borrego Springs, the more we realize that there really aren't any. In the event of an emergency, it is going to be up to us to take care of ourselves and each other. Alex+ has appointed Fred and L.Louise Jee to represent our parish in community planning for a natural disaster and to help us create a plan for our faith community.

Disasters are events beyond our control when they occur. How one survives a disaster is in our control. This article discusses a few issues to think about and do to ward off the worst effects of any disaster: the feeling of despair and helplessness. By controlling those emotions, your level of survivability increases many fold.

Disasters by definition are events that cause great loss or damage to many people. This includes personal ones within the family, and great environmental ones. In both cases preparing ahead of time will reduce somewhat the devastating effects such disasters can bring. So what is one to do?

During tragic family events, we can seek support from other family members, friends, co-workers, church members and social organizations designed to deal with such emergencies. I will focus more on the environmental disasters since they often hit without notice and devastate a whole community in a single instance.

Hurricanes, floods, wind storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, wild land fires, and a host of other events can and do affect us. If we have advance notice like hurricane and tornado warning systems are designed to provide, we can seek immediate shelter and survive the passing of those dynamic forces. Earthquakes are sudden and not with advance notice. In any case normal services and routine life styles will be impacted. This article will help you prepare to sustain yourself after the event.

I suggest the three "P's":

- PLAN
- PREPARE
- PERSEVERE

Planning is knowing ahead of time what possible outcomes can occur in a disaster and working out a strategy to reduce the effects. Planning includes having a disaster kit already supplied and placed in a convenient and readily found location to be retrieved during a disaster. *Planning should include what you need to survive for a minimum of three days without help from the outside.* Planning is also having enough supplies to sustain the members of your family in the same kit or kits.

How should you plan? This is where knowing one's community history is important. What disasters have happened in your community in the past? Flooding from stream overflow, earthquakes, windstorms, landslides closing local access routes and heavy snow fall have all impacted Borrego in the past. Knowledge is strength.

Once you have a pattern of past events in mind, you can develop supply emergency kits that will do your family and you the most good. Basic ingredients should include: water, food, blankets, portable radio, flashlights, extra batteries, a whistle to alert searchers in case you are trapped in your house, first aid kit, toilet paper, extra prescription medicines and any other item you need to feel safe and comfortable.

Cell phones can be very useful but often they are in dead zones in the back country or rural locations. Check your cell phone often in many parts of your community to know what kind of service you have. Plan to call a friend or relative outside the state if you wish to contact someone. It is not unusual to find local area codes jammed with calls during and immediately after a disaster. Contacting your emergency number can reduce the panic for relatives and

Continued on page 7

Vestry Report

by Nancy Bye

The Season is Here

Ahhhh.....it really is cooling. We were a rather sparkly group of six plus Alex+, ready for what some call “the season”. two services, and a plethora of activities to inspire mental and physical health and to instill knowledge and spirituality.

The parking lot has been raked again. Women may wear pretty shoes! Joni Lowe’s family will provide a natural walkway between the palapa and labyrinth—what more perfect memorial to her and her late husband Richard, such staunch friends and supporters of our lovely church.

Fabulous material gifts have been bestowed upon us by a couple who were married here this month. Doug and Lindsay George have given St. Barnabas two huge potted ocotillos to flank the entrance to the church. The altar guild is so excited about their gift of a pair of candelabra (crafted by Doug) that we’d rather have you watch what we do with them than tell you about them. And then you tell us where we go next!

Activities abound. The Women of St. Barnabas will prepare a new cookbook and certainly value your input. (Rose Ross—raspberry jelly? Irene Foster—pickled beets? Jean Smith—smoked salmon? Well, first you catch your fish!) PLEASE bring your recipes and give new prez Shirley some hope! Bill Walker will find you and drag you out of your lethargic state and into one of vigor and vitality. (sigh) Bonnie Walker gives her dynamic Bible classes. We prepare for Advent—yes, it is upon us! All look forward to the vestry hosted Chile Festival November 12th at the Roadrunner Club. See you there.

The People’s Corner

by Bill Walker, *The People’s Warden*

Make Time For Your Health

I am going to lead a class this winter based on the book *Younger Next Year* by Chris Crowley & Henry Lodge. Everyone should purchase this book before the start of the class. You can get it at any book store or on line.

The class will give us an opportunity to share and respond to some of the ideas in the book. It will also be a support group to encourage your commitment to living a healthier and a more active life. Both men and women are invited to attend.

We’ll meet on Thursdays between 4:00 and 5:00 in the parish room, starting Nov. 16th. I hope you’ll join us and take this step towards better health.

Celebrate Our Veterans

This year, two special services will be held at Christmas Circle on Veteran’s Day, November 11th. At 11am there will be a special flag-raising ceremony to honor and remember all of those who have fought for our freedoms in the armed forces.



At dusk, you are invited to bring your worn flags for a “flag retirement” service. Old or tattered flags will be disposed of with dignity in an impressive ceremony. After the flag retirement, everyone is invited to stay for the Marine Corps birthday party.

Dissidence, continued from page 3

tive, tactical move have saved the day, if only temporarily, since delegated oversight is time-limited (2-years) and presumes efforts by all parties to resolve outstanding issues.

How the ruling will play out is anybody's guess. What's interesting is that it helps to defuse a nasty conflict within the Episcopal Church by postponing an immediate decision on the issue of whether or not dissenting churches belong in the Episcopal community.

Also interesting is the fact that the postponing of decisions on knotty problems has developed as the traditional Episcopal way since its founding in Revolutionary America, and that's all to the good.

What of the Future?

But the Church does not function outside the umbrella of the Anglican Communion and thereby hangs the ultimate tale of whether the ECUSA will continue its historical tie to the British and other Anglican churches worldwide. Membership in the Anglican Communion is something ECUSA highly values and wants to retain.

Prepared, continued from page 5

friends of your condition. It can also reduce the need for search and rescue personnel starting to look for you when you are fine. Their energies and supplies can be used elsewhere.

Preparation is just putting into place those ideas you developed when you were planning how to survive a disaster. Emergency kits can be made up to include all the necessary items on your planning list. Those kits can be placed in a convenient but accessible location in your house or outbuilding that does not get exposure to pests and rodents. They love to nibble. There is nothing worse than picking up a bag full of mouse droppings. Check your kits on a regular basis like once a month or every two months to be sure all is well. . .

Next Month: Part Two: Persevere

Reflections, continued from page 1

Ginny (92) and Roy (96) Kohler both died in their home in Borrego. Ginny thoughtfully died the day after Roy's birthday. Roy chose not to wait any longer than six weeks to be reunited with his bride of over 70 years. For the last few years I visited them monthly using the occasion to hand deliver the Carillon. For me they modeled growing old together graciously.

In the presence of her three daughters and others, **Joni Lowe** died on May 29th in Washington, quite quickly after a brief illness. I appreciated very much being able to visit with them over a speaker phone daily during the week before she completed her earthly pilgrimage. On Saturday, November 11th, at 2pm (just as for their father three years ago), the family will bring her ashes to be placed next to his in the Memorial Garden.

The Collect from the feast of All Saints - present and past:

Gracious God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you. . .

Sincerely,
Alex+/Nancy+

Mark Your Calendar

NOVEMBER

Nov 2 4pm Women's Bible Study
Nov 4 8am PT, Installation of our new Presiding Bishop
Nov 5 7am and 9:30am Holy Eucharist;
8:15am Religious Education
Nov 7 Election Day; 8am Men's breakfast
Nov 11 Veterans Day: 11am Flag Raising and at
dusk Flag Retirement at Christmas Circle
Nov 11 2pm Joni Lowe's Memorial Service
Nov 12 5pm Welcome Back Chile Fest at the Road
Runner Club House

Nov 15 6pm Sarah's Circle at Ann Nourse's; Men's Group at
Richard White's
Nov 16 4pm Book Discussion in the Parish Room
Nov 22 7pm Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Richard's
Nov 23 8:30am Thanksgiving Day Holy Eucharist

Start Baking Now. . . Dec. 15th Bake Sale at Christmas Circle 7am

We are back to our seasonal schedule of
Sunday services at 7am and 9:30am.
Join us for religious education at 8:15am.

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>