

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

January 2007

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Reflections from the Desert

About Stewardship

YOU make all the difference to the existence and mission of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. Without your generous contribution of time, talent and treasure, this parish could not continue to "share the love of Christ/compartir el amor de Cristo" in the Anza-Borrego desert and beyond.

While often throughout the year Nancy+ and I preach on the stewardship of time and talent, only once do we speak about money. **Stewardship of money is the theme of this month's column and the homily on Stewardship Sunday, January 21st.**

The process leading up to stewardship Sunday begins with Margaret Orenyak, our treasurer, and her parish finance committee (Addis Ward, John Drum, Kathleen Killman, Bill Walker and Gary Westover) meeting several times before proposing the Parish Budget to the Vestry. After prayer and discussion, the vestry approved it unanimously at its December meeting (published elsewhere in this issue of the *Carillon*).

By now you should have received the annual letter and pledge card for 2007 from our Vestry Stewardship Committee, Kathleen Killman and Bill Walker.

If you have any questions, please address them to our treasurer, or to any finance committee or vestry member. Then pray about the amount God is inviting you to give to expand the mission of St. Barnabas as a sign of your gratitude to God for the privilege of carrying out the work God has given us to do.

Before Nancy+ and I made our pledge, we recalled Luke's reminder that "God loves a cheerful giver," our Bishop Jim's ideal of "joyful sacrificial giving" as well as our own criterion to "give until it feels good." We prayed, discussed the needs of the parish and our financial situation and concluded that monthly we could use the money we would spend at a restaurant on a lunch to increase our pledge.

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One the Way -Part Two

The following is a continuation of article begun in the November issue. I have left the Clergy conference, after only an evening and a morning with the clergy and presenter, The Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, whose book we were discussing.

Since I'm on the plane to the Idaho Women's Prison, I don't know what the rest of the exercises or discussions were. But, continuing with my reading, based on what I did learn at the conference I did some of the exercises from the book, *Practicing Reconciliation in a Violent World*, that helped me to discover the characteristics of the spiritual approach to non-violence I lean toward. Keeping in mind that while there are tensions between the four major types, the idea is to seek balance with the others... but here is what I learned about myself. My typology was "communal peace" which focuses on restorative justice, in contrast to "communal justice", a model that emphasizes retributive justice. In the communal peace category, a person is attracted to universal world views that encourage the goal of peace for all. And unlike the communal justice model, I am more likely to be improvisational rather than institutional.

This was also verified for me when I discovered that one of my favorite parables from Jesus, Matthew 20:1-16 about the landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for the grape vineyard is actually one that people in this category typically like, as it teaches the communal-peace perspective! In using this parable Jesus tries to get us to go beyond our individual concepts of retributive justice and begin to imagine God and the utopian vision that results from the way in which God operates in the world. God does not operate with us through hierarchy, but rather God operates based on generosity and on gift giving.

A further verification that this was indeed my category was that persons in this category often work with prisoners! And if ever there was a challenge to achieving communal peace, that is the place! But again, there was that cautionary note that in order to

"But there is also another reality; we are equally capable of *inhabiting goodness* . . ."

avoid the extreme danger of an "us against the world" mentality, a balance between individual engagement and communal justice engagement becomes crucial, in order for seekers of communal peace to reach their goal.

All one needs to do is open the daily paper or watch just a little news on TV to see people's destructive tendencies played out. But there is also another reality; we are equally capable of *inhabiting goodness* and excelling. God already *inhabits us!* God has already reconciled us...it is a done deal! We read in 2 Corinthians, "So if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who [*has already*] reconciled us to him through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." Notice that Paul speaks in the past tense...God has already reconciled us through Christ! Our task: to daily practice the presence of Christ and live [**inhabit**] God's divine life, not as some utopian vision but as concrete reality.

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An Interview with the People's Warden

By Victor A Levine

I talked to Bill Walker in mid-December about his work for St. Barnabas. Bill is a man who projects a sense of happiness, if not infectious enthusiasm. He's in his mid-70s and looks 20 years younger. He's a former math teacher and wrestling coach, who comes across as being in superb physical and mental condition.

There's a reason for his obvious good health, he told me. He's been working at it his entire life and there's been no change in his commitment since he retired from teaching. In fact, his commitment is even greater, now that he's 'retired'. As for being mortal he said, "I'd like to die young, as late as possible."

It would be hard to find a better qualified person to teach the course titled "Younger Next Year", which meets Thursdays at St. Barnabas from 4-5pm in the parish room, and promotes the idea that daily exercise is essential to good health and longevity. Bill's view is that it's also the essential way to grasp the highest quality of life attainable, given the stress and temptations of the modern world.

But teaching the virtues of the good life isn't all he does. He's the People's Warden at St. Barnabas, which means, he represents the congregation to Rector Alex. Also, he's the creator of the bi-weekly Men's Breakfast Club. Above all, he will assume leadership of the St. Barnabas Stewardship Committee in January '07.

I asked him which he felt was the most important role he played in the life of St. B. and, after a moment's thought, he said, "Better make that the Stewardship Committee." Of all the committees, he said, it's critical because it ensures the life and continuance of our parish.

The Committee's job is to see that the budget, prepared by the Finance Committee, is fully funded,



and managing that is not easy work. \$105,000 is pledged for the current fiscal year, while a goal of \$25,000 from open-plate collections is a hopeful prediction. Thinking about the pledges, Bill added that it would take 70 pledges at \$1,500 (the number 70 is an average for the year) to meet the \$105,000 goal.

"One helpful development in tax law," he said, "is the two-year tax exemption on withdrawals from traditional IRAs that are invested in charitable donations. The exemption is for fiscal '06 and '07 years. It applies to account holders who've turned seventy-one and a half and is good for a maximum withdrawal of \$100,000.

"Sounds good," I said. "Where's the catch?" "There's no catch," he said, "as long as the money goes directly from the IRA trustee to the tax-exempt charity. If you have any questions, the IRA trustee or the receiving institution can tell you how to do it."

For more information on the tax exemption or on the "Younger Next Year" course, check in with Bill at bwalker@cableusa.com, or call him at (760) 767-5510.

Be Prepared!

By Fred Jee

Editor's Note: This is part two of our article on emergency planning. For part one, see our November 06 issue. Previous issues of the Carillon are available at www.stbarnabasborrego.com. In an isolated community like Borrego Springs, we cannot count on others to save us in an emergency event. Are you ready to take care of yourself? Are you prepared to help your neighbors?

The three “P”s of disaster preparedness are Planning, Preparation and Perseverance. We discussed planning in the part one of this article, now it’s on to preparation.

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. It is also the time to replace items that are damaged or out of date. Check your expiration dates on your batteries, food items, medicines and other products that will expire over time. Replacing them on a regular basis will avoid disappointment later when you really need them.

“Sounds like a lot? Yes, but having nothing is a lot tougher!”

Clothing is important. Disasters don’t come on specific nice weather days. You should have in your kit or second kit, a warm jacket, raincoat or cover, two pairs of socks, underwear, two pair of pants, a second set of shoes, sunglasses and/or second pre-

scription set of glasses and a pair of gloves. That list is per person! Sounds like a lot? Yes, but having nothing is a lot tougher!

Tools are needed to turn off gas mains, water mains, and other utilities if you can do it SAFELY! Tools like a pair of pliers, a screwdriver and a hammer can make the difference in saving your person and your possessions in the house if it is damaged. Prying open jammed doors and windows, nailing shut a flapping shutter or numerous other little chores will make your life easier while waiting for help or just subsisting until the disaster passes.

Communication is important to get immediate help and to alert others of your condition. Cell phones (that work) should be used sparingly to preserve the battery life and to keep the amount of air traffic to a minimum. Remember that emergency groups must function at their peak to assist all the persons needing assistance. Their ability to communicate is paramount. If you must make a call, call someone on a predesignated emergency call list to alert them of your

“If you believe that you will survive, you probably will survive.”

location, status and current situation and your current phone number to call you back. Have them call your relatives, friends and important people that you are fine. If not, they may be able to contact the emergency agency closest to you to send help. Give your emergency callers a list of your important phone numbers so they can help you efficiently when you call them.

If searchers are looking for you and you cannot go to them, the safety whistle is very handy to get someone’s attention if they are close enough. A little

signal mirror is very good to get the attention of passing cars or planes. Get one with a little hole in the center. It is used as an aiming port so you can aim the mirror in the most advantageous direction. Buy a simple one at the park visitor center, or look at sporting goods store or specialty store like North face, REI or A-16 in SanDiego.

Preparation is putting in place what you plan to do and need in an emergency. Be serious about the preparations. Cheating on that is cheating on yourself.

Finally, PERSEVERANCE. If you believe that you will survive, you probably will survive. If your belief that nothing you can do will make any difference, so you do nothing, you are doomed to making that prophecy come true. Believe in yourself, your family, your friends, your spiritual self are all the basis for keeping your focus on surviving. You must persevere if you are to succeed. This seems obvious and basic, but in an emergency, the emotions often take over and rule the moment. That is human nature and to be expected. What you must do is think further and harder about the moment.

Let your planning take effect. Let your preparations allow you to maintain and live through the moment. Let your perseverance keep you on track. The three "P's" are key to your survival in a disaster. Only you can save you! - BE PREPARED!

Seeking New Editor For Carillon

If you dabble in desktop publishing or create the best Christmas letters around, you might enjoy editing and designing St. Barnabas's monthly newsletter. This very rewarding volunteer job needs someone special. Is it you? Call Alex+ for more information!

Hospice Training

Hospice volunteer, you ask? Why would I want to do that? It sounds morbid. It sounds depressing.

Unless you have had experience with hospice, you might ask questions like that. In 1985 I had the experience of losing my best friend. She left us quietly, lying without pain in her own bed surrounded by the music, the friends and the pets she loved. In the late spring afternoon she looked out over her beloved Penacook valley and saw the rainbow. Then she turned toward an icon of the virgin and called "Maria". She left her body for us to care for. We were grieved, but happy that she left us as she did without pain and in peace. And it was hospice that made it possible.

Hospice members are trained professionals and volunteers who provide support to families and patients as they face final good-byes and a journey into eternity. But they need volunteers to help. As a volunteer, you'll be fully trained and supported. If you would like to help in this work, training is available right here in Borrego.

Hospice training will help you gain an understanding of hospice philosophy and its role in caring for terminally ill individuals. It will help you understand your own feelings regarding death and dying, and will enable you to be part of a caring team providing support to families and patients facing a life threatening illness. Your training is transferable to any hospice in the United States

Want more information; want to sign up? Call Horizon Hospice at 1-800-304-4430.

-Mary Hill Levine

Hospice Volunteer Training
WHERE: St. Barnabas
WHEN: Jan. 19-20 and 26-27
TIME: 9am to 3pm



Part Two continued from page 2

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

Comments from the National Cathedral

So much has been written already about the Investiture and Seating at the National Cathedral of the first woman Presiding Bishop in our Church, that my comments now seem a bit anti-climatic.

With over 3000 people at each service, held on the first Saturday and Sunday in November, and standing in long lines for over an hour before the doors opened each day, I nonetheless felt privileged to attend, and amazingly, I also felt I was an integral part of both prayer services.

There is a DVD of both ceremonies which I've ordered. We will be making arrangements to see it in small groups (at homes with large screen TVs!!) and will also lend it out on an individual basis.

Bishop Katharine is a most impressive woman. She is very committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to the Millennium Goals and the idea that it is fundamentally possible in our time to eradicate poverty. We are very blessed to have such a person as our current leader.

-Nancy Nagy+

Scenes from Advent

Advent scenes clockwise from top left: Jean Smith guards the cash at the big bake sale; busy elves wrap tasty treats for sale; Nancy+ in blue vestments and a beautiful wreath tell us that Advent is here; goodies for sale; Christmas floral display; Dave Otis on the organ. Photos by Kathleen Killman, Nancy Nagy+ and Joanie Cahill.

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Even though we will not be receiving a cost of living increase (my initiative) we chose to increase our pledge for 2007 by 9%.

You know the financial need of our parish and your own financial situation. Even though we are all working to increase our membership, we realize that this past year several consistently generous people completed their earthly pilgrimage and we have not been notified of any money left in their wills to further the mission of St. Barnabas.

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Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+

In Other Parish News. . .

The vestry approved the church budget for 2007. Please take time to look it over (attached).

The Women of St. Barnabas had a record breaking bake sale, thanks in part to the dozens of people who helped. This December's sale raised more than \$1,200!

The Altar Guild has decided to postpone the cook-book project until next fall.

On Dec. 22nd, the labyrinth was lit with over one hundred candles and luminarias for the solstice walk. Twenty-one people took part in this very special advent event.

Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

- Jan. 7** Regular two services at 7 and 9:30am for the Epiphany.
plus
Annual open house at Rectory
- Jan. 21** Stewardship Sunday
- Jan. 19 & 20, 26 & 27**
Hospice Volunteer Training from 9am to 3pm in the Parish Room.

FEBRUARY 11th ONE Holy Eucharist at 9:30am ONLY followed by Annual Parish Meeting and catered brunch.

**12th Night
Open House
at the Rectory**

**January 7th
5- 8pm
3425 Santa Saba
Bring an appetizer to share!**

St. Barnabas Carillon

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