

# Carillon

## St Barnabas Episcopal Church

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

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Borrego Springs, California

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### *From the Desert*

## Bishop Jim Mathes visits March 25

Why is the bishop's annual visit so important to the clergy, vestry and all communicants at St. Barnabas? Because of what he symbolizes (the visible sign of our spiritual unity) and because of his ministry among us (as chief priest and pastor of our diocese). In him we recognize our unity among ourselves, among all Episcopalians in the diocese, in the country and in the world.

In fact, Christian unity was on the minds of the bishops who gathered for General Convention in Chicago in 1886. The first point of their reflection was their "earnest desire that the Savior's prayer, 'That we all may be one,' may, in its deepest and truest sense, be speedily fulfilled."

**The Book of Common Prayer** (BCP, p. 876) They went on to name the four essentials of our religion with the historic episcopate being one of them (p. 877). Their desire was "the restoration of unity among the divided branches of Christendom." (Ibid) Two years later at the Lambeth Conference the same

four essentials were slightly modified and then accepted by the Anglican Communion.

One hundred and twenty one years later we are still praying: just as Jesus did for his apostles, we too are praying for his disciples of today. They were not united and neither are we in the Episcopal church. Surely as people of faith, we must begin with prayer. But prayer alone is not enough. We must begin to learn to LISTEN especially to those whose opinion we do not share; as also they must begin to listen to us. That just isn't happening. Each is convinced the other is wrong - without ever LISTENING. Isn't it amazing that Solomon was recognized by the Jews as their wisest king. Why? Because when he was made king Yahweh asked him which gift he requested to be a good king. Solomon asked for lebh shomeah = a listening heart. I Kings 3:9

**Bishop Jim Mathes' annual visit is important because he symbolizes our spiritual unity and because of his ministry among us.**

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# St. Barnabas' annual meeting



Our annual meeting was held Sunday, February 11, 2007, immediately following the single service held at 9:30. Careful planning and a no-nonsense agenda meant that Alex+ conducted and concluded the meeting in less than 30 minutes.

Retiring vestry persons John Drum, Kathleen Killman and Addis Ward were thanked for their three years of service. New vestry members were elected and introduced: David Leibert, Haddon Salt and Shirley Vialpando. Treasurer Margaret Orenyak reviewed our financial position and the 2007 budget was received by the 78 parishioners in attendance.

Gratitude was expressed for our part-time workers'



efforts and for Bob Cassidy's many hours of volunteer work. Special acknowledgement was given to the 16 who participated in the Horizon Hospice training and appreciation from Bill Walker for the strong response to the initial stewardship drive. After a review of our local outreach programs we heard a letter of thanks from the rector of Trinity Church in Mississippi for our financial and spiritual support following Hurricane Katrina. Ann White read a paean of hope from our presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori, and Nancy+ delivered a closing prayer combined with grace before the courtyard brunch to which we adjourned (see page 3).

Nancy Bye

*Participants in the annual meeting are (clockwise from upper left) Kathleen Killman (left) and Nancy Bye; Treasurer Margaret Orenyak giving her report; Bob Cassidy who was thanked for his many hours of volunteer work; Nancy Bye reading a thank you letter from Pass Christian, and Bill (right) standing, gives thanks for the stewardship support from the Parish.*



# Outdoor brunch follows reports



We had a lovely brunch



on the patio at St. Barnabas



in the February sunshine



# One + One + One Episcopalian

The man sits on the street corner day after day, begging for money. He's poor and desperate for a little cash to spend on food. He's not alone. Half of our world lives on less than \$1 a day. This is a sin.

More than one billion people — one-sixth of the world's population — live each day under the weight of extreme poverty. While income poverty is part of the problem, the dimensions of human poverty are much greater. Pandemic disease, widespread conflict, environmental degradation, chronic hunger and a lack of access to education are all both causes and effects of human poverty.

Advocacy happens everyday all over the country, all over the world. As Episcopalians, we are called to advocacy in our baptismal covenant's vow to "strive for justice and peace." Therefore, in order to meet the challenge of addressing global poverty in all its dimensions, world leaders in 2000 created the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight quantifiable targets designed to cut poverty in half by the year 2015. The MDGs envision rich and poor nations working together in partnership to combat poverty. It is not about distributing alms, but rather helping people to take control of their own destiny. The projects are not imposed on the countries of the Southern hemisphere but support local partners in their work. Our role is as advocates and mouthpieces for our local partners working amongst the disadvantaged.

In 2006 The Episcopal Church, at its 75th General Convention, voted to make the MDGs a mission priority over the next three years and endorsed a new partnership between the Episcopal Church and **ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History**. The ONE Campaign derives its name from the belief that allocating an additional one percent of the U.S. budget toward providing basic needs like health, education, clean water and food would transform the futures and hopes of an entire generation in the world's poorest countries, and it also calls for debt cancellation, trade reform and anti-corruption

measures in a comprehensive package to help Africa and the poorest nations beat AIDS and extreme poverty.

The initiative, called "**ONE Episcopalian**," unites the voices of Episcopalians with 2.4 million other Americans who are members of the ONE Campaign. The ONE Campaign is an effort by Americans to rally Americans — one by one — to fight the emergency of global AIDS and extreme poverty.

Congregations that join the **ONE Episcopalian** campaign as "**ONE Congregations**" are asked to commit to three of five actions: (1) Featuring the MDGs in a sermon or rector's forum; (2) Organizing an "offering of letters" and asking participants to join the **ONE** Campaign; (3) Using **ONE** resources in Christian-education classes for youth or adults; (4) Meeting with lawmakers to advocate for the MDGs; and (5) Collecting an annual offering for Episcopal Relief and Development's efforts to fight deadly poverty in the world.

This year, under pressure from the **ONE**, the G8 agreed to increase aid to Africa by \$25b, and to all developing countries by \$50b, by 2010. The G8 leaders and the other shareholders of the World Bank and IMF also agreed to cancel 100% of the multilateral debts owed by 18 qualified Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). This will help kick-start poor countries efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, but more will be needed if these goals are to be achieved and these promises will only be kept if we keep up the pressure.

Our Presiding Bishop, Katharine Jefferts Schori, has called upon all Episcopalians to prayer and a fulfillment of the MDGs. She asks that during this Lent we have a special offering for the efforts of Episcopal Relief and Development to fight deadly poverty in the world.

God has a heart for the poor. Do we?  
Nancy+

God has a heart for the poor. Do we?

# New vestry is already at work



*New Vestry members get right to work at St. Barnabas. The Vestry consists of (left to right, beginning with the front row): Ann White and L. Louise Jee; Nancy Bye, Bill Walker and David Leibert; Alex+, Shirley Vialpando and Haddon Salt. Below (left) are Mary Levine and Jill Bennett.*

Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> marked a half-day planning session for the new vestry. We gathered in the sanctuary for a photo op for Faye Dorsey, then joined in a brief prayer service. Once settled in the parish room, Alex+ invited us each to tell how we came to St. Barnabas, what we found most important about St. Barnabas for ourselves and what we'd like to see/do/have in the future. If you just lean back and think about these three questions you can imagine how seven (Jill Bennett was ill and Mary Levine had a previous commitment) very different people might react.



History came into play as many remembered Frances Brainerd, Horace McClelland, Gethin Hughes and Ron Shepherd. The rector's office, the labyrinth, the new organ, the palapa were recognized as miracles typical of St. Barnabas. And our dreams for the future comprise both miracles and mandates.

We are beginning to learn about our new members of the team. Haddon Salt is a virtual cadenza of love and enthusiasm, a song of outreaching and uplifting. David Leibert has already repaired the sagging, rotted mess under our kitchen sink (and no, he didn't call someone in to do it), has a ready-to-go wit and seems to carry a ladder around with him.

Shirley Vialpando knows when to bring us back to

business, speaks Spanish (!) and writes very well. We'll be learning a lot more about her and her many talents. She is also the new president of the Women of St. Barnabas. Alex+ invited Ann White to be his warden for 2007. We pounded feet and fists to insist that Bill Walker stay on as the peoples' warden for 2007.

And guess what? Our lovely carillon is working. Once again the bells ring out reminding us of the love and peace that God can bring. Another St. Barnabas miracle?

Well, yes and no. Alex+ will tell you on Sunday.

Nancy Bye

# The 33rd annual diocesan convention

I attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual Diocesan convention in the company of Alex+, Nancy+ and Mary Levine February 9 and 10. It was a two-day affair, held mostly in St Paul's Cathedral in San Diego, and it was a great experience. I definitely recommend you do it when the chance next comes your way.

What was it like? Aside from the usual housekeeping details (see below) it was stirred up by a discussion of a contentious issue, something called Open Communion. What that proposes is that Communion should be open to everybody, regardless of whether or not he or she has been baptized. Say what?

It's true. The Convention voted on a proposition which recommended the churches in the diocese run the idea past their congregations to see how members feel about it.

The practice of baptism as a necessary prelude to communion is accepted as tradition — something Episcopalians have grown up with and it seems to fit the natural order of things.

But the arguments are indecisive. Jesus was baptized. There's no evidence in the Gospels that his most immediate followers, his apostles, were. There's no evidence that close-in or far-flung communities of Christians were.

What seems clear is that Baptism as formal entrance into the faith has an odd history. Documents of the second century spell it out and in the fourth century, the Nicene fathers clearly mandated it. But the situation also seems to have been fluid, from late-Roman times through the Middle Ages, when the West was in political chaos, though it was fixed at the time of the Reformation.

One supposes it could have gone the other way, since there are accounts which favor the notion that the practice was not fixed in the early church, prior to the first century, and proponents suggest that — looking at the Gospels — communion and baptism were not necessarily related in the way we now un-

derstand the connection.

Whether or not that means that the order can be reversed, or one divorced from the other, is the question put by those supporting Open Communion. They argue from Scripture, theology and social setting. Their arguments are various but, in the end, lean to the pragmatic:

Putting Communion first would open up Church membership to all people, not just the baptized. As for baptism, it could easily come later. Why the rush? The Episcopal Church, according to a New York Times report, loses more than 100,000 people each year.

**Putting  
Communion  
first would open  
up Church  
membership to  
all people ...**

Still, there is the argument in favor of leaving things as they are. The question some delegates were asking is whether the Episcopal Church wants to further roil the waters with a new dispensation.

The issue is still in the discussion process. It's good to recall that the diocesan convention is following the lead set at General Convention last year and, like

the General Convention, it voted to continue discussing the relative merits of both approaches. The jury is definitely out on that issue.

As for St Barnabas, I don't know where most of our congregation stand on this. I've talked to some people and the division seems to be pretty equal. It's worth pointing out that neither approach is exclusive. It's possible to continue with the more traditional procedure, while pursuing the new practice of open communion.

Of course, other issues were dealt with at the convention. Many were simple housekeeping chores, like clarifying or modifying standing policies, relative to the Canons or, in one case, to the membership of the board of directors of The Bishop's School.

The other big issue centered on immigration, which I'll discuss in the next issue of *The Carillon*.

Victor A. Levine

# Matthew returns



*Matthew Jee attends services at St. Barnabas the day after he returned from Okinawa. Matthew, the son of Fred and LLouise Jee, is serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. He next will be going to Virginia where he will receive more training.*

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## Reflections, continued from page 1

Lent is the ideal time for listening. Listen to God speaking to you, inviting you to listen to the cry of the poor, of the desperate, of the oppressed, of the incarcerated, of the dying. Identify with them as Jesus did and do whatever you can to help people in need.

Constant prayer, empathic listening and effective action could be an excellent Lenten discipline. Begin yourself. Let others experience your listening heart.

In his two years as the Diocesan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, Bishop Jim Mathes is scheduled for his third visit to St. Barnabas. +Jim was ordained a bishop and immediately became our diocesan leader on March 5, 2005. He will preside/preach and receive Wendy Quinn into the Episcopal Church during the 9:30 am Holy Eucharist on March 25<sup>th</sup>. That will be the only prayer service that Sunday. After we pray, he will listen to our concerns for our church.

We will listen to his report on the bishops' meeting which will have concluded two days before his visit to us. Bring a friend, someone who would like to meet Bishop Jim Mathes, the visible sign of our spiritual unity, our friend, the chief priest and pastor of our diocese.

Sincerely,  
Alex+/Nancy+

# Visitors' note

Alex+ received the following e-mail from visitors who attended St. Barnabas February 11:

This is just a little note to say "thank you" for the very uplifting service that we experienced at your church. We truly felt God's Spirit there during the worship service on the 11th of February. People were open, friendly and welcoming. We also appreciated the trumpet player and how the music added to the character of the service.

This was our first visit to Borrego Springs. We noticed your sign along the road on the way to the Anza Borrego State Park.

We have only been to an Episcopal church once before for a wedding. This was our first service on a Sunday at an Episcopal church. If we ever return to that area, we will visit again. We wish you blessings as you continue your important work there.

Cathy and Jon Bergvinson

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## A hymn for Lent

Our Bishop James has said, "Let us take this season of Lent to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ." Reading and singing hymn #149, making it your own, will help you with this goal.

Eternal Lord of love, behold your church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here — the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,  
so daily living to your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.

The words of this hymn remind us of what God has revealed to us, as well as his providence and guides us toward faithful response. These words are worth singing and remembering.

Bonnie Walker

## Mark Your Calendar

### MARCH

March 1 — Women of St. Barabas' potluck noon at Ann White's house.

March 4 — Talents and Treasures Sale — Just For Us will be held after each of the services.

March 21 — Sarah's Circle 6 p.m. at the Rectory, Men of St. Barnabas 6 p.m. at Friz Killman's home.

March 30 — The Women of St. Barnabas' bake sale from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Christmas Circle.

March 31 — Ladies make palm crosses at 9 a.m.

### APRIL

April 1-7 — Holy Week

April 1 — Palm Sunday Eucharist at 7 a.m. and

9 a.m.

April 5 — Maundy Thursday at 7:30 p.m. Eucharist

April 6 — Good Friday from noon until 3 p.m. in Church

April 7 — Easter Vigil at 7:30 p.m.

**Bishop Jim Mathes'  
annual visit  
is Sunday, March 25th  
at the 9:30 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist**

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