

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

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Reflections From the Desert

May God grant you all the good of which your heart is capable

At St. Barnabas we publicly celebrate every parishioner's birthday. If we already know the date, it is printed in the Sunday bulletin during the week during which it occurs, at which time we invite you to come forward for a blessing. (Please check with Lynn to make sure we have yours.) We do this because you are important, an integral part of our community of faith and we wish to recognize and honor you.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. The day is so important that half of the Sundays of the year are referred to as Sundays after Pentecost. Fifty days after the Resurrection we celebrate Jesus keeping his promise to send us "another Advocate (a defense lawyer), to be with you (us) forever. This is the Spirit of truth (the Holy Spirit) ..." (John 14: 16-17) In the Greek text we find parakletos = paraclete: helper, comforter. John uses many words to describe the role of the Spirit.

During the Last Supper Jesus offered three gifts to His disciples then and now: His new commandment, His shalom and His unity.

His NEW commandment: "I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13: 34-35; 15:12) The followers of Jesus will be able to be recognized for one quality and one quality only: their respectful, caring attitude and actions toward each other.

His shalom: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives." (John 14:27) Unlike in our society (the world) where "peace" is often equated with the absence of war, "peace" for Jesus draws on the rich Jewish understanding of peace as a gift: "May God grant you all the good of which your heart is capa-

**Just as I have loved you, you
also should love one another.**

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Third and Last Study Day

In May the three Scripture Study Days concluded with a six hour study on the *Mystery of Jesus* as found in the Gospel of John. From the two previous classes we had seen that the Christian Scriptures do not present us with a straight biography of Jesus. Nonetheless, they do present us with valuable historical information on the life of Jesus that can be discerned with the aid of historical research, biblical scholarship and sound common sense. This enables us to construct a portrait of Jesus of Nazareth with which historians, scripture scholars and believers alike can reasonably agree.

In our previous study of Matthew (Judiasm) and Luke (Universalism) we discovered that this historical approach does not bypass Christian faith; nor is it solely dependent on faith. In this sense, it is meaningful to make a distinction between the *Jesus of history* and the *Christ of faith*. Both speak about the *same Jesus*, but we do not assume that the Jesus who is portrayed in the gospels as Lord and Savior was experienced in precisely the way by his disciples during their time with him in Palestine. The developed New Testament Christologies are post-resurrection accounts which witness to *post-resurrection belief* in Jesus as the Christ, the Anointed One of God.

It was noted that a *literalist* or *fundamentalist* reading of any of our texts fail to take into account the ways in which resurrection-belief transformed the disci-

ples' understanding of who Jesus was. They assume, for example, that throughout his earthly existence, Jesus was always fully aware of his own divine status and, therefore, knew everything there was to know including the future events of his own earthly life and death. Such a fundamentalist reading of the Scriptures denies Jesus' full humanity; it also fails to appreciate that the gospels are complex faith-documents — or faith-statements, rather than simple biographies or straightforward histories.

The historical reality is that the person of Jesus impacted so profoundly on his followers that the encounter itself became integral to the interpretation of his identity. This is not dissimilar to our experience of each other. We come to know others in depth to the extent that we encounter them in a living relationship. It becomes important, therefore, to keep the historical Jesus and the Christ of faith together as the full expression of the encounter our ancestors in the faith had with the unique person found in Jesus. Indeed, we discovered the many facets that make up the mystery of Jesus, then and now.

Three more classes will be offered in the Fall and again in the Spring next year. Topics have been suggested ... still more will be considered. Please feel free to make your interests known!

Nancy+

Reflections From the Desert, continued from page 1

ble.” With open hearts, the followers, the lovers, of Jesus will demand respect, justice and forbearance for everyone thereby preparing themselves to receive God’s gift of unity.

His unity: Because they were still bickering among themselves - even during the Last Supper - as to which of them was the most important, Jesus prayed that God would grant them God’s gift of unity “so that they all may be one, as we are one.” (John 17:22) Jesus prayed that they would outdo each other in service and so recognize that their newly understood importance should derive from their self giving.

At the Last Supper, the prayer of Jesus for his disciples and for those who would come to know Him as a result of their preaching, was for love, shalom and unity. At Pentecost they received the gift of the Spirit who would lead them into the fullness of truth. How do our actions show us and others how well we are attempting to prepare ourselves, each other and all people everywhere to receive God’s most precious gifts of love, peace and unity?

Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+

Women provide camp scholarship



Photo courtesy of the Borrego Sun

Looking over the Camp Stevens brochure, Juan Rocha, second from left, will spend a week at camp because of a scholarship from the Women of St. Barnabas. Borrego Springs High School Principal Gary Gernandt, left to right, holds a Camp Stevens T-shirt while Juan's mother, Maria, and Shirley Vialpando join him in congratulating the teenager. Shirley is president of the Women of St. Barnabas.

Juan Rocha will attend Camp Stevens in Julian August 5 through 11, due to a scholarship he received from the Women of St. Barnabas (see page 4).

The women's group honored Juan, his mother and Borrego Springs High School Principal Gary Gernandt at a luncheon at Kendall's Café.

The group donated \$420 for the scholarship to the "International Odyssey" camp which includes hikes on Volcan Mountain, a challenge course, art projects and socializing with Japanese students who also will attend the camp.

This is the first time the Women of St. Barnabas have sponsored a camp scholarship and, according to Shirley, was a way for the women's group to im-

pact the life of a Borrego Springs student. She said she hopes the Women of St. Barnabas will consider sponsoring a camp scholarship each year.

Gernandt chose Juan from a list of students recommended by teachers and noted that Juan really connected with visiting students from Wales who were at the school recently and is the type of youngster who reaches out to others.

Juan, a freshman who will be 15 when he attends camp, hasn't decided on a profession yet.

Alex+ said he hopes the camp experience will give Juan a chance to expand his horizons.

Juan has lived in Borrego Springs his entire life.

Bishop Walter Munro Wolterstorff



Bishop Walter Munro Wolterstorff is dead at 92. He died peacefully in his sleep on the afternoon of April 27, 2007, following a heart attack suffered 10 days previously.

He served as diocesan bishop in San Diego from 1974 thru 1982. He was the first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, which was carved out of the sprawling Los Angeles diocese in 1974.

Walter Munro Wolterstorff is a name that will evoke remembrance in the minds of many at St. Barnabas. He was present on December 16, 1984, 11 years after St. Barnabas was created, when he helped initiate the process of raising a church building.

His words were prophetic: "Since faithful people desire to build a house of prayer, dedicated to the

glory of God, to be known as St. Barnabas, on this ground now marked with the symbol of Christ, therefore, I break ground for this building in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Bishop Wolterstorff provided full support as diocesan bishop, prior to that time, to founding members of the congregation who held services in their homes in Borrego Springs.

Walter Munro Wolterstorff was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1914 and was ordained a deacon in 1940 and priest in 1941. He served for 20 years as rector and assistant rector at St James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in La Jolla prior to his ordination as bishop in 1974.

A diocesan funeral was conducted Thursday, May 3 at St. Paul's Cathedral in San Diego.

Victor Levine

Report from Women of St. Barnabas

In lieu of a May meeting, the Women of St. Barnabas hosted Juan Rocha, his mother Maria and Gary Gernandt, principal of Borrego Springs High School at a luncheon where we presented Juan with a campership check (see page 3).

I met with Mr. Gernandt last month and explained to him our desire to use the monies we've all earned to benefit this community. He agreed to confer with his teachers and choose a student they felt would get the most out of a week at Camp Stevens, and one whose family would be supportive. It didn't take them very long to make their decision as he called me back in just a few days.

Juan is one of six children being raised by a single mother who works two jobs. I had a chance to visit with her during our luncheon and found her to be a lovely and very strong woman. She does not drive, but Principal Gernandt assured us that he and the

teachers will see to Juan's transportation to and from the camp.

Juan will have the loan of a camera from the school and I have asked him to take many pictures and then come to one of our meetings in the fall to tell us about his camping experience. I think that will be our program for either October's or November's meeting. If you have any preference, or opinions, on that, please let me know. I'm flexible, but would like to schedule it for when many of you will be back.

You should know, also, that I did indicate to Mr. Gernandt my hope that our making this campership award could become an annual tradition for the Women of St. Barnabas. I look forward to hearing your opinions on the subject.

Have a wonderful and blessed summer,

Shirley Vialpando

John the Beloved

Welcome to Patmos
Isle at Aegean's edge
Rich in rock
And beached
With coarse pebble

Where pure hue
Of sky
And lapping sea
Provide a mixed
Joy

But to be so great
A danger to Rome
As to be banished
To this place
Of suck and spew

Fogs the mind:
Patmos was where
Boats outside the bay
Never dropped anchor
Patmos was truly

An exile unsought
Yet yours was the choice
To reinvent the world
As eternal logos:
That place of refuge

Matched only
By the stunned
Silence within
You were the
Defining engine

Of the word
Sufficient
To call into being
A divinely wrought
Act with clear signs

Of purpose
It was your choice

To celebrate
The matchless beginning
In a voice

Like a bass viol
You echoed
The great void;
In crying the word
Logos you flew

Past caesar's dream
Into the prophetic
Moment where
face to face
You would meet

With the divine
Presence beyond
The dust and decay
Of imperial
Edict

Victor Levine

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New members

Mike and Marcia McEvoy have recently moved here from Port Angeles, Washington, where she was a social worker with a community action agency and he a disabled veterans outreach specialist for the state of Washington.

They live at the Roadrunner Club and have joined St. Barnabas. They love our small town and our sunshine.

Avid volunteers, they are already ensconced behind the desk in the lobby of the Chamber of Commerce on Tuesdays, and Mike is working at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association's Desert Nature Center on Sundays and Mondays. Welcome!

Nancy Bye

Making a Milestone, Moving Forward

Somewhere near you, there's a blue-and-white sign bearing the familiar slogan: *The Episcopal Church Welcomes You*. It represents some 7,400 congregations that trace their beginnings in North America to a small, but hopeful, group of English Christians who arrived May 14, 1607, at a place they called Jamestown — the first permanent English settlement in the New World.

You may know us as Washington's monumental National Cathedral, site of historic services and ceremonies, or the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, still unfinished, but already the largest cathedral in the world.

But the Episcopal Church is also Boston's Old North Church, founded in 1723 and made famous by serving as the beacon for Paul Revere's revolution-spurring "midnight ride." And Philadelphia's Christ Church, home parish of 15 signers of the Declaration of Independence, host to the first General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1785.

The
Episcopal Church
welcomes you

It's Trinity Parish on Wall Street in New York, formed in 1698, and St. Paul Chapel just down the street, frequented by George Washington and the spiritual healing center of Ground Zero since September 11, 2001.

It's also Epiphany Church in Los Angeles, where Cesar Chavez rallied the United Farmworkers. And Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland, Maryland, whose basement was a major stop of the Underground Railroad to freedom for enslaved African-Americans. And St. John's Church in Greenwich Village, a meeting place for gay and lesbian action following the 1969 Stonewall uprising.

It's a parish in Iowa. A campus ministry in Georgia. A mission in *Dinétab* — the Navajo Reservation. A cathedral in Utah. Even a house church in Vermont.

Wherever you find us, you'll find the Book of Common Prayer and a Christian faith that honors and en-

gages the Bible, the tradition of the Church, and God-given human reason.

Joined in prayer, you'll find people with many points of view — Christians who are progressive, moderate, and conservative — yet who value the diversity of their faith community.

That's a heritage drawn from our deep roots in nearly 2,000 years of English Christianity, and shared by a world-wide Anglican Communion that unites nearly 80 million people in 164 countries through prayer and ministries committed to caring for "the least of these," as Jesus commanded, by reducing poverty, disease, and oppression.

Episcopalians struggle with the same issues that trouble all people of faith: how to interpret an ancient faith for today ... how to maintain the integrity of tradition while reaching out to a hurting world ... how to disagree and yet love and respect one another.

Occasionally those struggles make the news. People find they can no longer walk with us on their journey, and may be called to a different spiritual home. Some later make their way back, and find they are welcomed with open arms.

Despite the headlines, the Episcopal Church keeps moving forward in mission — in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, as well as congregations in Belgium, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guam, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Micronesia, Puerto Rico, Switzerland, Taiwan, Venezuela, and the Virgin Islands. We're committed to a transformed world, as Jesus taught: a world of justice, peace, wholeness, and holy living.

We're grown a lot in 400 years, since that 1607 worship service from the *Book of Common Prayer* was held in Jamestown — inside and out. Come see for yourself. Come and visit ... come and explore ... *come and grow*.

April Vestry Report

At the April 23rd meeting we had a full complement of current members except for poor Jill Bennett who was still recovering slowly at home, and Haddon Salt who was in and out on a Cursillo high you must ask him about!

Because of the Memorial Day holiday we've changed our meeting calendar and will meet June 4, July 9, but not again until September 24.

We have received the gift of a new piano for our parish room. At the thoughtful suggestion of Dave Otis, we will give the piano we now use to the Senior Center. The seniors are grateful and delighted.

Our financial news is even better than good! Less than halfway through the year we've actually had pledges top our budget. First time ever. Bill Walker

and Margaret Orenyak co-signed a letter to the parish asking for additional donations for "Additional Investment in St. Barnabas." A number of our members had expressed concern that there were no pay increases budgeted for either Alex+ or Lynniss this year. The early response to that letter has been amazing! We've rallied with contributions of more than \$8,000. As suggested by the finance committee and unanimously approved by the vestry, Alex+ will receive an 81/2% increase retroactive to January 1. Lynniss will enjoy a nice increase in appreciation of her continued excellent work.

On that happy note we move to our summer routine — one service each Sunday at 8:30. Safe travels, and stay cool!

Nancy Bye

Alison in Africa

Parishioner Alison Royle is volunteering at Mission Namibia in St. Mary's Mission. Parts of her latest report follow.

It's 6:30 a.m. on a cool, cloudy morning. The mission is barely awake. Here are the school buildings, unusually quiet because the learners are away on holiday. In a few days they will once again be overflowing with chattering kids who will be trying to learn the lessons without enough textbooks. Maybe someday there will be one textbook for every student in every class. Someday ...

Now we are passing Crane House, the home for many past mission volunteers. It looks sad and worn out, patiently waiting for a renovation; to be turned back into a house where doctors, teachers and other volunteers can come to serve. Someday ...

The health centre is next, where one of the nurses is struggling to carry a huge yellow bucket of water into the laundry because the water pipe is broken. Major plumbing repairs are needed. Someday ...

The old ambulance — poor thing, with its steering column held on with duct tape. It will likely make its six to eight daily runs to the hospital 30 minutes

down the washboard road with patients who need a doctor, a pharmacy, medications and treatments that St. Mary's cannot provide. Someday ...

Here is the church, hunkered down under its rusty roof looking forward to Sunday when the 1,200 parishioners will come streaming in from every direction to worship together. The leaking roof is more than 50 years old and needs replacing. Someday ...

The last building on our walk is one that is closest to my heart this morning. It can hardly be called a shack, it is so dilapidated. In it are 12 expectant mothers who have come from their homesteads far out in the bush, to be close to the health centre when their time is near. They sleep on the floor under a broken ceiling with one candle for light at night. They wash in cold water outside and cook on the ground. The matron of the health centre would love to build them a proper shelter with warm beds, running water, a kitchen and a caregiver to help them through this important time. Someday ...

I send my love and God's blessings to you all,

Alison in Africa

Mark Your Calendar

June

June 6 — Women of St. Barnabas meet at Kendall's at noon.

June 9 — Priestly Ordination of Cathy Dowdle at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Alpine.

June 12 — Men's breakfast at the Arches at 7:30 a.m.

June 14 — Flag Day.

June 17 — Father's Day: Community celebration at Christmas Circle at 5 p.m.

June 20 — Men of St. Barnabas meet at 6 p.m. at the White's home.

June 26 — Men's breakfast at the Arches at 7:30 a.m.

Please remember ~

the Holy Eucharist

is at 8:30 a.m.

through October 28

St. Barnabas Carillon

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