

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

July 2007

Volume 10, No. 7

Reflections From the Desert

Preparing for an informational visit to the Anglican Diocese of El Salvador

As you are reading this, I am finishing my preparation to spend a week (July 12 through 19) in El Salvador with three other priests, a deacon and two college students from our diocese. +Jim asked us to explore collaborative ministerial opportunities with that Anglican diocese. I have a passport, air plane ticket and injections. The team will have a final meeting and then I pack my garment bag and head off for a midnight flight from LAX. I'm very excited and looking forward to meeting people, speaking Spanish and for my first time while visiting a Central American country.

At our last diocesan convention, February 2007, a resolution was passed unanimously that called for the establishment of a formal ("companion") relationship between the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego and the Anglican Diocese of El Salvador. Our visit will be part of the implementation process.

During the last few years, Bishop Gethin Hughes and Padre Juan Acosta met Bishop Martin Barahona, the current Primate of the Anglican Province of Central America, and began conversations which

led to our Bishop Jim and Terri visiting him last August. This March, during spring break, Mike Angell, diocesan youth missionary and our visitation team leader, took a group of college students to El Salvador to build houses for a new village.

Presently there is much concern about the unity of the Anglican Communion. The Theology Committee of our House of Bishops was asked to prepare a study document for the bishops, dioceses and people of the Episcopal Church in considering the Communique of the Primates' Meeting of the Anglican Communion. We commend their work, *Communion Matters: A Study Document for the Episcopal Church*, www.collegeforbishops.org, for your reading. At their July 9th meeting, your Vestry will discuss this document and offer our observations to +Jim in

Communion ... enables us to be disciples in a global context.

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Up off our knees, then one more step in the right direction

During the 75th General Convention in June, 2006, the Episcopal Church launched a grassroots partnership with ONE, called ONE Episcopalian, which seeks to rally Episcopalians — ONE by ONE — to the cause of ending extreme poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Recently the commitment to make poverty history was stepped up. On June 11 there was a mass media and mobilization effort to make global poverty a fundamental aspect of the 2008 presidential race; it was launched at St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

The new initiative, "ONE Vote '08: Saving Lives, Securing our Future," promises to energize presidential candidates and ONE members "to make the fight against global poverty a key foreign policy and security issue at the 2008 ballot box."

Former Senators Tom Daschle (D-South Dakota) and Bill Frist (R-Tennessee), co-chairs of ONE Vote, addressed a standing-room-only crowd at a news conference that marked the launch, while inbound and outbound satellite links connected a network of supporters nationwide.

In his welcoming remarks, the Rev. Paul Abernathy, St. Mark's rector, said, "In the name of the God, the greater power, I believe in, I invite us — each and all — to take an active part to alleviate, if not eliminate the poverty that is the daily and excruciating experience of so many of our sisters and brothers in our common human family.

"It's all right to pray, but after a while, we have to get up off of our knees and do something. One Vote '08 is prayer in action."

In a statement released to the media, Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori expressed her support for the ONE Vote launch, calling it "an ambitious effort to make global health and extreme poverty top foreign-policy priorities in the 2008 presidential election." She acknowledged that "Episcopalians, like people of faith across the United States, are prepared to play an active role in ONE Vote in their congregations and communities." "ONE Vote is the most important component of that mobilization to date," Jefferts Schori said. "I pray that all Americans will see, in ONE Vote, the opportunity for our nation to bring hope to the world and healing to the whole human family God so loves."

Nancy+

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preparation for the House of Bishops' September meeting.

Here are highlights from Part I:

The Communion matters because in this fellowship all give and receive many gifts.

The Communion matters because it enables us to be disciples in a global context.

The Communion matters because we have sought it for many years.

The maintenance of mutuality and trust within the Communion affects future mission opportunities.

What a moment of grace! We have so much about which to pray; to read, study, reflect and converse. In the best of our Anglican heritage, grounded in the Trinity, we selectively take from our past experiences whatever is helpful that can illumine our present quest for sharing the love of Christ using our God given intelligence, Tradition and Scripture: God's adventure!

Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+

Proud mother enjoys graduation



Parishioner Lynn Wilderson smiles with joy at her son Jeffrey's graduation when he received a juris doctor degree from Florida International University at Miami.

Parishioner Lynn Wilderson has returned from her son Jeffrey's graduation from Florida International University at Miami May 20 where he received a juris doctor degree.

Jeffrey graduated with a degree in biology from the University of California at San Diego then served in the United States Army as a UH60 Blackhawk pilot during Panama Just Cause and Desert Storm. He was decorated for his service in both conflicts. After the service, he was employed by the National Institute of Health in the Genome Sequencing Lab in Washington D.C. while he attended classes at George Washington University. A single father raising two young children, Jeffrey still graduated with honors. He was employed as a physician's assistant at the Veterans Administration Hospital in West Palm Beach, Florida, before he left to work as a dermatology physician's assistant.

"All this before he went to law school. Let's see that makes him a pilot, scientist, physician's assistant and now a lawyer, what's next?" Lynn asked.

Vestry Report

Your vestry met on June 4th rather than May 28th (our regular meeting day is the fourth Monday of the month at 8 a.m.) which was Memorial Day this year. All were present except for Bill Walker (summering on his island) and Mary Levine (down with a head cold). Our next meeting will be July 9th, no meeting in August, and things return to normal when we meet on September 24th.

Alex+ and Nancy+ will be on vacation from August 12th to September 5th and supply clergy are lined up for that time. Robb Fuesler from our Methodist church will be here on August 19. As part of their third annual pulpit exchange, Alex+ went there June 24th. From July 12th to 19th Alex+ will accompany +Jim Mathes on a trip to El Salvador to explore ministerial opportunities between the two dioceses. We will be kept well informed of the outcomes, no doubt. Margaret reports our finances are sound as of now.

L.Louise Jee presented a carefully planned and worded proposal for considerations to be made before any gift to St. Barnabas will be accepted. A Gifts and Memorials Committee will be formed and will include Louise Burmester, Nancy Bye, L.Louise and John Richen.

Local architect Richard Grenfell worked with Rob Chambers (our original architect) and has graciously agreed to work with us as arbiter. In simple terms, we want gifts that are in keeping with the spirit of the place, and that can be easily maintained. David Leibert also suggested that we add a provision that gifts may be sold or donated if we see fit. When this is all finalized we will post a copy of the Gifts and Memorials Guidelines and will be happy to send you a copy if you like.

Nancy Bye

Summer in Borrego?

Weather notwithstanding, you might find yourself somewhere this summer when you are in the mood for a movie ... not the latest, but a good movie in the comfort of your own home ... a DVD or video!

Here is a suggestion for one you may have missed ...or if not, one that is due a re-run.

Consider: *Her Majesty Mrs. Brown* (1997) a remarkably literate and sophisticated film. Set in 1861, Queen Victoria (Judi Dench) has shocked the English people by her self-imposed exile from public life following the death of her husband Albert. Both her attendants and her children are worried about the depth of her depression. Then miraculously, John Brown (Billy Connolly), a Scottish servant who handles the royal family's horses and hunting expeditions, takes it upon himself to lift the spirits of the dour Queen. His single-minded devotion to this task angers Sir Henry Ponsonby (Geoffrey Palmer), the Queen's personal secretary, as well as Bertie (David Westhead), the Prince of Wales. They are both taken aback at Brown's disregard of protocol and his nonconformist personality. But the Prime Minister, Benjamin Disraeli (Anthony Sher), sees a way to use Brown's love for the Queen to get her to resume her public duties.

This screenplay explores the unusual platonic friendship between the Queen of the British Empire and the Scottish servant. Brown helps this troubled widow find her way back to life by reintroducing her to the land and the simple folk who live upon it. His loyalty to her is reciprocated by her high regard for him. I think you will find that *Her Majesty Mrs. Brown* has just the right mix of domestic drama and political intrigue. There are a number of good pearls to be gleaned from this movie, and, of course, (Dame) Judi Dench and Billy Connolly give smashingly good performances.

Nancy+



Photo by Peggy Peattie, The San Diego Union Tribune
Alex+ is all smiles as he congratulates Cathey Dowdle after her ordination to the priesthood in June. The Women of St. Barnabas supported Cathey+ while she was a deacon as part of their outreach for 2007.



Loving work by L.Louise Jee and Nancy Bye produced a beautiful display of flowers in the Friendship Circle at St. Barnabas earlier in the spring. It may be that because our flower season is so brief, we appreciate the blooms so much.

Disaffected bishops call for creation of Anglican Union in the U.S.

In early June '07, seven bishops at odds with the mainline Episcopal Church were invited to join together in September to form an alternate organization identified as "The Anglican Union". The bishops' actions and words down to the present strengthen the conclusion that the new organization is meant to supplant the Episcopal Church in the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The disaffection of the bishops grows out of trends within the Episcopal Church that run counter to their convictions. Those trends are several but the inciting event was the election of a gay bishop in New Hampshire and the large majority sense of the 2003 General Convention that same-gender unions were a valid expression of human behavior.

Those events led to the current rift within the Episcopal Church and the separation of a small number (eight in all) of bishops and dioceses from the main body of the Church.

The rift appears to be widening and the plans for the creation of an 'Anglican Union' confirm there is a hardening of position by the disaffected bishops.

Festering resentments have not helped, and some of those go back several years. They are reflected in statements and documents issued by the bishops themselves, as well as by actions of supporting clergy and laity.

Some resentments loom large — such as the idea that homosexuality is an acceptable lifestyle. Another is the ordination of women, and especially, the election of the current presiding bishop, whose sympathies are clearly with the mainstream.

Some resentments are less momentous but not necessarily trivial. Those include spelling and usage changes in the Book of Common Prayer and, per-

haps most irritating to literalist readers, revised interpretations of the Scriptures.

Taken altogether, the position of the disaffected bishops becomes plausible, at least from their standpoint, given the range and content of their concerns. Whether a new Anglican arrangement in the form of an 'Anglican Union' will work out for them is an open question.

While it is true the basic thrust of an 'Anglican Union' has drawn support from a small group of conservative provinces, mainly in Africa, the continuation of their support may well hinge on how important the proposed 'Union' turns out to be.

So far, the numbers are not encouraging. The disaffected bishops remain stalled at eight and, despite their latest claims, their ranks have not grown. That leaves them and their cause, at best, with an uncertain domestic and international future.

Victor Levine

Refs: Mary Schjonberg, "Disaffected, Breakaway Bishops Plan September Meeting", www.episcopalchurch.org/elife or, more easily, Google search.

A chance to help

Victor Levine has asked for our help.

He is looking for a videotape or dvd of St. John on Patmos.

He also is looking for names of participants and the year of the labyrinth walk at St Paul's in San Diego.

Anyone who can be of help can call Victor at 767.7746 or e-mail him at ravok@nethere.com.

News Notes

A lovely new piano has been donated to us for use in our parish room. At the suggestion of Dave Otis, we have given our original piano to the Senior Center where administrator (and St. Barnabas member) Sonja McGrath says it is much appreciated — ‘specially when Dave Otis comes over to entertain the lunch crowd!

It is a peculiar feeling to sit quietly in your pew with Louise Burmester beside you (always a pleasure), Tootie Hatch in front of you, George Harris behind you, Joanne McLean just across the aisle. What’s wrong with this picture? Our choir is on vacation — just taking a summer respite from those hot, heavy robes and hard work.

They’ll be back, rested and refreshed and ready to “make a joyful noise unto the Lord.” Meanwhile, it’s nice to have them nearer to us. They all have lovely voices and give us courage to sing out a bit louder.

Quenching thirst. Our supplemental outreach fund once again donated cold soda for the Fathers’ Day afternoon fun and games at Christmas Circle organized by the Slab City Ministry and local churches. And the Women of St. Barnabas continue to supply water for Ernie Loza’s needy souls at Slab City. By the way, many of us think Ernie should be this year’s honorary mayor of Borrego Springs. His good works know no bounds. If you agree, say so in a quick note to our Chamber of Commerce, Box 420.

Summer blahs and lethargy lead the way on the cookbook project at the moment. However, we will really get cracking on it (soon, soon) and have it off press well before our Christmas bake sale. It would be wonderful to have recipes from some of the men in our congregation — we know some of you are great cooks, at least good cooks. Alex+ has promised his recipe for iced tea, and Richard Bye will provide one for the perfect martini.

C’mon guys! Get creative and give us courage, inspiration and a recipe.

At the last Carillon editorial meeting (you don’t think this just happens, do you?) Victor raised an in-

teresting suggestion. Let us capture all the photographs stuffed into envelopes and drawers that represent who we at St. Barnabas are and were. Wonderful idea, we all think. Now we need your help on this one too. This will be nifty.

I will retire from the Altar Guild effective October first. I was invited to serve more than ten years ago by Eleanor Lorenz, trained by Marty Phillippi, and appointed directress by +Ron Shepherd when Darolyn Smith moved away. I was relieved for a brief period by Nancy Hawley before her return to Kansas. Alex+ announces that L.Louise Jee will follow me as directress. She was part of the original Altar Guild, is extremely well organized and made many of our lovely vestments and linens. New members are Jean Bradley (flowers) and Sue Dolkas and Lyn Loerke, trainees.

Nancy Bye



Marcia and Mike McEvoy are two of our newest members at St. Barnabas Church. The McEvoy's hail from Port Angeles, Washington. Marcia has already committed to serving as clerk of the Vestry at St. Barnabas and both of them are volunteers at the Chamber of Commerce. Mike also volunteers at the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association's Desert Nature Center.

Giving credit where it's due

In last month's issue of the Carillon, an article, “*Making a Milestone, Moving Forward*,” was not credited. It was reprinted from the *Episcopal News Service*.



Easter isn't announced in the desert by the lilies often seen in other areas. Our desert lilies are few and far between, tiny and so dependent upon the right amount of rain at just the right time. However, at St. Barnabas we celebrated the season with beautiful displays of cactus such as the one above.

What Jesus Meant by Gary Wills — a book review

In Wills' latest book he draws on his expert knowledge of Greek to look at the Gospels and to try to discover just what Jesus meant.

He calls this book a devotional one, and he is correct. By examining the Life and Words of Jesus-Messiah as revealed in the gospels and their effect as seen by Paul and the early Christian assemblies, he peels back the encrustation of the ages and looks past the accretions of the institutional Church to reveal the radical Truth of Jesus and his message of Love.

Wills refuses to accept the distortions that official religion has placed on the message of Jesus-Messiah. In essence he refuses "cheap Grace" and gives us a portrait of Jesus and his dual nature — true God and true Man. His portrait of Jesus is both frightening and reassuring.

I felt as I read this, that I came to see the face of Jesus "as through a glass darkly," and I longed to see Him face-to face. It is a devotional work indeed.

Mary Levine

Odyssey (RIP Kay Downen)

Kay is dying: So begins
The leaning toward
The maternal clasp
Of the master
Of pilgrimage

The leaning will be
Brief
As we measure the
Daily flow
We

Who con the dialogue
That we know once
Begun will deepen
As the hard self
Withdraws

And we proceed
Through the veils of
Innocence wrapped
in our own skins
To come

To rest
Before grasping the
Hand that pulls us
Into
Clarity

Victor Levine

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Mark Your Calendar

July

July 9 — Vestry meeting at 8 a.m.

July 10 — Men's breakfast at the Arches at 7:30 a.m.

July 11 — Women of St. Barnabas at noon at the Arches

July 12 through 19 — Alex+ in El Salvador

July 18 — Men of St. Barnabas

July 24 — Men's breakfast at the Arches at 7:30 a.m.

St. Barnabas Carillon

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