

# Carillon

## St Barnabas Episcopal Church

---



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

---

Borrego Springs, California

August 2007

Volume 10, No. 8

---

### *Reflections From the Desert*

---

## Six days in El Salvador

There are two reasons why I will remember July 12, 2007: it was both the 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my priestly ordination and my first visit to the Central American country of El Salvador. Five hours after we took off from LAX, our group of six from the diocese landed at 6:30 a.m. (local time; 5:30 a.m. Borrego time), in the capital city of San Salvador.

At this year's diocesan convention, we passed a resolution to enter into a formal "Companion Diocese" relationship of "walking together toward God" with the Anglican diocese of El Salvador. Both our previous and current bishops had informal conversations with the bishop and primate of the region, Bishop Martin Barahona.

Last month +Jim, through his deacon, Jenny, invited me to be part of a team from our diocese to spend six days in El Salvador on a relationship building/fact finding visit: recognize ways to share human, material and financial resources - cooperation in the process of our becoming fully alive.

Getting there, experiencing the country and its people, was the next step. In preparation, I called Padre Juan Acosta since he had visited there several times. Further, in Presiding Bishop Katharine's *A Wing and*

*a Prayer* I discovered her comments on El Salvador. She noted that while it is a very poor country and diocese, they were extremely generous in their monetary response to Katrina. In September 2005 they pledged all their income from that entire month for our Gulf Coast relief work!

The following are but a few highlights of the first day, Friday, July 13.

At the airport we were met by our guide, Vince, then driven (30 minutes) by Arcelio to the Centro Diocesano. This is within the San Juan Evangelista campus. Here we would stay, enjoy home-cooked meals and hold meetings with clergy and lay leaders. We concluded each day with evening prayer.

Shortly after noon, we were driven to the office of the bishop to meet him, his secretary and a few other key leaders. Bishop Martin was welcoming,

**Walking together toward God  
in El Salvador**

*continued on page 2*

# Reflections From the Desert, continued from page 1

gracious and genuinely glad that we had come. He then reviewed the itinerary for our stay. For Sunday he recommended that the four clergy divide presiding, proclaiming the gospel and preaching among three services - 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The two university lay ministers who completed our group joined the children's religious education classes and the liturgical musicians, and one played his guitar.

Leaving the bishop we went on pilgrimage. We visited and prayed in the chapel where on March 24, 1980, the Roman Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero was murdered by a military sniper's bullet while celebrating the Holy Eucharist. We also visited Romero's apartment close by; he lived very simply.

Then to the museum where four young women from the United States (two Maryknoll religious, an Ursuline religious and a lay missionary) are honored. On December 2, 1980, they were raped and murdered by military men. Finally, we visited the campus of the Catholic University where shortly before dawn on April 16, 1989, six Jesuit priests/university professors, their cook and her daughter were dragged out of their beds into the courtyard and were assassinated, again by the military. Each experienced the same martyrdom for the same reason: speaking up in behalf of the voiceless, powerless oppressed masses of Salvadorans. We were all very moved by their witness.

On that first day, before we left the bishop's office, we went to the chapel. There I noticed that their Collect which spoke of their Companion Dioceses, had already listed the Diocese of San Diego. Since Christian faith is all about relationships, in order to show our ongoing commitment to our sisters and brothers there, on Sunday, July 22 (and from then on, at every Sunday service), we began to remember Bishop Martin and our Companion Diocese of El Salvador in the Prayers of the People. Wherever you may find yourself, hopefully you too will add them to your prayers.

Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+



*Alex+ displays the beautiful hand painted stole he purchased in support of an Anglican women's cottage industry in San Salvador.*

## A gift on behalf of Frances

*(The following is a letter from her daughter that accompanied a donation to St. Barnabas.)*

Dear Friends:

Enclosed is a check for \$1,000 given on behalf of Frances Brainerd. She so loved St. Barnabas. Soon to be 94, she is in good health and very well taken care of at Channing House in Palo Alto. Unfortunately, her memory continues to fade and, although she can be quite bright to talk to, her memory of the talk is quickly gone.

Best wishes to all on behalf of Frances, my brother Lex Brainerd and me.

Sincerely,  
Helen Windsor

# Nothing stands still

Recently the Anglican Church in Canada held its Synod, much as we do every three years with General Convention. But what happens in the between time? LOTS! The world does not stand still ... neither does the work of the Church. But how much are we aware of what goes on between one General Convention and the next; which issues, other than the "hot button" ones that sell papers, really need our attention? Well, here is an example of your Episcopal Church at work:

*"God's Mission In The World"* is a study guide on global poverty and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), produced jointly between the Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Intended as a resource for congregations and other groups who are looking to broaden their understanding of global poverty and become part of the worldwide movement achieving the MDGs, the guide features six weekly sessions examining Christian understandings of social justice, global poverty and the MDGs.

The MDGs are eight goals adopted in 2000 by all member states of the United Nations, including the United States (see ONE+ONE+ONE article in the March, 2007, Carillon). The goals, by 2015, are to



*Just completing their Cursillo weekends at Camp Stevens, Sue Dolkas and Haddon Salt are all smiles as they were reminded over and over again of God's unconditional love for all God's children.*

cut extreme poverty and hunger in half, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability and create a global partnership for development. This Study Guide is soon to be in our Church Library!

From our **Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations**: they have compiled some Election Year Resources because we citizens have many different reasons for casting our vote for a particular candidate – issues, party loyalty, a special constituent service, a personal history or appreciation of the candidate. Some voters may belong to a particular interest group whose cause is the deciding factor in a voting decision. And some may look to their church's positions on public policy as a helpful guide for considering candidates.

The folks in the **Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations** are not infrequently asked: how should Episcopalians look at this election year?

As with all other parts of our lives, this is another opportunity to reflect on our Baptismal vow to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." Episcopalians are encouraged to see that voting and encouraging others to do so as an important way to strive for justice.

With this election year getting an unprecedented jump start we have more time than ever before to make decisions on the candidates we choose to back. Use that time wisely and consider the public policy positions of the Episcopal Church.

Just who are these people at the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations? Hint: they are located on Capitol Hill.

To be continued in the next issue of your Carillon!

Nancy+



# Women's Group looks for historian

I sincerely hope you're all enjoying a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It continues warm (read HOT) and sunny here. Much as I hate humidity, even I have to admit that a little rain would not go unappreciated.

We have received a revised suggested support letter from the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group. You'll remember that is the group that is petitioning the County Board of Supervisors to pass a Desert Area Initiative which would help to promote the planned development of our area in order to guard against unplanned and unregulated growth, which can threaten our fragile desert environment.

Please go to this website: [http://www.borregovalleyinn.com/downloads/DAI\\_SupportLetter.doc](http://www.borregovalleyinn.com/downloads/DAI_SupportLetter.doc) and look at the letter.

I made copies available to several members who came to our luncheon meeting last week at the Arches Restaurant. Their consensus was that we should support the BSCSG. I would like the opinions of those of you who are away. If you do have any objections to my signing the support letter, please let me know within the next couple of weeks. If you'd like me to mail you a copy, I'll be glad to.

Next, there is the matter of planning for next season's meetings and events. Our first bake sale has been set for Friday, December 14. We'll plan on firming that up at the October meeting.

I met with Nancy Bye and Kitty Phelps and we agreed that we are slowly, but surely, losing our collective memory of St. Barnabas. It's time for all of us to gather those old photos of past parties, dinners or other events which have documented the history of our beloved Church. I propose that we advertise the position of Church historian, and begin the search for a committed volunteer. It wouldn't necessarily need to be a year-rounder, because most of the work would be done during the season.

We're thinking that at least part of our meetings be devoted to going over all these photos, which I hope you'll all bring down to the desert with you, and we can come up with names of the people in them. Per-

haps some of you even have pictures of the Church being built. That would give our historian a good beginning to start the scrapbooks. Just because we're the women's group doesn't mean that a gentleman couldn't fill this important position, should he be so inclined. What we need is someone who enjoys organizing, whatever the gender.

At present, we're planning to invite our young camper, Juan Rocha, to come to our October 3 meeting and tell us about his experiences at Camp Stevens. That meeting will be at Kitty Phelps' home.

Nancy Bye will host the March 5 meeting (when I understand The Very Rev. Horace and Sheila McClelland [think Church history] will be in town). I still need hostesses for December 5, February 6 (which is Ash Wednesday), April 2 and May 7. After that, I guess we'll go back to patronizing the various restaurants in town. As always, I'm open to your suggestions.

Shirley Vialpando

## Cathey+ sends blessings, love

*(Below is a thank you note that the Rev. Cathey Dowdle, newly ordained priest, sent The Women of St. Barnabas who had invited her to their meeting and then gave her a check toward her seminary tuition; she then invited them to her priestly ordination on June 9 at Christ the King, Episcopal Church in Alpine.)*

Dear St. Barnabas - Clergy and Congregation

Thank you all for the wonderful card in honor of my ordination. I truly feel a part of the St. Barnabas family. Please know how grateful I am for your loving support of Christ the King and myself. You are all most welcome to worship with us, any time you find yourself on the "San Diego" side of the mountains!

Blessings and love,

Cathey+

# Communion Matters

The vestry met July 9 and, after disposing of routine items, moved on to consider several questions that Alex+ had sent to each member several days earlier.

The questions were derived from the document titled *Communion Matters*, which was sent to all Episcopal parishes for discussion. The document was prepared by the Theology Committee of the Episcopal House of Bishops.

The sense of the discussions will be shared with the Theology Committee in preparation for the Bishops' September, 2007 meeting with the Archbishop of Canterbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council. At that meeting the bishops will present the case for the Episcopal Church's position on the twin subjects of human sexuality and Communion governance.

The September meeting will take place in a setting of international crisis for the Anglican Communion, brought to a head by the Communiqué of the Primates' Meeting earlier this year in Tanzania. That 'Communiqué' in effect issued an ultimatum to the American Church. It represented the perception of those favoring it that the Americans had deviated from the accepted values of the Communion.

The dissenting primates, including the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and the Archbishop of Canterbury, were unable to influence the outcome, which was based on a bare majority vote.

To fill in the picture, The Anglican Communion is the umbrella designation for all Anglican churches in the world. The Communion is composed of 38 provinces, including the Episcopal Church. Each province represents an individual country. Each province is headed by a Primate, who is the presiding bishop of that province. The Primates meet every two years and are charged with the responsibility of dealing with issues that are critical for the Anglican Communion.

As most of you know, the immediate source of the current crisis was the 2003 election of a homosexual bishop in the state of New Hampshire and the ac-

ceptance of the election by General Convention, in compliance with the Episcopal Church's constitution and by-laws.

The issue of homosexuality became a red flag to Anglican conservatives in the United States and throughout the world, most especially third world countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The issue has become so divisive that the Anglican Communion is in danger of breaking into two separate, and permanent, parts.

All that was the backdrop for the discussions at the July 9 meeting of the St. Barnabas vestry. Alex+ assigned one hour to the discussion and, at the end of that time, it was clear that the vestry would need considerably more time to discuss the obvious ramifications. In brief, the first hour touched on one topic only and that was homosexuality and AIDS. In that discussion several points moved beyond the stated position of the Episcopal Church that the issue was not human sexuality, per se, but rather what constituted the proper organization and governance of the Anglican Union.

There will be more to report on the topic in succeeding issues of the Carillon and we urge you to stay tuned.

Victor Levine



*L.Louise Jee (second from left) shows The Historical Atlas of the Bible to Mary Levine (left to right), Lynn Wilderson and Marcia McEvoy. The book was a gift from L.Louise and her husband Fred to the library at St. Barnabas.*

# Alison's back from Africa



*Sheryl Parks stirs millet in a typical Namibian hut a friend of Alison Royle's built for a celebration of Mission Namibia.*

After 37 years of marriage, newly-widowed Parishioner Alison Royle was looking for a project. She remembered that it was when she and her husband "Doc" were adventuring in foreign lands and doing volunteer work that they seemed the most fulfilled. When she heard that her friends Toni and Shannon Mallory were going to spend a year at St. Mary's Mission in Namibia she had her project, which she says has completely changed her life.

In mid-July Alison hosted a Celebration of Mission Namibia in her home and garden in Del Mar. The event was a thank you to many donors and a celebration of the incorporation of the newly-founded non-profit organization, Mission Namibia.

Many donors live in Borrego Springs and for several years have supported Alison's dreams for bringing help and hope to these Namibian women and children. The party was not only in appreciation of their support, but a chance to let the donors see and hear



*Alison Royle shows a photo of a child and Sister Gertrude from St. Mary's at Odibo, Namibia. Alison just returned from Namibia and hosted a celebration of appreciation for donors and a celebration of the incorporation of Mission Namibia.*

some of the results, and to be inspired to continue supporting the mission.

A steel band from a homeless school in San Diego provided the background music and a friend of Alison's even built a replica of a typical Namibian hut.

Namibia is an African nation that has survived apartheid, a war of independence, and a struggle to overcome the ravages of HIV/AIDS. Namibia's people are determined to keep hope alive by providing a nurturing environment for the children and empowering women with marketable skills. Mission Namibia has taken the challenge of keeping hope alive by establishing a conduit for partnership to make a difference in the lives of these resilient people.

In the past two years, Mission Namibia has raised more than \$50,000, which is already at work near St. Mary's in Odibo, Namibia. The group has purchased textbooks for the high school; bedding for the hospital; given support for AIDS volunteers; purchased office equipment for the mission; funded public school feeding programs and provided hot lunches, and began a large communal garden for the *Joy to the World Kindergarten* with its 52 students. Mission Namibia is providing snacks and two hot lunches a week to help fill their tummies.



## New vestry clerk



*Shirley Vialpando (left) presents the Vestry minutes to Marcia McEvoy, the new clerk to the Vestry. Marcia and her husband Mike, newcomers to Borrego Springs and St. Barnabas, have already committed to being a part of the parish and the community.*

## Victor's looking for help



Parishioner Victor Levine is asking for our help. He wants to know if anyone can identify the persons shown in 2000 walk in St Paul's labyrinth (above). The photograph was taken by Alison Royle.

Victor also is looking for a Volvo 850, sedan or SW, 1996 or 1997.

If you can help with either of these requests, please contact Victor at (760) 767-7746 or e-mail him at [ravok@nethere.com](mailto:ravok@nethere.com).

## Testimony (for Bill Born: Requiescat in pacem)

I Basha do solemnly aver  
I shared life daily  
With this man. The  
choice was mine  
the visits pleased us both

Though wounded  
He tried to keep heart:  
That I knew by  
What his hands said  
As they stroked my fur

But it was clear  
His joy was past:  
Fixed in his chair he  
Would never be  
The man he once was

Knowing those things  
More the reason  
For celebrating him and  
Loving him; his clever hands  
Told me he loved me also.

Now ending  
I salute him knowing  
The grief we shared  
But also  
The joy

May he rest in that place  
Where hurt yields to surcease  
And the broken  
Are restored to  
Their divine selves

© valevine 2007

Victor Levine

## Mark Your Calendar

### August

August 1 — Women of St. Barnabas at noon at the Red Ocotillo

August 14 — Men's breakfast at the Red Ocotillo at 7:30 a.m.

August 22 — Men of St. Barnabas at 6 p.m.

August 27 — Poetry Reading in the Parish Room at 6 p.m.

August 28 — Men's breakfast at the Red Ocotillo at 7:30 a.m.

#### **St. Barnabas Carillon**

Editing and design:

Leslie Bellah

ferretti@uia.net

760-767-0650

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 e-mail: [nagy@cableusa.com](mailto:nagy@cableusa.com)

Nancy's e-mail: [revngn@yahoo.com](mailto:revngn@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://www.stbarnabasborrego.com>