

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

Two Devastating and Tragic Fires

Within eight days, two devastating and tragic fires scorched Camp Stevens in Julian and destroyed the Cahill house with its contents in Borrego Springs.

September 15, 2007

FROM THE CAMP STEVENS WEBSITE:
www.campstevens.org

Around 1:15 pm on Saturday September 15, smoke from a small fire was spotted by the staff, 911 was immediately called and the staff began to investigate the source of the smoke. When staff arrived at the fire, near the Tom Scott Mine, it was estimated to be about a 100 feet in diameter. The local fire chief arrived in the camp parking lot, and wanted us to prepare the two groups using the camp to be ready to evacuate if needed.

In less than 10 minutes, the fire heated up, grew rapidly, and the evacuation was ordered. When the last of the camp staff left the camp, the meadow between the parking lot and the dining hall was on fire,



Cahill home in the moonlight. Photo by Phil Carskadden.

as well as the area above the Directors Peter and Vicki's house.

Fire trucks arrived en masse over the next few minutes, and the fighting effort was on in full force. Bombers and helicopters soon arrived to help fight the fire. The growing fire soon become

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You Choose the Day!

This October is full of “Holy Days” for people of different faiths. The Episcopal Peace Fellowship draws our attention to these days as an opportunity to join with family and friends, in a focused effort to help us turn from violence to peacemaking.

In some communities larger than Borrego it is more apparent that some people are celebrating the entire month of Ramadan; the High Holy Days and Sukkot; Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday, October 2; the Feast Day of Francis of Assisi, October 4; Worldwide Communion Sunday and Pavarana/Sangha Day, October 7. Also, some communities of the First Nations have already begun to observe Columbus Day itself with practices that transform its meaning.

Encouraging each faith group to observe their own specific practices of self-renewal, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship group has designated October 8th as a day of focus for us all, but **YOU CHOOSE THE DAY** that works best for you. Just keep in mind that on October 8th, Americans of all faiths around our nation will be engaging in a season of shared sacred time. **We are asked to do this in order to have:**

- A day when we commit ourselves to turn from conquest to community, from violence to reverence.

. . . the Episcopal Peace Fellowship group has designated October 8th as a day of focus for us all. . .

- A day when we come together, sharing with each other our different forms of prayer, reflection, and sacred study.

- Turning our attention from material domination to spiritual depth and communal sharing.

- Fasting from food from dawn to dusk, and together at sunset feeding each other and especially the hungry.

- Fasting from the excesses of consumption that do violence to each other and the earth.

- Fasting that day from the culture of violence — and to that end, we invite all our media to refrain from airing and all Americans to refrain from watching or joining in productions, practices, and images that glorify or normalize violence.

- Setting forth in public vigil our determination to turn from conquest to community, from violence to reverence.

- The earthquake of change around us and within us can inspire fear, despair, rage – or exaltation. Together, we can celebrate the seeds of intellectual, emotional, and spiritual creativity in each of us; comfort each other from the fear, rage, and despair that might otherwise consume us; and reject the impulse to express our fears through violence.

- Among us, some might focus on one or another aspect of healing the violence that pervades our lives:

- Ending the shattering of Iraqi and American lives. Generously offering American funds – but not control – for international and interreligious bodies to assist Iraqis in making peace and rebuilding their country, while swiftly bringing safely home all American troops.

- Ending the epidemics of murder on our streets and schools. Providing in all our neighborhoods decent jobs with a living wage and livable hours, with time for family nurture, reflective rest, and

community service — to replace the despair, the rage, and the guns that have led to epidemics of murder.

- Ending the use or facilitation of torture, and reaffirming habeas corpus and other avenues by which those who claim denials of their human rights can seek their vindication.

- Acting against the ecological violence that is now threatening earth and humankind alike, by making sustainable energy sources fully available to all, calming the growing climate crisis.

- Encouraging simplicity in life-paths, and making sure there is living-space for all the life-forms in God's creation.

- Healing our media from the normalization of grotesque and obscene violence.

- Ending the physical and sexual abuse that has disfigured many of our families and communities, and restoring them as homes for loving compassion.

We see the Day of Discovering the True America as a beginning, not an end; the seed, not the flower or the fruit. In choosing a day to sow this seed together, we can see the profound power that arises when we decide to change ourselves, can help each other make the harvest happen.

EPF is a national organization with local chapters across the United States. While we are affiliated with the Episcopal Church in America, we are an independent entity striving to work for peace in justice in our communities, our church, and the world.

For more information and resources such as the following peace prayer, visit www.epfnational.org

Prayer for Peace



Eternal God, the Creator of all, we commit to you the needs of the whole world: where there is hatred, give love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is distrust, faith; where there is darkness, light.

We pray for those who out of the bitter memories of strife and loss are seeking a more excellent way for the nations of the world, whereby justice and order may be maintained and the differences of people be resolved in equity.

Bestow your blessings, we pray You, upon all who labor for peace and righteousness among the peoples, that the day may be hastened when war shall be no more and Your will only shall govern the nations upon earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship website.

Breakfast with Bill, or Why Attend the Men's Breakfast?

Good question. It isn't necessarily for the food because that turns out to be a mixed bag, regardless of where we eat, though we're currently eating at the Red Ocotillo, where the breakfasts are good and hearty—eggs and bacon, sausages and home fries.

But, again, why attend such a gathering in the first place? True, it's sponsored by the church and was enthusiastically supported by Bishop Ron Sheppard and later, following his arrival in 2001, by rector Alex Nagy. We, ourselves, saw it as a great idea (originated on the distaff side by the women of the parish), because it promised to strengthen connections between the members, as well as solidifying their ties to the church.

Five years later, in 2006, Bill Walker came up with the notion that meetings might be better attended if there were food on the table, along with coffee in the pot. He was right (in fact, the event is named 'Breakfast With Bill') and the number of men attending the bi-monthly meetings increased three- and, sometimes, four-fold.

The mix of men is broad. We come from all kinds of former occupations, have differing tastes in food and clothing and music. We share some ideas and positions, are in opposition on others. Some are conservative, others liberal.

Why do we think we come together? Basically, for the fellowship, which can easily be described as a series of conversations with as wide a range of topics as our former occupations: civil structural engineer, contractor, chef, trucker, aerospace planner and manager, teacher, editor, business executive, priest, nurse, naval architect, lawyer, wrestling and football coach, real estate agent, mechanical engineer, draftsman, financial consultant, environmental specialist, and last, computer software project manager.

What do we talk about? The topics are varied. A general sampling would include cars and the auto industry, politics and astronomy, religion and geology, in addition to history, gender equality and geography.

Additional topics we've discussed are: the advantages of desert living, the quality of radio and TV programs, issues relating to the end-time we find ourselves facing as we advance in years.

Other more formal presentations have included details of Kachina doll-making, the current difficulties facing the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion, understanding gems and the process of jewelry-making.

We've also talked about love within the Christian faith, as well as in ordinary, secular relationships. We've talked about the water problem in Borrego and the chances for Borrego's survival as a viable community.

I could go on but I'll leave you with the thought that—as some of the men have told me—what I've said about the breakfast group easily applies to the men's dinners, held the third week of each month and attended by most of the breakfast crew.

The only differences would be in the setting—alternate members' houses, and the matchless food, produced, in the main, by our superbly accomplished wives.

Bravo.

by Victor A. Levine



News Bits



Help needed!

We are in dire need of help in several areas. The vestry needs a clerk who will attend a meeting one Monday a month from 8 to 10, write up the minutes and distribute them in a timely manner.

Kitty Phelps has served for many years as our parish librarian, has resigned, and we need someone to take on that task.

We are trying to pursue a written and photographic history of St. Barnabas. Pictures are beginning to come in (we need more!) and we need someone to oversee and coordinate the entire project. Women of St. Barnabas will help.

Social events are an important part of our church life. We need someone to plan and promote such events.

Financial Aid for Camp Stevens

On September 14th and 15th the “Angel Fire” destroyed several buildings at Camp Stevens in Julian. Our plate offering (non-pledge) on November 4th will be a gift to them to help them clean and rebuild.

Mens’ Breakfasts

A big success Twice a month. Bill Walker is wondering if you guys would like to gather 3 times a month. Let him know. Red Ocotillo is a good site for these events.

Teach English/Learn Spanish

Shirley Vialpando suggests there is a real need for our Hispanic community to get a better grip on their

English language skills. She suggests a summer schedule of workshops since their workload is usually lighter then. The bonus for us would be to learn some Spanish! Want to help?

Welcome back Snowbirds!

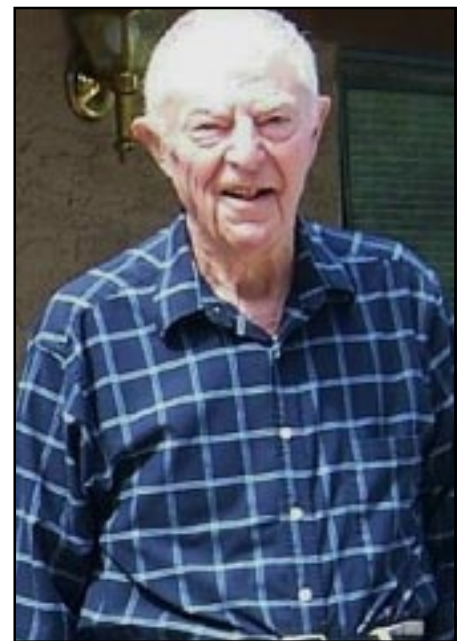
Alex+ announces the annual potluck will be held at the Roadrunner Club on Thursday evening, November 15th, from 5-8pm.

A Helping Hand.....

To Joanie, Brian and little Erin Cahill. Our plate offering on October 7th (non-pledge) is donated to the Cahills to help them recover from the loss of their home. If you missed that date you can still help—just send in a check with CAHILL noted in the memo field.

by Nancy Bye

Dick Linkroum 1915-2007



This picture of Dick Linkroum was taken in July a year ago,

when Alex+, Nancy+, Bob Cassidy and Kitty Phelps visited him in Arizona.

Vestry Report

by Nancy Bye

New DVD Captures St. Barnabas

It was a lovely, cool September morn and Alex+ opened the meeting with a prayer from St. Francis of Assisi in recognition of our *Blessing of the Pets* scheduled for Wednesday, October 3rd at 4pm.

He then showed a 5 minute DVD. Absolutely stunning! Our church, our people at work and pray and play. Lovely background music. Our talented filmmaker Nancy+ made this for us. Ever eager to line our coffers, we are now trying to figure out how you can acquire copies to share with friends and families.

We were happy to welcome our “Younger Next Year” People’s Warden Bill Walker back from the northern wilds. Poor Jill Bennett was you-know-where—recovering nicely from laser surgery. Haddon Salt and David Leibert are who-knows-where—having fun on their travels we hope.

Margaret and Lynniss reported on our financial affairs—looking good. Reports tweaked a little each month, better and better all the time. Gayle Pate from SmithBarney will attend the meeting of the financial committee October 26th to discuss our investments and how they grow.

Alex+ reported the devastating fire that totally destroyed the Borrego home of Joanie and Brian Cahill the night before. Camp Stevens suffered considerable damage in the Angel fire last week. See “News Bits” for more information about how you can help.

At the October and November meetings we will be discussing holiday plans, new vestry candidates and more. Let us hear your ideas!

Reflections. . . continued from page 1

much larger, reaching beyond Camp Stevens onto a slope of Volcan Mountain. The camp staff and our two groups watched from the Julian High School parking lot as the fire spread toward the high school and there were large black clouds.

We were able to talk to one of the fire fighters at the camp and were informed that Peter and Vicki’s house was intact, as well as the other buildings in and north of the parking lot, but that they thought some structures were lost.



Remains of a girl's A-Frame Cabin at Camp Stevens.

That evening around 6:00 pm we were able to speak with a local sheriff’s deputy who was able to give us first-hand information about the buildings at the camp. We first learned that the Blum Lodge survived, but did have some siding damage and damage to the recently repaired north side deck. We were informed that the pool buildings were intact and that the dining hall was untouched.

Then came the bad news. St. Mary’s Cabin, Lax-Sadler Lodge and the Bishop’s Lodge were total losses. The deputy was not able to go further south due to the current fire fighting operation.

Upon returning to the parking lot, he reported that all of the staff houses and the new office were

untouched. Later we learned that several other buildings were lost. Listed below are the 15 buildings that were totally destroyed by the fire: in addition to the three named above, St. Paul's Cabin, Girls' Hill Bathroom, 6 A-frames on girls Hill, 3 A-frames on Boys Hill and the Outdoor Chapel.

We thank all the camp staff for their effort in helping our guests leave the camp in a safe and efficient manner. We also thank all of you for your support, in prayer, phone calls and emails.

At our September 24th vestry meeting we decided to offer the non-pledge part of our collection on Sunday, October 7th to Camp Stevens. Alternatively, checks can also be sent directly to them at PO Box 2320, Julian, CA 92036.

We thank all the camp staff for their effort in helping our guests leave the camp in a safe and efficient manner.

September 23, 2007

Sunday evening around 7:30pm, Steve Quartieri, the caretaker for the Cahill's house called 911 to report a fire. The Borrego crew responded immediately, and since they could see the flames from their firehouse, called for additional help from Ocotillo Wells.

Unfortunately, the quick-burning fire destroyed the entire frame and its contents. Caused by a electrical wiring failure in a wall or attic, the house was in full blaze when the fire crews arrived and the roof collapsed only 5 minutes later.

While Joanie, Brian, and Erin were in an apartment in Sacramento, most of their belongings were in the house. They were planning to hire movers after the home sold. Tragically, very little personal memorabilia could be saved. However, marriage pictures

from both parents' weddings as well as those from Brian and Joanie's were salvaged. Brian father's antique wooden music box, although heavily damaged, was one of the few treasures recovered.

At our September 24th vestry meeting we decided to offer the non-pledge part of our collections on Sunday, November 4th to the Cahill family. Alternatively, checks can also be sent directly to them at 5522 Arden Way, Carmichael CA 95608.

We are saddened by the loss of buildings, trees and meadows at Camp Stevens. We grieve the loss of the Cahill's home. We join them in commending the fire fighters. We thank God that there were no deaths nor injuries.

Sincerely,
Alex+ and Nancy+



Above: View of the Cahill house's kitchen. Below: patio, den and guest room. Photos by Gene Huber.



Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

- October 2: St. Peter's Del Mar, the Marriage of Alison Royle and Gil Rule
October 3: Wednesday, noon, The Women of St. Barnabas
Wednesday, 4pm, Second Annual Blessing of Pets
October 4: Thursday, 7:30am at Assaggio, The Men of St. Barnabas
October 7 - 9: Sunday afternoon to Tuesday noon, annual Clergy Study Days at Temecula
October 9: Tuesday, 7:30am at the Red Ocotillo, The Men of St. Barnabas
October 17: Wednesday, 6pm, The Women and The Men of St. Barnabas
October 23: Tuesday, 7:30am at the Red Ocotillo, The Men of St. Barnabas
October 26 - 28: Borrego Days

NOVEMBER

- November 4: Feast of All Saints, Holy Eucharist at 7am and at 9:30am
November 15: Thursday, Parish Pot Luck at the RoadRunner Club House from 5 - 8pm

St. Barnabas Carillon

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