

# 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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### *Reflections from the Desert*

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## Preparation, Arrival, Rejoicing!

When it comes to a baby, parents or those about to become parents can tell you in detail about preparation, arrival and rejoicing. For those of us who have not had that experience, we can still project feelings and outcomes based on what we have observed. In a parallel way, our worship in December focuses upon those three moments in the life of Mary, Joseph and Jesus.

Mary, the teenager barely of marriageable age, is the center of the story. From Luke's Gospel we learn that it was her "yes" to God's invitation to become the mother of Jesus that allowed the conception of Jesus to take place. From Matthew's Gospel we learn that Joseph, knowing he was not the father and consequently wanting to divorce her privately, had to be reassured by God's messenger before he accepted his role as the foster father.

Preparation begins with planning. Advent is characterized by reflection. Often during this month, I invite us to pause and remember. After each question,

you might take a moment and recall what actually happened to you.

**The last month of a pregnancy:** Which phrase(s) would best describe your experience? Grateful that the preparation was almost over? Anxious as to the birth? Excited? Bored? Overwhelmed by all the details that had still not been dealt with to your satisfaction? What else? Was this the time you got a promotion/lost your job? Did someone recover from a serious illness/became seriously sick? What else happened then?

**The actual birth:** Did the baby come when the doctor had foretold? Did you arrive at the birthing place as planned or did the baby come at a time or in a place which was unplanned? Who else was there?

**"Come, long expected  
promised One."**

What was your impression when you saw the baby for the very first time?

**The first 12 days after the birth:** How soon were you able to take the baby home? Were there any

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## Mary Shows Us the Way

When we first encounter Mary at the beginning of Advent she responds to the Angel with, “What?” I can almost imagine her turning around to see if what she has just heard was hopefully for someone else. Yet, when we look at the Christmas Cards, not to mention the great paintings we see in Art Museums, or read commentaries about her, Mary is usually depicted as the loving and obedient maiden with unquestioning faith. Hardly. She was neither ignorant of the situation, nor was she unflinching, gullible or lacking in common sense.

Actually, in the early church Mary was known as a person of wisdom. Until the time of the Reformation, she is often depicted with a book on her lap at the moment of the Annunciation. For example, when the archangel Gabriel arrives with the heavenly message in Fra Angelico’s painting *The Annunciation*, you’ll see Mary sitting with a book on her lap, reading. Not working in the house, or visiting with her parents or friends - no, she was studying!

Mary wasn’t a ready-made disciple. However, if we follow the stories about her in the Gospels this Advent we will see how she is a person becoming, a person in process. She is developing. And that should be a source of encouragement for us because we too are continually becoming disciples of Christ. Notice too that as Mary proceeded in discerning her call she responded with “Here am I, the



servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” With Mary we see that “belief” does not come without a certain amount of questions and doubt.

As we enter into Advent let us remake our image of Mary; one that is so often presented to us as a beautiful, refined (and un-middle Eastern looking) woman. Instead, let her become an inspiration. Let her show us how to wait on God, how to expect God, how to be in awe of God and to hope for God. But all in due time - not instantaneously.

Slowly, ever so slowly, let us move into this Advent with expectations of awe, hope, doubt and faith using Mary as our guide. She will lead us to Jesus. She will show us the way.

Nancy+

**“With Mary we see that  
‘belief’ does not come  
without a certain amount  
of questions and doubt.”**

# Whither the Anglican Communion?

by Victor A. Levine

At the recent meeting in New Orleans in September of this year, the members of the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church (ECUSA) reaffirmed that it was the “firm desire [of the Church] to remain full members of the worldwide Anglican Church, known as the Anglican Communion”.

At stake was a fully engaged Episcopal presence in the Anglican Communion—a relationship the ECUSA has enjoyed since the creation of the Communion in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The House of Bishops, in support of that end, pledged the ECUSA would not take any action which might upset any one of the 37 other member-churches of the Anglican Communion.

In attendance at the day-long meeting in New Orleans were ranking prelate, Archbishop of Canterbury and members of the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC).

The members of the ACC are chosen each term from the member-churches of the Anglican Communion.

At stake were several contentious issues which have divided the churches within the Anglican Communion, since the ECUSA’s General Conventions of 2003 and 2006: the election of a bishop in a devoted gay relationship; the public blessing of gay couples; the intervention of foreign bishops in dioceses of the Episcopal Church.



*Celebrating the Eucharist in New Orleans, courtesy Episcopal Life Online.*

Earlier this year a majority of the Primates, the presiding bishops in each of the churches in the Anglican Communion, demanded a clearer and more robust explanation of the ECUSA’s position, in particular on the first two issues.

In response, what the House of Bishops offered was a restatement of the position taken by the Convention of 2006. Its final words disavowed action on the first two issues: 1) consent to bishop-candidates whose lifestyle might violate accepted values within the Anglican Communion and 2) public blessings of homosexual unions. Above all, they pledged the intention of the ECUSA to remain a full member of the Anglican Communion.

The House of Bishops, echoing the 2006 Convention, roundly condemned foreign interference in the national Episcopal Church.

Since the New Orleans meeting, the ECUSA positions have received the full support of the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primates of the Anglican Communion and the Joint Standing Committee of the ACC.

The bishops who rejected it—a few, some domestic and others, mostly foreign—continued in their resistance to all efforts at reconciliation by both ECUSA Presiding Bishop Katharine and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

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# Wedding Bells Chime

St. Barnabas was the setting for a joyful event as Sue Dolkas and Haddon Salt were married on November 24th. The two were joined together in matrimony in the presence of their 36 siblings, children and grandchildren. Sue and Haddon speak about St. Barnabas as the place where they met and together are continuing their journey toward God.



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## *Vestry Highlights*

*by Nancy Bye*

# Anticipation

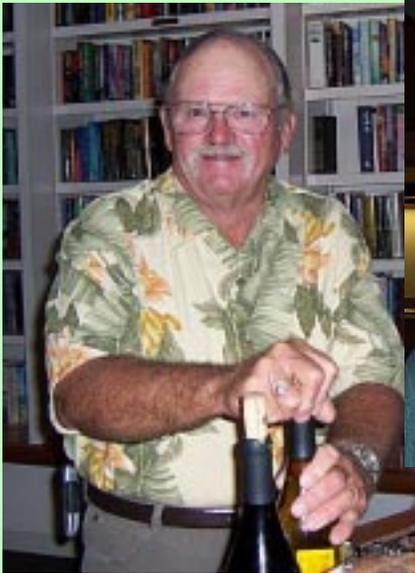
There was an air of anticipation at the meeting this bright November morning, the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The opening prayer urged us to anticipate Thanksgiving and all that it means to us, our families and our country. There was excitement in the anticipation of Sue Dolkas and Haddon Salt's approaching wedding day. There is always anticipation as the beginning of Advent grows closer. What can it mean to us this year? What special insight can we gain as we prepare for the annual celebration of our Christmastide?

Now down to the business at hand. The numbers in the financial report don't look wonderful...but hope springs eternal and we are watching it like a hawk! As always, our wonderful parishioners step up to do what is needed. B.J. Parsons will fill out Jill Bennett's unexpired vestry term of 14 (February '09) months and has agreed to coordinate parish social functions.

Sonja McGrath will schedule ushers for the 9:30 services and Martha Mitchell will schedule for the 7:00 service. Alex+ and Nancy+ will be in Scottsdale early in December for a program on congregational development and will come home via Wickenburg so they can take Mayo Goffard and Bea and Charlie Lusk to lunch.

The full vestry was in attendance except for L.Louise Jee who is still hard at work analyzing our recent fires. Mary Levine, liaison for the worship committee, announced a very full schedule of events for December. Check the calendar on the back page. We will begin the task of inviting/selecting new vestry members who will serve for three years and take office the day of our annual meeting, February 10<sup>th</sup> at the (ONE service only) 9:30 service.



**Spirits Soar at the Welcome Back Potluck!**

# Our Newest Parishioner

Jonathan Scott Mittleman was born in New York City in 1960 and christened at the Church of the Ascension on lower Fifth Avenue. He attended the Church of the Heavenly Rest Day School at 90<sup>th</sup> and Fifth until moving to California in 1972 with his Mother, now Nancy Bye. He attended Earl Warren Junior High in Solana Beach and was a member of the first graduating class of Torrey Pines High School. Then he went on to Cal State Sonoma, Mesa College, and finally to the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. He has been active in theater since his starring role as an Eskimo in the first grade.

Jonathan lived, worked and acted in Los Angeles for over twenty years. He first visited Borrego Springs in 1972, and made his permanent home here in September 2007. Borrego Springs Performing Arts Center has hired him to direct their first play of the 2007-08 season, "ART". He works full-time, year 'round at Montesoro in the food and beverage department, and lives happily with his newly adopted terrier-mix, Annie. He is a member of the New Moon Poetry Group, a volunteer for Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association, and an avid student of World War II. His strong voice, good diction, and reliability make him one of our most popular readers.



*St. Paul's Cathedral, from left to right, the year is 2000, the walkers are B.J., Victor, Evvie, Cathy, Mary, Nancy, and JoAn.*

## My Island of Dreams

I'm just a way worn traveler here  
All broken down it seems,  
I'm going to cross the river to  
My beautiful Island of dreams.

I have many dear friends and loved ones  
Awaiting me over there.  
I'm going to live on that Island  
In that beautiful City so fair.

My way over, here is uncertain  
And I haven't much longer it seems,  
I just close my eyes and go strolling  
On my beautiful Island of dreams.

On my Island of dreams over yonder  
I've a cabin that's most dear to me,  
And the moss covered bucket  
that hangs in the well  
In the shade of the old Maple tree.  
If I could go back to my childhood  
And just stroll along by the stream,  
Then cross the bridge by the old water mill  
On my beautiful Island of dreams

But I can't go back to my childhood  
I'll just have to linger and wait,  
Until death closes my eyes and takes me away  
To that beautiful golden gate.  
When I have gone on over yonder  
And have stopped to rest by the stream,  
On my beautiful Island of dreams.

Jim Minks  
-1960

*Editor's Note: Jim Minks is the father of B.J. Parsons.*

What are the chances for a settling of the differences between the bishops who support the ECUSA and those few bishops who stand opposed?

Aside from the dissidents, most of the members of the Anglican Communion, seem committed to a hopeful outcome. That at least augurs well for what will perhaps be a final chance for resolution at the coming Lambeth Conference in early summer of 2008.

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## Holiday Event at the Circle

The Women of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church announce their annual pre-Christmas fundraiser! This year's event will be held at Christmas Circle in conjunction with the farmers' market on Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 a.m.

A lovely DVD of "Life at St. Barnabas" will be available for a donation of \$10. The now beloved Christmas card—a watercolor by Richard Bye of "Christmas Eve Luminarias"—out of print for several years, is once again in supply. Pies, cakes, muffins, breads, jams, jellies, chutneys, pickles and cookies will be available as long as the supply lasts.

Funds raised at this event are used to support the needs of our community.

unforeseen delays? What caused them? How were they resolved? Who was unexpectedly helpful? What was your best memory of these first days? Who came to the house to see the baby?

In the liturgy we reflect upon, celebrate and remember these three phases of preparing for His coming (Advent), His arrival (Christmas) and the time after Christmas leading to the feast of the Epiphany. During this time, our parish provides us with unique opportunities for prayer, study and service. Turn to the back cover page of *The Carillon* for specific events, days and times. Don't come alone; bring visitors whether they be family or friends. Everyone is welcome!

**"Come, long expected promised One. In seeing You, help us to recognize the face of God. As you grow physically, may we grow spiritually. As you grow mentally, may we grow faithfully. As you grow emotionally, may we grow trustingly. You grew in wisdom, may we grow in commitment and service. As you loved us, may we love You and the totality of your creation: the physical universe and everything and everyone in it until we complete our earthly pilgrimage and see you face to face for all eternity."**

Sincerely,  
Alex+/Nancy+

## Mark Your Calendar

### DECEMBER

**Dec 2nd** First Sunday of Advent - beginning with today and continuing throughout the month, lighting of the Advent wreath before the 7am and the 9:30am Sunday services.

**December 13th** 10-2 Receiving and wrapping goodies in the parish room for Holiday Event.

**December 14th** 7:00 a.m. Fundraiser at Christmas Circle next to Farmers' Market

**Dec 16th** Lessons and Advent Carols at 4pm at St. B, invite your friends and neighbors!

**Dec 23rd** Fourth Sunday of Advent, normal 7am and 9:30am Holy Eucharist.

**Dec 24th** 8:15pm Christmas carols sung by all;

**8:30 pm Holy Eucharist.**

**Dec 25th** Christmas Day,  
8:30am Choral Holy Eucharist

### JANUARY

**Jan 6th** Epiphany: 7am and 9:30am Holy Eucharist; 5pm to 8pm annual open house at the rectory: everyone is welcome !

**Jan 13th** Stewardship Sunday during the 7am and the 9:30am Holy Eucharist.

## St. Barnabas Carillon

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