

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

October 2008

Volume 11, No.10

WHAT DO WE KNOW? Part II

Last month I gave a brief report on events at St Barnabas preceding the arrival of Alex+. As I reported, the difference in status, from mission to parish, was fundamental.

It meant that St Barnabas, while retaining its membership in the diocese, came under the direct leadership of its congregation, vestry and rector.

And there were improvements in terms of numbers. Parish attendance rose as a direct result of the new status of church and rector. The increase came in both members and visiting parishioners.

The numbers, along with other factors, were important because they helped set the financial terms for the parish's monthly contribution (Mission Share) to the diocese.

There were other changes which occurred

during Rector Alex's tenure that tended to strengthen relationships between rector and vestry and also between rector and congregation.

The warden system was restored and made more responsive to the rector and congregation. The names of junior and senior wardens more accurately reflected the working relationships between rector and vestry (as in rector's warden) and between vestry and congregation (as in people's warden).

The committee system was, overall, enhanced. Committees (like Finance) were created to systematize critical functions, like the fiduciary management of the church.

Some committees transferred their function to the rector, like the Christian Education Committee and the St Barnabas Mens' Group. The Men's

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Group began to meet twice-monthly, in 2004, and later (in 2006) in a combined weekly breakfast and twice-monthly dinner.

Other committees were strengthened and their functions better defined, like the editorial committee which oversees the writing and publication of the parish newsletter, the Carillon.

It was first published quarterly and, now, monthly. Its original pages were in black and white text. They now appear in color with added photographic work.

The Carillon was more recently joined by the award-winning website, stbarnabasborrego.org which carries prior issues of the Carillon, as well as providing up-to-date news on events at St Barnabas and in the diocese at-large.

The choir and organists were more consistently supported by the rector and its ministry more strongly emphasized. Though it remained small with two men and a complement of half a dozen women members, it is now led with distinction by the current director.

Meanwhile, socio-religious relationships were revitalized and flourished under the new rector. That was true in the various and continuing groups that had been formed earlier. Those included the Men of St Barnabas, the two women's groups, the Women of St

Barnabas and Sarah's Circle.

It also included groups for cancer survivors and those recovering from addictive relationships. It included support for weekly Cursillo meetings and the creation of a hospice group of volunteers, trained and directed by Horizon Hospice of Poway.

The Outreach ministry was strengthened by connections initiated by Rector Alex. Those included home visits by both rector and lay ministers, delivering water, food and other goods to disadvantaged people in Borrego and nearby communities.

Outreach also included the collection of used magazines for delivery to merchant seamen, a concern of the Maritime chaplaincy under the direction of the Bishop's Office at St Paul's Cathedral in San Diego.

An ongoing partnership in a local group continues to supply water along routes used by illegal immigrants heading north from Mexico and other countries to the south.

Another fruitful partnership included working closely with town citizens and authorities to lock in plans to build a park for Borrego children.

Other major parish accomplishments you need to factor in:

Prayer and money-relief for Hurricane Katrina victims in Holy Trinity Parish, Pass Christian MS.

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WHAT DO WE KNOW?.....

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Completion and dedication of labyrinth in 12/15/01 and, later, palapa and formal establishment of the St Barnabas Retreat Center.

Production of (in 2002 and 2005) of Parish pictorial directories.

Women of St Barnabas sponsorship of a youth at Camp Stevens.

The hosting of community-wide prayer services following the 9/11/01 attack on the United States.

Receiving new Chamber award for signage.

Completing major wall construction to protect church and parking lot from flooding.

That's my list of events. Other data was supplied by current and prior members of the Church.

Why don't you take a shot at what you can come up with. The cause is good, for now and for the future. The cause I would describe as the fulfillment of our mission at St Barnabas. My question to you: How would you describe it?

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760/767-3914**

~Victor Levine

CALLING PROCESS WORKSHOP

Deacon Jenny Vervinck, the bishop's canon, came to St Barnabas on the morning of September 22, 2008. Her purpose was to confer with members of the Vestry on personnel matters.

Specifically she had come, as the bishop's representative, to learn the Vestry's choice of an interim vicar who will fill in until a new rector is called.

The bishop became the acting rector, following the March '08 resignation of St Barnabas' last rector, Dr Alex Nagy+.

There were three candidates for the interim position. Each of them had served as supply clergy since the departure of Alex+ and Nancy+ from Borrego Springs.

Deacon Vervinck's second purpose in coming was to help the vestry prepare itself and members of the church for a 'Visions for the Future' workshop to convene on November 2nd 2008.

The purpose of the workshop will be to help us decide what kind of rector we want but, also, to sort out the priorities we believe St Barnabas should pursue, in the near and distant future.

The results of workshop thinking will guide the Calling Committee in its consideration of candidates for the future position of rector.

The emphasis on the future is deliberate, according to Deacon Vervinck. Her thinking is that we are looking at a set of different challenges than the ones we have become used to.

Those challenges will encompass both the new rector and his vision of a church reborn under his fresh direction. The challenges will also come in the working out of a totally new set of relationships between rector and both vestry and larger congregation.

Current thinking among bishop's representative and vestry is that the November 2nd workshop will follow the 9:30 AM service and run through 1:00 PM. The venue will be the courtyard on which there will be a series of small tables (with chairs) to facilitate writing and discussion.

The closing thought was that food would be served during the period, along with an appropriate assortment of drinks.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

October 4

St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)

Francis of Assisi was a poor little man who astounded and inspired the Church by taking the gospel literally—not in a narrow fundamentalist sense, but by actually following all that Jesus said and did, joyfully, without limit and without a mite of self-importance.

Serious illness brought the young Francis to see the emptiness of his frolicking life as leader of Assisi's youth.

Prayer—lengthy and difficult—led him to a self-emptying like that of Christ, climaxed by embracing a leper he met on the

road. It symbolized his complete obedience to what he had heard in prayer: "Francis! Everything you have loved and desired in the flesh it is your duty to despise and hate, if you wish to know my will. And when you have begun this, all that now seems sweet and lovely to you will become intolerable and bitter, but all that you used to avoid will turn itself to great sweetness and exceeding joy."

From the cross in the neglected field-chapel of San Damiano, Christ told him, "Francis, go out and build up my house, for it is nearly falling down." Francis became the totally poor and humble workman.

He must have suspected a deeper meaning to "build up my house." But he would have been content to be for the rest of his life the poor "nothing" man actually putting brick on brick in abandoned chapels. He gave up every material thing he had, piling even his clothes before his earthly father (who was demanding restitution for Francis' "gifts" to the poor) so that he would be totally free to say, "Our Father in heaven." He was, for a time, considered to be a

religious "nut," begging from door to door when he could not get money for his work, bringing sadness or disgust to the hearts of his former friends, ridicule from the unthinking.

But genuineness will tell. A few people began to realize that this man was actually trying to be Christian. He really believed what Jesus said: "Announce the kingdom! Possess no gold or silver or copper in your purses, no traveling bag, no sandals, no staff" (see Luke 9:1-3). Francis' first rule for his followers was a collection of texts from the Gospels. He had no idea of founding an order, but once it began he protected it and accepted all the legal structures needed to support it. His devotion and loyalty to the Church were absolute and highly exemplary at a time when various movements of reform tended to break the Church's unity.



He was torn between a life devoted entirely to prayer and a life of active preaching of the Good News. He decided in favor of the latter, but always returned to solitude when he could. He wanted to be a missionary in Syria or in Africa, but was prevented by shipwreck and illness in both cases. He did try to convert the sultan of Egypt during the Fifth Crusade.

During the last years of his relatively short life (he died at 44) he was half blind and seriously ill. Two years before his death, he received the stigmata, the real and painful wounds of Christ in his hands, feet and side.

On his deathbed, he said over and over again the last addition to his Canticle of the Sun, "Be praised, O Lord, for our Sister Death." He sang Psalm 141, and at the end asked his superior to have his clothes removed when the last hour came and for permission to expire lying naked on the earth, in imitation of his Lord.

VESTRY REPORT

Finally we had a lovely cool (70's) morning and all but two members present. Chuck Bennett was in Mongolia and Haddon Salt in Russia . Wow! August minutes were approved but committee activity reports were a bit thin. Mary Levine (worship and pastoral care) had been to New Hampshire and back by train. Cathy Oswalt and LLouise report that they've completed their inventory at the rectory, added some essentials, and it is now ready for our interim priest. Bill Walker's stewardship report notes that we're not at the top of our pledges and we have, sadly, lost some members. But he's ready to cast his net!

The Senior Warden, Cathy Oswalt, has given a gift of a lovely lectionary. This will simplify our lectors work. She also announced that Lynniss took over the job of production editor of this newsletter, our *Carillon*, in July and will be paid for an extra six hours a month—retroactively. In his treasurer's report David Leibert said what we already know—DOWN! Income is down, Smith Barney is down, but happily right now our expenses are down.

Canon Jenny Vervynk attended the meeting to discuss our "Calling Process Workshop". This will help us focus on our needs and desires for a full-time resident rector. Her workshop will take place Sunday, November 2nd after the 9:30 one-service only gathering. We will meet in the courtyard with plenty of coffee and snacks and work for several hours on the "*Visions of the Future*". Please plan to attend. This is so important for the life of St. Barnabas.

~Nancy Bye for Sue Salt

MESSAGE FROM YOUR INTERIM RECTOR

Dear Ones,

I am so looking forward to being your Interim Rector during this time of 'living in-between'. While I understand the grief you feel about losing Alex and Nancy (they are my friends too!) to British Columbia, and the uncertainty you may feel about what comes next, I hope you are also as excited as I am. For me, it's an exciting opportunity to make a whole new circle of friends and to share the journey of the next year or so with you. For you, I hope you are excited about having the opportunity to pause and reflect and dream and pray about what St. Barnabas may become.

I love our Episcopal Church. As a 'cradle Episcopalian', I have seen it grow more inclusive in faith and practice in ways I never could have imagined when I was confirmed 50 years ago. I have been nourished and inspired by our Church during these many years. My hope is that during the time we will share together, you too will experience a deepening awareness of the presence of God in our lives, enjoy the overwhelming abundance God's presence brings to all of us through our Church, and be eager to share these gifts with the community of Borrego Springs. I look forward to being your partner in that effort.

Thank you for the invitation to join you for the coming season.

Blessings,

Julie Christian +

BITS & PIECES

WHITE ELEPHANT COLUMN

is a revived column in the monthly Carillon. Its purpose, as a kind of classified section, is to ease your task of selling or acquiring worthy items no longer needed. For inclusion, or suggestions to help the column be more useful, call Victor at 767-7746 or drop him a line at ravok@nethere.com

REMEMBER.....

Unwanted items are welcomed by Ernie Loza.
He distributes to

Slab City
the orphanage
the women's rehab in Brawley.

You can reach Ernie at
760-445-5360.

LOCAL MAN WANTS WORK ASSISTING ELDERLY AND DISABLED

Can do the following:

- 1) Water leaks & Energy savings
- 2) Cleaning ,Vacuuming ,Cooking
- 3) Dog walking
- 4) Planting, etc.

Available 8 hrs per week
\$3.00 per hour Worker / Elderly and disabled Only/

Please call Tracey S. Alexander (767-9818)

The Carillon always welcomes additional writers and stories for publication.
Email Lynn @ lynnisw@yahoo.com

Wanted

CPA volunteer to work with rector's warden and finance committee at St Barnabas. If interested, please call Cathy Oswalt (767-3455/5094 or 519-2450)

or

Dave Leibert (767-7788)
david@thepalmsatindianhead.com

WELCOME BACK SNOWBIRDS

Bring yourselves,

Bring a donation to cover
the cost of your yummy
chicken dinner,

BYOB.

Sunday, November 9th
at 4:30 p.m.

in our lovely courtyard!

REMINDER

Hosts and/or hostesses are
needed for Sunday morning
coffee after service.....sign
up in the Parish Hall

WOMEN OF ST. BARNABAS— NEW SEASON!

By Nancy Bye

Because of Shirley Vialpando's current health challenges, Ann Nourse and I have stepped forward to co-chair the group for one year—until October '09, no longer.

While Ann will be back "home" for our first meeting, the wonders of the internet have allowed us do some long-distance planning. Among other things, we agree that there will be no more restaurant meetings. It can be expensive and it is certainly too noisy to really get anything done. Louise Jee has already agreed to keep our freezer stocked with cookies and such to make the job of host/hostess for the "holy happy hour" easier, and Joanne McLean will keep the kitchen supplied. We hope to strengthen our organization and increase our local philanthropies. We need your help!

YOURS!!!! Please, please make an effort to come to the meetings (if you recall, our food and wine potluck luncheons are pretty tasty) And don't hesitate to bring new ideas. There are all kinds of things we can be doing and local activities we can support. Last year Jean Smith made a good argument that we should make a contribution to our local performing arts center, and we are about to do that. Let's make 2009 a wonderful year of camaraderie among us and good works for our town. Our interim priest will love us for it, and the new rector will be wowed. Amen!

Wednesday, October 15

B.J. Parsons, hostess and will provide lunch which will be a preview of our "Welcome Back Snowbirds" menu. Planning for 2009 and meeting our interim priest, Julia Christian.

Wednesday, November 12

Ann Nourse, hostess for potluck lunch Earthquake Preparedness program

Thursday, December 11

Parish Room—see posted schedule for Barnabas Bakers delivery and wrapping.

Friday, December 12

Sign up for your time at the Barnabas Bakers Event at Christmas Circle—7 to 11 a.m. Help needed from the guys!

Wednesday, January 14

Nancy Bye, hostess for potluck lunch Meet the new principal and the students we sponsored in '08 events. Plan for '09 Camp Stevens, ambassadors, etc.

Tuesday, February 11

Sue Salt, hostess for potluck lunch Ernie Loza will tell us about his charities.

Wednesday, March 11

Faye Dorsey, hostess for potluck lunch More work on our ever growing photographic history. Planning for summer activities.

Thursday, April 2

See December 11

Friday, April 3

See December 12

Wednesday, April 8

Hostess to be determined Plan for Summer '09 Shall we do the Easter Holy Happy Hour?

**A HEARTY ST. BARNABAS
WELCOME
TO OUR
INTERIM RECTOR
WE ARE GLAD
TO HAVE YOU HERE!
JULIA**

Mark Your Calendar

October

October 7, 14, 21, 28: Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. The Men of St. Barnabas
@ Kendall's Café
October 11: Saturday at 9:00 AM Sarah's Circle @ Kendall's Cafe
October 15: Wednesday at noon The Women of St. Barnabas @ BJ Parson
October 27: Monday at 8 a.m. monthly Vestry meeting



St. Barnabas Carillon

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