

Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



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

Borrego Springs, California

August 2009

Volume 12, No.8

A HOLY TEMPLE, A DWELLING PLACE FOR GOD

“Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.” *Ephesians 2:11-12*

This week our Church, represented by lay people and clergy and bishops from our diocese and from dioceses all over the country, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, decided:

“the General Convention has come to recognize that the baptized membership of The Episcopal Church includes same-sex couples living in lifelong committed relationships "characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection and respect, careful, honest communication, and the holy love which enables those in such relationships to see in each other the image of God" and “That the 76th General Convention recognize that gay and lesbian persons who are part of such relationships have responded to God's call and have exercised various ministries in and on behalf of God's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and are currently doing so in our midst; and that God has called and may call such individuals, to any ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church, and that God's call to the ordained ministry in The Episcopal Church is a mystery which the Church attempts to discern for all people”.

From Resolution D025

In other words, our Church has opened all the orders of ministry to gay and lesbian people, including the order of bishop, even those in lifelong committed relationships. It was a bold step, but not a rash one. It was a faithful step, given much serious thought and

discussion and prayer over many years.

Whatever you think of their decision, remember that once upon a time, our ancestors were once without Christ, having no hope and without God. Had it not been for the courage of Paul and Peter and Barnabas and others in those early apostolic days, there would not be a Christian Church today. The ministry of Jesus would have remained a cult within Judaism, and may well have died out in the face of opposition from the ranks of the establishment of the day - the Sadducees and the Pharisees, or after the fall of Jerusalem. Only by the grace of God and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit did the fledgling church come to understand that Jesus' ministry extended to Gentiles, to us.

The letter goes on to say:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it.”

Ephesians 2:13-16 This may sound shocking but it is entirely consistent Pauline theology, sentiments that echo throughout his letters, as in this statement from Galatians:

Continued on Page 2.....

Continued from Page 1.....

“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for *all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*” (emphasis added) *Galatians 3:28*

Again and again, the clear message is that all the arbitrary barriers that humans create to separate each other are non-existent in Christ. Whether we're talking about ethnicity - Jew or Greek; or economics - slave or free; or sexuality - male and female, the exclusions that were imposed on societies are human-made institutions, not divinely ordained divisions.

It's been a painful lesson to learn these last 2,000 years. Holocausts and pogroms and ethnic cleansing are the ugly results of hatred based on ignorance, fear and superstition, not on anything resembling Christian faith. Slavery and other forms of economic oppression, wherever it occurs around the world, and it still does occur today, are obscene abuses of power based on that great sin - the love of money, and utterly lacking in the love of Christ. Sexuality is the last taboo, and it is still a greatly misunderstood. Straight, gay, bi-sexual or transgendered, we are ignorant of our own basic human biology, neurology, and psychology. And until we come to a better, more complete knowledge and understanding, we need to be gracious, generous and compassionate, loving and accepting each other as members of that “one new humanity.” Being judgmental and offering condemnation is not our job, not our calling as Christians. I believe that this concept of “one new humanity” is what lay behind the decisions of the deputies and bishops at convention this week.

There's an old joke that goes:

"Do you believe in infant baptism?"

"Believe in it? I've seen it!"

Maybe you have too! And maybe, like many others, you “have seen the faithful and godly ministries of many gay and lesbian” members, lay and ordained, of our Church.

“So then... you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. *Ephesians 2:19-22*

What our Church decided this week is that all of us, gay and straight, female and male, Greek and Jew, slave and free, are joined together spiritually to be that dwelling place for God. As Paul reminded the Corinthians, all of us have spiritual gifts - gifts of ministry that are given for the purpose of building up the Church, gifts which need to be exercised at all levels of the Church. For the health and well-being of the Church, for its present and its future, we cannot dare to presume that God would allow some gifts of ministry to go wasted and unused.

Once more, let us remember the words of today's lesson:

“But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; ...he came and proclaimed peace to you...; [and] through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father.”
Ephesians 2:13-18

Let us be at peace.
Amen.

~Julia

Proper 11, Year B
July 19, 2009

FOOD BANK FOR JULY

The second month of the Food Bank distribution went smoothly in spite of one hundred and thirteen degree temperatures. Just under four thousand pounds of food was picked up in San Diego, hauled back to Borrego, unloaded, sorted and packed by a group of over twenty dedicated and hardworking volunteers from the churches and community. Approximately one hundred and forty families comprised of over five hundred individuals received food packages. This month was sponsored by Dr. Wimer and the Seventh Day Adventist Church. He has also been one of many loyal volunteers.

~Sue Salt

THE CALLING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

1. Lee Estep (Vestry) 858-459-7242; <kee8989@sbcglobal.net>
2. Fred Jee: 767-3674; POB 483 BS; <jeeology@yahoo.com>
3. Mary Levine: POB 444 BS; <siocru@aol.com>
4. Kathleen Killman: 767-3335; POB 2358; <kklmn@adnc.com>
5. Sue Salt: 767-1058; POB 2562; <susesalt@gmail.com>
6. Shirley Vialpando (Vestry): 767-5417; <shirleyvlp@sbcglobal.net>
7. Addis Ward: 767-5458; POB 639; <addbev@aol.com>
8. Ann White: 767-0120; POB 2218; <bluff@cableusa.com>
9. Bonnie Walker (Vestry) 767-5510 <bwalker@cableusa.com>

SAINT OF THE MONTH
ST. JOAN OF THE CROSS

August 17
(1666-1736)

An encounter with a shabby old woman many dismissed as insane prompted St. Joan to dedicate her life to the poor. For Joan, who had a reputation as a businesswoman intent on monetary success, this was a significant conversion.

Born in 1666 in Anjou, France, Joan worked in the family business—a small shop near a religious shrine—from an early age. After her parents' death she took over the shop herself. She quickly became known for her greediness and insensitivity to the beggars who often came seeking help.

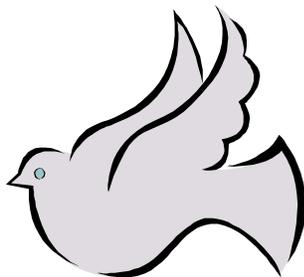
That was until she was touched by the strange woman who claimed she was on intimate terms with the deity. Joan, who had always been devout, even scrupulous, became a new person. She began caring for needy children. Then the poor, elderly and sick came to her. Over time she closed the family business so she could devote herself fully to good works and penance.

She went on to found what came to be known as the Congregation of St. Anne of Providence. It was then she took the religious name of Joan of the Cross. By the time of her death in 1736 she had founded 12 religious houses, hospices and schools. Pope John Paul II canonized her in 1982.

Comment:

The downtown areas of most major cities hold a population of “street people.” Well-dressed folks usually avoid making eye contact, probably for fear of being asked for a handout. That was Joan’s attitude until the day one of them touched her heart. Most people thought the old woman was crazy, but she put Joan on the road to sainthood. Who knows what the next beggar we meet might do for us?

~Taken from www.americancatholic.org



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 2, 2009

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since last July, St. Thomas of Canterbury has been engaged in the construction of their new church and school building in Temecula. To my knowledge, this is the only new Episcopal Church being built at this time. It is a wonderful example of what we can do together. We anticipate completion of the project in August and we have planned a dedication service for Sunday, September 20 at 2:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. I invite you to participate in this historic moment in our diocesan life.

It is my hope that every congregation will send at least two representatives to this afternoon Eucharist and celebration -- the more the merrier. Clergy are asked to vest and process; the liturgical color is red. Please bring your church banner and a gift from your congregation.

Gifts should speak to your congregation's uniqueness and serve to enhance the beauty of this new beacon of light in our diocese. Please contact Kay Bemis, Senior Warden of St. Thomas of Canterbury, today to find out more about a possible gift for the occasion and to RSVP (bemis03@msn.com; 951.676.0515). In this way, we will share pieces of ourselves with our brothers and sisters in Temecula.

The dedication and consecration ceremony will be a wonderful, visible, and outward sign of our life and work together.

The new facility meets all green building codes and seats over 300 people. State-of-the-art audio-visual equipment will augment the worship experience while an 8,000 square foot patio and labyrinth adds a meditative and spiritual quality to the campus.

I know you will make this event a priority on your fall calendars and I look forward to seeing every one of you at this special service. Let us take advantage of this opportunity to celebrate a wonderful moment in our life and work together.

Faithfully,

James Mathes

Dear St. Barnabas Friends,

If you remember how exciting it was to celebrate the dedication of St. B, then you will begin to understand how important this day is for the people of Temecula. Even more so because of the starts and stops they have endured over the years due to changing diocesan conditions. I cannot urge you strongly enough to put this event on your calendars and ATTEND! Let's make sure St. B turns out in force to support our brothers and sisters in Christ on this joyful occasion. Let's be particularly sure to have the church banner there and someone to be the banner bearer.

Second, the bishop's e-mail suggests a gift -

"Gifts should speak to your congregation's uniqueness and serve to enhance the beauty of this new beacon of light in our diocese. Please contact Kay Bemis, Senior Warden of St. Thomas of Canterbury, today to find out more about a possible gift for the occasion and to RSVP (bemis03@msn.com; 951.676.0515). In this way, we will share pieces of ourselves with our brothers and sisters in Temecula."

So, put on your thinking caps and let's come up with a very special Borrego memento.

What a grand event to celebrate - let's all plan to be a part of it.

Blessings all,

Julie

SUMMER CONVERSATIONS

Thirteen aspiring writers, philosophers and theologians have been enjoying weekly conversations via e-mail this summer. Maybe the number is lucky (see Conversation No. 5), because it's been a terrific experience. Julie's topics have been varied and thought-provoking, as have the responses. We got off to a slow start with Conversation No. 1, "The Limited Ambitions of the People of God," which some of us found difficult to understand. That's why Julie is the Rector and we're not! No. 2, on the other hand, elicited a lot of interesting feedback. The topic was "Re-gifting Grace: Should I give up what I don't deserve?" Conversely, how do you feel when misfortune befalls you and you've done your best to live a virtuous life? A lively discussion ensued regarding reward and punishment, our responses to same, and how God is involved.

Conversation No. 3, "The Problem with Hell," generated the most comments. Most of us do not believe in Hell, nor do we believe in fortune telling, tarot cards and horoscopes (Conversation No. 5, "Four in Ten People Believe in Ghosts"). However, the answers to the other questions posed by this article (do you believe in ghosts and reincarnation) were more varied. This is a gray area, and there were many uncertainties. No. 4, "Her Sister's Life or her Own," dealt with the book and movie, *My Sister's Keeper*. It is the story of a child conceived for the purpose of serving as an organ donor for a terminally ill sibling. While most found the idea disturbing, we agreed that no one knows how they would react when faced with the loss of a child and an opportunity to save her.

"Paleontology and Creationism Meet but Don't Mesh," No. 6, dealt with the Creation Museum. Its proprietors believe literally in the Biblical account of Adam and Eve and have backed it up with scientific theories, such as dating all animals from the time of Noah's ark. Some scientists, not surprisingly, object to the fact that the museum exists at all. The responding parishioners for the most part believe in evolution, but didn't voice any strong opposition to the right of the creationists to express their opinions.

The last two conversations, Nos. 7 and 8, are newly published as of this writing and have not yet generated many responses. No. 7 refers participants to the Episcopal Convention website and asks each of us to review the article of his/her choice, while No. 8 references www.Ship-of-Fools.com, a humorous British website for some lighter fare during the peak of the summer heat. We eagerly await the responses and thank Julie for conceiving and facilitating a rewarding experience.

~Wendy Quinn

Imitations

**You are the host
To whom we come in need:**

**We who are forever guests
In your house**

**Take your body
In the bread and wine:**

**We lose our lives
In consuming you**

**We who choose
To become like you**

**Who was before
Time began,**

**Is now
And will yet be,**

**Endow a world without
Thirst or hunger**

**At peace with you:
Design without End**

© 2009 valevine
~Victor Levine

CURSILLISTAS WANTED!

Cursillo is planning a Fall Weekend on October 22-25 at Camp Stevens.

We are looking for candidates from St. Barnabas to attend this most spiritual and inspiring gathering at Camp Stevens.

Since many have been curious about the Monday morning 8:00 AM meetings on the church calendar, we would like to invite you to attend one of these meetings and consider joining our group.

Contact Sue or Haddon Salt 767- 4817 for more information.

Yours in Christ,

~Louise Burmester

BITS & PIECES

Wanted

Reliable car of more recent vintage than my ancient Volvo ('93).

760/767-7746 or ravok@nether.com

Greetings to all of you out where it might not be 85 degrees at 5 in the morning.

I am hoping that someone will say oh yes, it is.....

During Lent, we used the small silver Pyx (looks just like a pill box with an engraved cross on the lid) to hold a cotton ball with holy oil for healing services.

On Maundy Thursday we did the clean up and stripping of the altar. At that time, Mary Levine took the cotton ball to dispose of (consecrated element) and someone else took charge of the Pyx.

Since it was oily I am guessing that it may have been thoroughly washed and then where did it go?

Please let me know what you remember. It is something that we need to think about and remember where it was last, or when it was last seen and used.

Thanks.

We have been using the traveling kit to take communion out, and I have not been able to locate the Pyx.

from LLouise Jee
Altar Guild

Dear Men of St. Barnabas,

You so kindly sponsored the St. Barnabas ad in last year's Village Guide, and we are sure you will want to do it again. If we run the same ad with minor copy changes we are entitled to a 10% discount—about \$325. If each of you would be kind enough to

send \$25 to Richard White, at Box 2218

we will take care of the details. This booklet is distributed to over 10,000 visitors to our valley. Thank you, and Godspeed!

~Nancy Bye

BORREGO SPRINGS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER 2009 SUMMER SCHEDULE READERS THEATER

August 26, 7:30 PM

Director Austin E. Custodia

THE WONDERFUL ICE CREAM SUIT

by Ray Bradbury

September 30, 7:30 PM

SPEED THE PLOW

by David Mamet

With Austin E. Custodia

and Jonathan Mittleman

FUNDRAISER.....

Wine and Cheese after the Borrego Days

Parade on Oct. 24 at 11:00 to 3:00

At Borrego Outfitters

SUMMER READING

Tucking up in bed at eight o'clock when the bugs aren't dive-bombing is one of the joys of summer (or winter!) in our house. In the last month I've read Ken Follett's *The Pillars of the Earth*. A favorite author, (remember the suspense thriller *Eye of the Needle* from many years ago?) here delves into twelfth-century England to tell the tale of the building of the greatest Gothic cathedral in the world. It is long, (almost 1000 pages) one occasionally loses the thread and has to double back, but it is truly fascinating—a tale of peasants and nobility, monks and knights, enduring love, violent hates. History, architecture, medieval lore. A delight.

Somewhat exhausted from building the cathedral above, I picked up a book that I've had since it was published in '02, Anita Shreve's *Sea Glass*. Not a casual beach book at all! It's a complex look at relationships during the economic crises of the '30s and a handful of very different people who were emotionally and physically tortured by the events of the times. Not what I expected, but an intriguing look at life on the New Hampshire coast. A pleasant and quick change from building the cathedral, but quite sad.

~ Nancy Bye

be present, be engaged, and participate with a smile.....

On Sunday, June 14th, during the sermon we were asked to think of ways we could be present, engaged, visible and contributing members of the community. Haddon Salt described the Food Bank Project, to start the next week, and what it involved and how we could be part of the project.

From there, noting that it is perhaps better to start one project and get it firmly launched, we found other ideas where we could participate: Meals for the Homebound, the local Father's Day afternoon at the circle, and other local programs and projects.

We discussed keeping the list and information of community needs current, public and advertised in the Carillon, Sunday Bulletins and on the parish bulletin board. Bringing back the information of needs is important as another may want to do what you are not comfortable with.

Ideas for the future included clothing for the school children, especially shoes. Could there be a shoe fund with redeemable certificates where our families shop?

The most important point of our discussion focused our need to "be present, be engaged, and participate with a smile" for all our local community projects and programs. The first and second Food Banks were special experiences for those present. Will you be there for the next one on August 17? How else can you participate in this community?

~ LLouise Jee



Faith and Beauty

Embracing the beauty of the world's mystery and unexplained depths is cause for rejoicing. How could this *not* be God's will for us? from [Making Sense of God](#)

Mark Your Calendar

AUGUST



SUNDAY SERVICES 8:30 AM

Supply Clergy :

August 2—Father Juan Acosta

August 9—Carolyn Richardson

August 16-Father Juan Acosta

August 23-Carolyn Richardson

August 30– Julia Christian

August 4, 11, 18, 25 Tuesday at 7:30 am

The Men of St. Barnabas @ Kendall's

August 17 Food Bank Distribution

St. Barnabas Carillon

Editing and design:

Lynnise Wilderson

lynnisw@yahoo.com

Quinn,

LLouise Jee,

Production:

Lynnise Wilderson and Bob Cassidy

Newsletter Committee:

Nancy Bye, Lynnise Wilderson, Sue Salt, Wendy
Cathy Gay, Trent Kleinkopf, Victor Levine,

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
2680 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 691
Borrego Springs, CA 92004-0691

Church office: 760-767-4038

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