

The Encourager

The Mission of St. Barnabas Church is to live and spread the Gospel of Christ as disciples making disciples.

Saint Barnabas Church
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May 2015

A Message from Father Jim

I will have the honor to serve as one of the Spiritual Directors on the 75th Happening Weekend in the Diocese of Rhode Island which will take place from May 1st to 3rd. If you don't know what Happening is, the following description of Happening is taken from the Diocesan website.

"Happening is a spiritual retreat for high school students which takes place at the Episcopal Conference Center in Pascoag, RI. Young people from all over the state help to plan and implement the weekend, and it is spent in a relaxed, fun, and safe environment where youth can share their faith in a Christian atmosphere.

Throughout the weekend youth, young adults, and clergy share life and faith experiences. The schedule is balanced to include a wide range of activities such as active discussion, low-key reflection time, informal musical jam sessions, and high-energy creative activities. A young person serves as "Rector" and leads the weekend with the help of clergy and a support staff.

The Happening movement believes that Christianity is relevant to youth today and it can transform a rapidly changing world. We provide the opportunity for youth to develop and nourish spirituality in a fun, thoughtful, and welcoming community.

Happening weekends are open to high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The program begins Friday at 6:00 pm and concludes on Sunday at 5:30 pm after a closing Eucharist."

Years ago I served as the adult Diocesan Spiritual Director for Happening for several years. All three of my stepchildren were very involved in Happening and two of them had the privilege to serve as the "Rector" for a weekend. I know that Happening made a difference in their lives as it did in my own life even though I never experienced it as a teenager. But being involved with teenagers whose faith is always in the process of emerging and dealing with their questions and sometimes skepticism and cynicism helped me to examine and solidify my own faith and relationship with God.

I am pleased to announce that four of our teenagers, Gabriella Pari, Tyler-Ann Pari, Rachel Beaudreau and Steven Marcks are taking part in the weekend. I ask that you remember us in your prayers each day of the Happening weekend and I hope that they will be able to share some of their experience with you in church the following Sunday.

Jim+

Fr. Michaelson to Celebrate and Preach

The Rev. Peter Michaelson will be our celebrant and preacher at both services on Sunday, May 3rd. As stated in his above message, Fr. Jim he will be away that day.

Notes from the Music Director...

I am delighted to be serving as your new organist/music director and I will look forward to meeting all of you in the weeks ahead.

One of the first things that Fr. Jim expressed to me about St. Barnabas Church is that it has extraordinary potential for ministry. Specifically, I will be looking at the potential within the parish to build our music ministry. As you know, we have very talented and dedicated singers in the choir who lead us in worship each week. They, as well as myself and the parish leaders, are eager to build upon that foundation in order to develop and grow an outstanding music program. First, I would like to invite anyone who might be interested in joining our choir. We rehearse on Wednesday evening at 6:30-8:00 p.m. and sing at the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Eucharist. Although helpful, there is no musical training or choral experience required. No ability to read music is necessary, but a willingness to learn will be rewarding. We do ask for a commitment to our rehearsals and liturgies, but I also know everyone has a busy schedule and therefore I am willing to work with choir members in balancing their time and commitment.

Secondly, the parish has a set of high quality handbells. In years past, a handbell choir has been part of the music program of St. Barnabas and I would love to explore how this might be restored. If you have played in a handbell choir previously, you might have some ideas to share on how this can again be a part of our music ministry. Or if you have never had the experience of playing in a handbell choir, but have always been interested in learning, I would hope you might consider the possibility.

Finally, there are a good number of children and youth in our parish. This fact, perhaps, offers the greatest potential for the future of St. Barnabas Church and the development of our music ministry. I am doing music ministry today, because of my experience of church music as a child. Every parish needs a music program for children and youth. Such an endeavor can involve the formation of a children's choir or a pool of musicians who are studying band or orchestra instruments and would like to be involved in festival liturgies throughout the year.

Again, I am thrilled to be serving as your music director. I will look forward to working with you to "make a joyful noise into the Lord."

Ted Platt,
Organist/Music Director

Diocesan Confirmation Service to Be Held at St. Barnabas



Each year Bishop Knisely celebrates a service of Holy Eucharist for the whole diocese for the purpose of confirming and receiving those who were not able to be confirmed or received in their own parish. This year this service will be held at St. Barnabas on Saturday, May 9th at 10:00 a.m. We are presenting 9 people to be confirmed and received. We hope you will consider attending the service, greeting our Bishop, and pledging your support to those who are reaffirming their faith and relationship with God.

Feast of the Ascension

The Feast of the Ascension is one of the Principal Feast Days of the Church. It celebrates Jesus' ascending back to the Father in heaven and always falls forty days after Easter. This year it falls on Thursday, May 14th and there will be two services that day at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.



First Communion for Children

If your child does not yet receive Holy Communion and you want him or her to have some instruction in order to receive, please see Father Jim to schedule First Communion instruction. First Communion will take place on Sunday, May 24th the Feast of Pentecost. Remember that if your child is baptized he or she is entitled to receive Holy Communion. No special instruction or teaching is required.



The Feast of Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost is one of the Principal Feasts of the Church. The name Pentecost comes from the Greek word meaning the “50th day” and Pentecost is always celebrated 50 days after Easter and marks the end of the Easter Season. Pentecost is the feast that celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles. As this event is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles as tongues of fire. This year Pentecost is celebrated on May 24th. It is an old tradition to wear red on Pentecost as red is the color of fire so *wear something red to church on this day.*

We Need Your Help with an Unexpected Expense



You will notice that there is a monthly envelope for “Maintenance” in your box of offering envelopes. We have had an unexpected expense this year that has far exceeded what we budgeted for repair and maintenance for this year. Our elevator which is crucial for many of our parishioners to have access to the church has required \$3,200 in repairs over the last two months. If you don’t normally use your “Maintenance” envelope we are asking that you consider doing so for the remainder of this year. A little bit each month from all of us can easily defray the cost of this very necessary repair.

Annual Parish Picnic



This year’s Annual Parish Picnic is going to be held at the Masonic Youth Center on Long Street in Warwick on Sunday, June 14th, following the 10 o’clock service. We are moving this event to the spring since June 14th is the last day of Sunday School and also when we are celebrating St. Barnabas Day. Hamburgers, hot dogs and beverages will be provided but we ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share. Friends and family are always welcome but we need a count so please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or call the parish office. There will be games and other activities. Don’t forget to bring your softball gear.

No Monthly Healing Service in May

There will be no monthly healing service in May as Fr. Jim is away serving as one of the Spiritual Directors on the Happening Weekend.

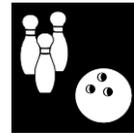


Dinner and a Movie for May will be held on Friday, May 8th. We will be watching the black and white classic, "Lilies of the Field," starring Sidney Poitier. Show up at 6:00 p.m. with a bag lunch, pizza, calzone or whatever tempts your taste buds. You might also want to bring a folding chair that will be more comfortable than the metal chairs we have in the parish hall. We will watch the movie while we eat our meal. After the movie we will take some time to discuss the film. Each movie, while not specifically being a religious movie, has some moral and social implications for people of faith.

All-Parish Outdoor Cleanup on May 16th

We were able to clean and polish the interior of the church before Holy Week and Easter but were unable to work on the gardens and lawns due to the weather. But we will gather on Saturday, May 16th, to complete the outside cleaning. Please be at the church at 11:00 a.m. with rakes, brooms, gloves, etc. and take part in the fellowship of this event. There is a funeral at 9:00 a.m. which necessitates the later start time.

Youth and Family Event for May



Our Youth and Family Event for May will be held on Sunday May 17th. We will be going duckpin bowling. Look for the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Exploring Sunday's Scriptures

Just a reminder that we meet each Wednesday morning following the mid-week Eucharist for a Bible study called "Exploring Sunday's Scriptures" where we look at the lessons we will hear read in church the following Sunday.

Rector's Discretionary Fund

Gifts have been given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund by:

Carolyn Spinney in memory of Richard Spinney.

George and Carol Gravelin in memory of Jeannette Gravelin.

Gail Freuh in memory of Robert Freuh and Bessie Ricci.

Episcopal Conference Center Brochures Have Arrived



We have received brochures for the summer camping season at ECC. Camps for children entering grades 2 to 12 run from July 5th to August 14th. In addition to these camps for youth a “Family Camp” for entire families is held from June 25th to 28th. A “Bridge Camp” for “special needs” campers of all ages is held from June 30th to July 3rd.

Brochures may be found at the back of the church or you can find out more by going online at Episcopalri.org and clicking on “Programs and Ministries” and scrolling down and clicking on the ECC link.

If you think your child(ren) would enjoy and benefit from a week at ECC and money is a consideration, please speak to Fr. Jim as “camperships” are available.

Episcopal Conference Center Open House



If your children have never experienced a week of camp at ECC and you would like them to get a flavor of what a week at camp is like, an Open House is being held at ECC on Sunday, May 17th, from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Counselors will be available to give tours, lead games and activities, and help give campers a sense of what it's like to spend a week at camp. Tours and activities are available from 3:30pm-5pm. A church service in the barn with Holy Communion will take place at 5pm. A cookout will follow at 6pm in the Pavilion.

All are welcome to join in for any or all of the afternoon activities!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



We would like to wish a Happy & Blessed Mother's Day to all Mom's here at St. Barnabas.



Parish Office will be closed on Monday May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

Vestry Retreat 2015 Synopsis

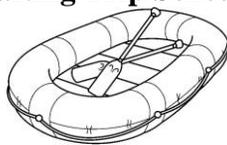
Our vestry met for its Annual Retreat at the Diocesan House, Providence on April 18th. Betsy Fornal, Diocesan Canon for Program, served as the facilitator for the meeting. The morning's discussion carried a positive feeling of more person-to-person connection felt throughout our parish family. The Outreach Teams and In-reach events have proven to be great opportunities for small groups of people to work together ministering to our community within and outside the walls of St. Barnabas. Sharing our time and talents in this way gives us all the chance to get to know one another, developing a deeper sense of family and community at St. Barnabas.

The 2014 goals of improved communication, youth involvement and increased community outreach were reviewed, and it was agreed that those goals have been successfully developed and implemented.

These new 2015 goals were established:

- Communication
 - Update email lists
 - Keep website/Facebook current
 - Maintain monthly Encourager newsletter
 - Broaden community contacts
- Youth Ministry
 - Continue Youth Sunday & Sermons
 - Youth and Family events
 - Youth involvement in outreach and in-reach events
 - Camperships to ECC
- Outreach
 - Deepen our current partnerships and explore new ways to increase help throughout the year
 - Encourage more involvement of adults and youth in outreach efforts

White Water Rafting Trip Scheduled for July 25



We have scheduled a parish white water rafting trip for Saturday, July 25th. *This year children are invited to come if they meet three conditions:*

1. They must be at least 10 years old.
2. They must weigh at least 50 pounds.
3. They must be accompanied by a parent.

We will be rafting the Hudson River Gorge in upstate New York with Beaverbrook Outfitters. You can take a look at their website at www.beaverbrook.net. Fr. Jim has scheduled many rafting trips with them.

The usual cost is \$69 per person. That includes the rafting, lunch on the river and dinner when we return from the trip. Please let Fr. Jim know if you are interested and he will give you a list of places in the area where you can stay. For those who like to tent or have campers, there is plenty of room on Fr. Jim and Barbara's property. Lodging in the area fills up quickly at that time of year so you should decide now if you are going and make arrangements.

Outreach Committee

Thank you to all who pledged to Episcopal Charities for the 2015 campaign. We are at exactly \$5,265 in pledges to date. This is 75% of our parish goal of \$7,000. About one third of our households have not committed to a pledge at this time. No donation is considered too small. 100% of what you donate goes directly out in a grant to help a RI agency helping those in need. Anyone needing pledge information can see Julie Mixner, Bonne Simonian or Cate Spearman for details or visit www.episcopalri.org/charities.

We continue to cook on the 2nd and 4th Saturday's of the month for the RI Family Shelter. There are about 25 adults and children at the shelter to prepare for. We are in need of people to plan a meal, help with a side dish or dessert or make a donation towards this outreach program. If you'd like to participate in this ministry, see Julie Mixner to sign up. Many helping hands on this ministry will allow us to expand our Outreach efforts to other agencies. Please consider helping out!

There are two boxes in the Narthex collecting items. One collects nonperishable food items for the West Bay Market Place, a local pantry in Buttonwoods. The other is for paper goods, cleaning items and diapers & wipes for the RI Family Shelter.

We had a wonderful Easter party at the RI Family Shelter at the end of March. We planned an Easter egg hunt, crafts and egg coloring for the children. We also provided goodies to eat for the children and their parents that live there. It was a big success and many thanks to all who participated and helped plan the event.

Looking ahead, we would like to plan an earth day clean up at the shelter as well as a summer cookout, if you'd like to help out with an event, see Julie Mixner for details.

Easter Flowers Decorating the Church on Easter (that did not appear in last month's Encourager) Were Given to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of:

Joyce Whitford and Hayden Bentley by Shirley Bentley.

Madeline Grace Harding, Floyd Earl Harding and Maxine Harding by Jason and Melissa Harding.

Christopher Klosowski by Tammy Salisbury.

Chinua Achebe, Timothy and Matilda Okoli and Samuel Okoli by Christie Achebe.

Edward F. Fletcher, Phylis M. Taylor, B. Buck Taylor, Florence E. Taylor, Schuyler J. Taylor, Sr. and Hope L. Thornton by Sandy Fletcher.

Agnes Spearman and Mary Garvey by Catherine and Michael Spearman.

William B. Beckwith, Maureen Eichholz, Florence and Frederic A. Hien, Frederic H. Hien, and William F. Mellin, Jr. by Robin Beckwith.

Vahan and Santook Simonian, John and Phyllis Simonian, Abraham and Betty Simonian, John and Helen Kirkman, the Rev. Bjarne and Florence Erickson, Alan and Muriel McCoy, David and Lois Macaulay, Robert Macaulay, Edgar and Mable Pierce, Donald Shaw, Myra and Donald E. Shaw, Florence and Edwin Jenkins, John Mikowski, Peter Patrick Cannon, Carrie and Henry Maksymowicz, Cooper, Kingston, Oreo and Missy by the Simonian Family.

Gluten Free Communion Wafers



For some time now the Episcopal Church has been aware of the fact that many people have developed gluten allergies and the diocese has offered gluten free wafers for Holy Communion at all diocesan liturgies. Fr. Jim has been made aware that there are a few folks in our parish with gluten allergies and taking communion has been problematic for them. As of the beginning of May you will have the option of a gluten free wafer at the administration of communion. The consecrated wafers will be in a small glass container on the paten with the regular wafers. If you need the gluten free wafer let Fr. Jim know and he will offer you the container to pick your own gluten free wafer to avoid cross contamination.



Lawn Care Team: Our lawn mowing is done by parishioners and we currently need volunteers for this ministry. One suggestion is to find someone to partner with so you don't have to do it alone. If anyone is willing to assist with cutting the church lawn on a rotating basis, or if you have any questions, please contact Heidi Seddon at 401-241-1983 or hjseddon@gmail.com.

FOOD DONATIONS



During these hard economic times, hunger is on the rise. Thanks to your ongoing support, the Community Food Bank has made a difference in the lives of many Warwick residents! Donations of non-perishable foods are gratefully accepted at St. Barnabas Church on Sunday mornings. You may hand your donation to one of our ushers or place it in the Food Basket at the back of the church. All of the food collected is then brought to the West Bay Community Food Bank in Buttonwoods. Many thanks to Dave Hartley who delivers these food items to the Food Bank on our behalf!



facebook Check us out on Facebook: St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Warwick, RI.