

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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June 2015

A Message from Father Jim

One of the most crucial aspects of facilitating parish growth is the welcoming and integration of new members. Every parish in which I have served has felt that it was a “friendly” parish and most instances they were. They were pretty good about giving a warm *welcome* and letting people know that their presence was appreciated. The difficulty came in the *integration* of new members. In every parish there are two things that must happen for new members to become fully integrated. First, longtime members must learn to share the positions and responsibilities that in many ways give them their own purpose or identity within the church. New members must be actively recruited to take part. Second, when we do ask new members to take part, we have to be ready to really listen to and assimilate some of their ideas on how things can be done. We need to be willing to plant seeds of acceptance as soon as people walk through our doors.

The following is a story titled “The Shuffle Board Court” written for the newsletter of Church of the Epiphany in East Providence by the Rev. Maryalice Sullivan who was then serving as the Interim. It is about planting seeds.

“...I am thinking today especially of seeds of gentleness, kindness, of invitation and acceptance. One of my responsibilities as a very small child was to go to the local candy store and buy the daily newspaper. I could walk to this store without crossing any streets. I can actually remember the first day I was sent off to the store, the money was placed in my pocket with a clear explanation of how much the paper would cost and how much change I would receive and I was not to spend the change on candy, just the paper. Of course I was instructed to go directly to the store and return home, no stopping to play. Time to play would come later after the newspaper was delivered.

There were two possible ways to go, one a bit shorter than the other, but the shorter one meant that I had to walk along a rather busy street, on the sidewalk of course, but none the less, the traffic did whizz by. So I was instructed to go the longer way, the safer way which meant that every day I passed the shuffle board court. The shuffle board court was just more of the sidewalk that had been set aside and marked appropriately for the large discs to be pushed and rest in the marked-off spaces so the game could be scored. The elongated courts were a curiosity to me. They were fenced off and marked for adults only, not that I could read at that time, but reading was not a skill needed to know what the sign said. I thought the courts looked a bit like a hop scotch game that my friends and I drew on the sidewalk with chalk. I longed to have a try at making the large round discs sail down the course. Day after day I would pass the courts and it was usually the same group of men, known by my friends as “the grumpy old men”, they were not child friendly. They took this game that looked to be like a grown up version of hop scotch, very seriously. There were people of similar age sitting on the nearby benches watching the game. What I saw with my eyes looked like so much fun, a circle of people enjoying each other, but pretty clear that strangers, especially short little strangers, were not welcomed. Yet each day I would linger by the fence, I am sure with a pitiful face that said I want to play too.

Finally, my persistence paid off and I was invited inside the fence and given a chance to play. Well, at least I thought I was actually playing the game. They taught me to hold the long stick with the prongs that fit around the disc and then to move it in a way that the disc actually went down the court. Of course my small hands and short arms were no match for the long stick, but with patience and coaching I finally managed to send the disc sailing and I heard it hit another disc. The whole group clapped and I felt like I was part of something, no longer just an onlooker, but part of the game that held so much fascination for me.

This was just a bit of kindness on the part of the shuffle board players. It only cost them a small amount of time and I am sure more than a bit of patience, but they planted the seeds of kindness in me, they planted seeds of acceptance. That day they lost their title of grumpy old men and became friends. They preached the Gospel not with words but with acceptance. My guess is they never knew how much it meant to me to feel part of them."

At this time when so many people are "trying" St. Barnabas as a community of faith, my prayer is that we never have to guess how much it means for people to be a part of us.

Jim+

Monthly Healing Service



Our monthly healing service will be held on Sunday, June 7th, at 12:00 noon. If you wish to have prayers with the laying on of hands and anointing or feel you have the gift of healing please come to this service. It is a full celebration of Holy Eucharist and will fulfill your Sunday worship.

Sunday School Annual End of the Year Show on June 7th



We hope you will join us for our Annual End of the Year Show on June 7, 2015 immediately after the 10 am service. The children will be performing a musical about attending a County Fair. Following God's rules isn't always easy when doing the right thing doesn't always seem clear. Luckily, their older brothers and sisters know how to help. Please join us for the "The County Fair".

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



We would like to wish a Happy & Blessed Father's Day to all the Dads here at St. Barnabas Church.

Dinner and a Movie



Dinner and a Movie for June will be held on Friday, June 12th. We will be watching a fairly new movie, *Philomena*, starring Judi Dench. The movie is based upon the book *The Lost Child of Philomena Lee*, by Martin Sixsmith. It tells the true story of Philomena Lee's 50-year long search for a son she was forced to give up for adoption as a young girl and Sixsmith's efforts to help her find him. It is a powerful, poignant and well-acted movie.

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.

Annual Parish Picnic on June 14th



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. 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.

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. The last day for Bible Study will be Wednesday, June 24th & will resume in September.

Outreach Committee



We are now at 95% of our goal of \$7,000 for our parish Episcopal Charities Campaign. If you have not yet made your pledge to Episcopal Charities please consider doing so. No gift is too small.



Notes

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!

These words from the Hymn, *When in our music God is glorified*, refer to the musical instruments often mentioned in the Book of Psalms: Strings, drums, cymbals, trumpets, flutes, tambourines, etc. It reminds us that not only voices give praise to God in music, but instruments as well.

St. Barnabas is blessed to have a vibrant group of children and youth. We are also fortunate to be located in a community which still supports a strong music program in the schools. Therefore, I would like to ask for your help in organizing a pool of young musicians in our parish who play musical instruments. These instruments can be band or orchestra, brass, woodwind or percussion.

If you play a musical instrument, or if there is someone you know who is learning how to play an instrument, I want to know about it! Please see me after the Sunday services, and I will have a sign-up sheet in order to obtain contact information. Perhaps throughout the summer months we might hear a solo, duet or even be blessed by having a small ensemble play at one of our Christmas liturgies.

With that being said, please also know that singers are always welcome to join our choir. The choir is only singing for a few more weeks before our summer break, so this might be an excellent time to give us a try for a week or two. *No experience or musical knowledge is necessary*, just faith and a voice to raise.

...Let every instrument be tuned for praise!

Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!

And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!

- F. Pratt Green

Ted Platt

Director of Music

Vacation Bible School



Our Annual Summer Vacation Bible School will be taking place the week of July 6, 2015. It will run Monday - Thursday from 9:30 to 12:30. Our theme this year is God's Cooking at VBS and our Bible quote is "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

Come join us to cook, do crafts, sing songs, play games, and have a bake sale. There is no cost for this event and it is open to children from outside the parish. To sign your child up for Vacation Bible School, please visit St. Barnabas' website at www.stbarnabaswarwick.org.

White Water Rafting Trip

It's Not Too Late to Sign Up for the White Water Rafting Trip Scheduled for July 25th

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.



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.

In Memoriam



Gifts have been given to the Memorial Fund of St. Barnabas Church in memory of Rhoderick Blue by:

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond E. Horbert
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Seddon
Mr. Martin Bide
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Bulgarelli
Mr. and Mrs. Jose Costa
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mahoney
Ms. Kristin McJunkins
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Robarge
Mr. and Mrs. James Turner
Mr. Craig Cerretani
Mr. and Mrs. David Yates
Ms. Catherin Scerbo
Mr. Richard Carr

Mr. David Hartley
Mrs. Helena Dexter
Mr. Ronald Blue
Ms. Evelyn Herrera
Ms. Marie Hogan
Ms. Eleanor McJunkins
Ms. Claire Robarge
Ms. Carolyn Rogers
Mr. and Mrs. Davie Bissailon
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cousinearu
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Andreatta
Ms. Courtney Dingle

Ice Tea and Lemonade in the Park Anyone?



We don't usually have any coffee hour during July and August but it is a time when visitors do come to the church. I (Fr. Jim) am wondering if any of you would be willing to set up iced tea and lemonade in the park once our regular coffee hour goes into its summer hiatus. It was something that was very successful at Christ Church in Westerly and at St. Peter's Church in Rockland, Maine. We don't have to supply the same bountiful and luscious goodies that Kim, Joan, Chris and the crew lavish us with each Sunday. Even some store-bought cookies would suffice along with some lemonade and iced tea. If you are interested in discussing the possibility of taking on this ministry, please give me a call or speak to me in church.

Pews from St. Mary's Church Available



shutterstock - 164945846

As you have probably heard through the parish grapevine, we are in the process of beginning to sell the St. Mary's property. It is one of the sad realities of life that many things that hold sentimental value for some people have no real monetary value for those who might be interested in purchasing the property.

We have many pews in the church that are not saleable. We do not want to simply throw them away. If any of you would like to have a pew, either for a basement or a garden or whatever use you might have, you are welcome to have one or more. If we have enough folks who are interested we could even take a day where we rent a truck and move the pew to your home. If interested, speak to Fr. Jim or Sr. Warden, Michael Marsh.

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.

The Apponaug Area Improvement Association

Presents our 6th annual

Music for a Summer Night



on the front steps of Warwick City Hall
3275 Post Road
6:30pm to 8pm

Bring family, friends - a picnic basket & beach chairs.
Relax and enjoy the tunes!

June 11th - Neil Vitullo & the Vipers with Dave Howard

June 25th - The Night Life Orchestra
Big band swing & jazz

July 9th - Joe Esposito Quartet

July 23rd - The Saucy Jack Band
Rock, blues, soul

August 6th - The Ginny Conley Quartet

August 20th - The Greg Abate Trio

Parking is available in the village
In case of rain: concerts will be held in the Warwick Central Baptist Church
Hall across from City Hall

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!