

The Encourager

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

Saint Barnabas Church
3257 Post Rd., Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
www.stbarnabaswarwick.org

401-737-4141

July 2015

A Message from Father Jim

I have written two messages for this edition of *The Encourager*. I happened to have written my intended message on June 15th. Then something happened on June 17th upon which, in all conscience and faith, I must comment. Unless you have had your head buried in the sand for the last week you know that on Wednesday evening, June 17th, a mass shooting took place at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in downtown Charleston, South Carolina. “Mother Emmanuel” as the church is called is one of the United States' oldest black churches and has long been a site for community organization around civil rights.

There were twelve African-American people in church, at a Bible study – people of faith learning more about God working in their lives – when a young white man who had sat with them for an hour opened fire with a handgun. Nine people were killed, including the senior pastor, Clementa C. Pinckney, who was also a state senator and had been active in enacting legislation that he believed would ensure the civil rights of people of color. A tenth person was shot and survived. Police later arrested the young white man, identified as 21-year-old Dylann Roof, a self-proclaimed white supremacist. These nine Christian brothers and sisters in faith were killed by Roof simply because their skin was black. It was a hate crime fueled by racial prejudice that, like it or not, admit it or not, still permeates our society today.

I will readily confess to you that I always feel conflicted and a little annoyed when every white person is accused of being complicit in racial prejudice and injustice that has taken place throughout the world at all times. I want to say, “How can I be responsible for people who were held in slavery and whipped and killed before I was even born – before my forebears even came to this country?” And let’s face it, most of us are pretty good people who abhor the actions of people like Dylan Roof, but as I said last Sunday morning in church it is really easy for us to emotionally distance ourselves from acts such as this that happen far away. We listen to the news reports and say, “How terrible,” say some prayers and then go about our daily business. All of us, me included, are probably guilty of this type of benign neglect.

But as people of faith we need to understand that there are sins of omission as well as sins of commission. As a person of faith, if I say nothing – if I do nothing – to see that this attitude – this racial prejudice – does not continue in this world in which we live – in which our children and grandchildren will live – then I am guilty of a sin of omission. We cannot remain silent.

Look at the names of the nine people killed that night:

- Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd (54) – Bible study member and manager for the Charleston County Public Library system
- Susie Jackson (87) – a Bible study and church choir member
- Ethel Lee Lance (70) – the church sexton
- Depayne Middleton-Doctor (49) – a Bible study teacher employed as a school administrator and admissions coordinator at Southern Wesleyan University
- Clementa C. Pinckney (41) – the church pastor and a South Carolina state senator
- Tywanza Sanders (26) – a Bible study member; nephew of Susie Jackson

- Daniel Simmons (74) – a pastor who also served at Greater Zion AME Church in Awendaw
- Sharonda Coleman-Singleton (45) – a pastor; also a speech therapist and track coach at Goose Creek High School
- Myra Thompson (59) – a Bible study teacher

They were all people of faith – people who were integral members of their church community and their civic community. They were people whom I would have probably liked and with whom I would have had much in common. Except that their skin was black. And for this they were slaughtered like animals.

When I was in college in the late 60's there was a popular saying that was trumpeted by many protesters: ***“If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem.”*** As people who profess to follow Christ Jesus, let's work to be part of the solution to eradicate this type of hatred and prejudice.

A Second Message from Father Jim

This evening our attorney and two friends who will serve as witnesses are coming to our home for Barbara and me to sign our newly revised wills.

Our *Book of Common Prayer* contains many wonderful pastoral liturgies which follow us through the stages of our lives. One on page 439 is “A Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child.” With the addition of children to a family there come increased responsibilities to see that the child is cared for both physically and spiritually. Part of my pre-marital instruction is to always ask the couple if they are planning to have children, and if they are to ask them if they plan on having a will made out. I am amazed at how many times the couple has said to me, “Well we really don't have much so don't see the need for a will.” What most of them don't seem to understand is that if something happens to them, and they don't have a will, the state decides who will have legal custody of their children.

In fact the rubric on page 445 of the Prayer Book instructs that from time to time it is the pastoral responsibility of every priest to remind Christian parents of their duty “to make provisions for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.”

So once again I encourage you to make out a will if you do not already have one and to take a look at your will if you do have one and see if it needs updating or revising. And prayerfully consider including a bequest for St. Barnabas Church.

In addition to having an up to date will, it is also important for each person to have a Living Will or Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. If you have been hospitalized recently you will have been asked if you have such an advanced health care directive. In my 31 years of ordained ministry I have seen family members fight and argue with doctors, hospitals and each other over what course of action should be taken for a person who is no longer capable of making his or her own health care choice. Why not ensure that ***YOUR*** wishes will be followed in the event that you are no longer able to make them known. This would be a great boon to your family members.

Finally, I have also recently officiated at several funerals. This is another instance in which it would be a great gift to your family members to have funeral plans made in advance. I am not just referring to the practical arrangements with the funeral home, but the actual funeral service itself. I have watched family members agonize over what readings should be read, what hymns should be sung, or who should be pall bearers or ushers or readers at a funeral. I have forms for planning your funeral at the church and am more than happy to meet you at the church or come by your home to help you fill out this form. Surviving family members have enough trouble dealing with the grief and sorrow of a loved one's death. There is no more wonderful gift than for us to be sure that they don't have to deal with practical questions we could have dealt with ourselves.

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.

Father Jim Away



Father Jim will be away from July 23rd to August 25th. He will be overseeing the White Water Rafting trip and then staying in the mountains for vacation. The Rev. Susan Wrathall will be covering for him in the event of a pastoral emergency. The Parish Administrator or Wardens will have her contact information.

Our Supply Clergy



Three different priests will be celebrating and preaching for us while Fr. Jim is away. The Rev. Gardiner (Tuck) Shattuck will be with us on July 26th and August 23rd. The Rev. Donald Parker will be with us on August 2nd and 9th. The Rev. Milton Cheney will be with us on August 16th. Please give all three of them a warm St. Barnabas welcome.

Summer Office Hours

The parish office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon during the months of July and August. Fr. Jim will be in and out of the office on Fridays in July expect for July 24th. Please do not hesitate to leave a message on the answering machine as Fr. Jim will check it regularly. And don't forget that you can always call him on his cell phone in a dire emergency.

Monthly Healing Service



Our monthly healing service will be held on Sunday, July 5th, 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. ***There will be no Healing Service in August when Fr. Jim is away.***

No Dinner and a Movie for the Summer



Dinner and a Movie will not take place in July and August. We will resume again on Friday, Sept. 11th.

Ice Tea and Lemonade in the Park Anyone?



Beginning Sunday, June 21st, we have had volunteers set up iced tea and lemonade in the park, weather permitting. In case of rain we gather in the parish hall. Please join us. We are in need of a couple of more volunteers to take this on in August. If you would be willing to do this please speak to Fr. Jim.

In Memoriam

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

There is Still Time to Register for ECC



There are brochures for the summer camping season at ECC at the back of the church. Camps for children who will enter grades 2 to 12 in September will run from July 5th to August 14th. 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.



Notes

Trisagion

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer outlines the structure of the liturgy in the Episcopal Church. The structure of the Eucharist is maintained from week to week, however different seasons within the liturgical year offer options for the various parts of the liturgy.

We are now in the season known as Ordinary Time – the weeks following the festival of Pentecost. During this season, one of the options presented in the Book of Common Prayer is that the *Gloria* (which follows the Collect for Purity and precedes the Collect of the Day) may be replaced by another song of praise or other suggested alternatives. The *Kyrie eleison* (Lord, have mercy) is normally used during the penitential season of Advent and Lent, but can be used on other occasions as well.

Another alternative, at this point in the liturgy, is an ancient prayer known as the *Trisagion*.

Trisagion is a Greek work which translates, *Thrice Holy*. The full English text in the Book of Common Prayer is *Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy upon us*. This text is often sung or said three times as an offering of praise to the triune God.

During the summer months of this Ordinary Time of the liturgical year we will be singing the *Trisagion* in our 10:00 a.m. liturgy. We will be using a musical setting from the Hymnal 1982 by Alexander Archangelsky, a Russian composer of church music, who lived from 1846 to 1924. He served as an organist and conductor of many churches throughout St. Petersburg. Archangelsky's contribution to the music of the church has significance in that he is noted as having done the "unthinkable" (at that time!) of replacing boys voices with women to sing in the choir! He composed over 300 sacred choral works and liturgical chants, but his musical setting of the *Trisagion* is his only contribution to the Hymnal 1982. This setting is S-102 in the Hymnal.

Each week, we gather as a faith community to join in songs old and new to give praise to God. Our singing this summer of the ancient prayer of the *Trisagion* will be a new song for us. So may it be an opportunity for our singing voices to be heard loud and clear – especially the voices of women!

Ted Platt

Director of Music

Gentiva Hospice Seeking Volunteers A Volunteer Opportunity



Gentiva Hospice is looking for dedicated and compassionate volunteers to provide companionship and 1 to 1 interaction to terminally ill patients in the community. Your smile, friendship, and a few hours each month can improve the quality of someone's life, including yours! If you are interested in finding out more about this please call Gentiva Hospice at 401-738-1492 and ask for the Manager of Volunteer Services.

Outreach Committee



We continue to prepare meals the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month for the RI Family Shelter. If you are interested in helping in this ministry please see Julie Mixner 391-2878. We also will be planning a family cookout for them in August.

We have an ongoing collection for the shelter in the Narthex. The shelter is in need of paper goods, plastic utensils, napkins, paper towels, cleaning items, anti-bacterial wipes, larger sized diapers and wipes.

We also have an ongoing collection of non-perishable food items for West Bay Market place. As the summer months are approaching, keep in mind that children that normally receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch at school are now eating at home. Cereals and peanut butter are great items to stock up on at this time.

Episcopal Charities is at about 85%. Please remember to keep up on your pledges. If you haven't made a pledge yet and would like to do so, see Julie Mixner or visit the Episcopal Charities RI website!

White Water Rafting Trip on July 25th



It is not too late to sign up to go on the white water rafting trip. So far sixteen of us are planning on going. *This year children are invited to come if they meet three conditions:*

- They must be at least 8 years old.
- They must weigh at least 50 pounds.
- 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. 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 is already filling up so you should decide now if you are going and make arrangements.

Parents – An Important Announcement About Sunday School

Parents, as you know, three very dedicated women have been serving as teachers in our Sunday School. Our enrollment has increased over the past two years and we need to desperately add some teachers to our ranks. If you want a great Sunday School here for your child(ren) to attend please consider becoming a Sunday School teacher.

If we get 6 additional teachers we can do two things. First we need to split the age groups of our classes by adding one new class. In this way we can have a pre-kindergarten and kindergarten class, an elementary class, an intermediate class and an older class. Second, with 6 additional teachers we can have "team-teaching" in each class. This way teaching will be less of a burden and no one has to feel guilty if they need to be away for a week or are sick. The current teachers are willing to work with you to ease you into this and help you prepare for each week. You may find you have skills and talents you didn't know you possessed.

When I served as Curate at St. Mary's Church in Portsmouth one of my jobs was to oversee the Sunday School which had 150 children registered. One of the first things the Rector said to me was, "Jim, every parent demands a good Sunday School but very few of them are willing to make it happen."

Let's see if St. Barnabas can be the exception to the rule. Please speak to Fr. Jim if you have any questions.

Volunteers Needed



We are looking for volunteers to help in several ways this summer.

- We have received bids to put a suspended ceiling in the choir room and the long hallway leading back to Stevens Hall. Before having this project done we would like to get that hallway painted and the ladies room spruced up and painted. If you are willing to do some sanding and painting during June and July please speak to Fr. Jim or Heidi Seddon.
- Ted Platt, our organist, is in the process of cleaning out our choir room and the little alcove behind the sanctuary where music and other choir items are kept. If you would be willing to give Ted a hand with this job please speak to him after church.
- Last, but not least, as a church that should be concerned with our ecology and the health of our planet, we should be doing everything we can to try to engage in responsible recycling. Unfortunately, since churches are considered “businesses” no municipalities will pick up recycling items at churches. We are going to put all of our metal, paper and plastic recycling items in the kitchen with the hope that some of you may consider taking items home to put out with your own recyclables.

We Still 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. So far we have received some \$500 for this repair through the monthly envelopes. Thank you so much for your generous response.



Please remember to keep up your pledge during the summer months. You may be away on vacation, but the church still needs to meet its financial obligations. Thank you.

Thank You Note Received



The following note was sent to Fr. Jim on behalf of the whole parish by Liz Crawley, Bishop Knisely's Executive Assistant:

Dear Jim,

On behalf of Bishop Knisely and his staff, thank you for hosting the recent Eastertide Confirmations at St. Barnabas. You, your staff and volunteers were helpful, gracious and fun to be with and to get to know.

The space that St. Barnabas offers is wonderful, such a pretty place and certainly was just right to hold the capacity that day.

We appreciate your hospitality very much.

Sincerely,
Liz

Congratulations to Our Graduates



We want to congratulate all the following young people who have graduated from college and high school:

- Allie Hinger graduated cum laude from the University of Miami with a BBA in Marketing and Management.
- Steven Marcks graduated from Bishop Hendricken High School and will be attending the University of Rhode Island.
- Victoria Teolis graduated from Cranston High School West and will be attending the University of Tampa.
- Nicole Meunier, daughter of our Parish Administrator, Robin Meunier, graduated from Cranston High School West and will be attending Johnson and Wales College of Culinary Arts.
- Jenna Mixner graduated from Pilgirm High School and will be attending Dean College studying Dance as a major with a minor in business.
- Tyler-Ann Pari graduated from Warwick Veterans Memorial High School and will begin basic training for the RI Army National Guard in October.

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 6 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist 12 pm Healing Service	6 9:30 am Vacation Bible School 7:30 pm AA Meeting	7 9:30 am Vacation Bible School 7:30 pm AA Meeting	8 9:30 am Vacation Bible School	9 9:30 am Vacation Bible School	10	11 7 pm Ecclesia Rehearsal
12 7 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist 7 pm Ecclesia Rehearsal	13 7:30 pm AA Meeting	14 7:30 pm AA Meeting	15	16	17	18
19 8 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist	20 7:30 pm AA Meeting	21 7:30 pm AA Meeting	22	23	24	25 White Water Rafting Trip (New York)
26 9 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist	27 7:30 pm AA Meeting	28 7:30 pm AA Meeting	29	30	31	