

# 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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September 2015

## A Message from Father Jim

We are entering my favorite time of the year. I think this goes back to my high school days. The members of the football team would just be starting to get together for informal workouts and practices and we would be eagerly anticipating our return to school and the schedule of games, dances and other social events that awaited us. It seemed as if the crisp, cool days of autumn would linger forever because there were so many activities in which we could participate.

This is still my favorite time of the year for much the same reason. The many exciting activities of the church are also getting started – Sunday school, youth events, choir (and we hope youth choir), Bible studies and other adult formation groups. But most of all I enjoy this time of the year because I get to see all of you now that vacations are over and summer homes are being closed up. It is you, and the activities we engage in together, that make my vocation exciting. **YOU** are the church. Your presence is exciting. So let's hit the ground running this September and continue to ensure that St. Barnabas is a vibrant parish family.

*Jim+*

## Shall We Continue Our Youth and Family Events?



When I (Fr. Jim) first got to St. Barnabas one of the activities we began was a monthly “Youth and Family Event.” At first these events were well attended and we had a great deal of fun and fellowship. During the past nine months the only activities that were fairly well attended were the hay ride/corn maze and snow tubing. We ended up completely cancelling several events because no one signed up for them. I must say that I am kind of confused and disappointed about this because I did not arbitrarily choose the dates and activities for these events. This was a collaborative effort between parents, children and me. It seems that the seasonal activities were the best attended. Perhaps we should just concentrate on those or schedule quarterly events. In any case I thought this was something you wanted and I am willing to try to set up a schedule of events for the coming year if you feel this is something worth doing to which you will be committed. Please let me know your thoughts on this.

## Midweek Eucharist Resumes



The midweek celebration of Holy Eucharist will resume on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>. We meet for worship in the Guild Room at 10:00 a.m.

## Exploring Sunday's Scriptures Resumes



Exploring Sunday's Scriptures, our Bible study that looks at the readings for the coming Sunday, will resume on Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the midweek Eucharist. Those who attended last year said it really enhanced their understanding of the lessons as they heard them on Sunday mornings and made the sermon more meaningful.

## Monthly Healing Service



Our monthly Healing Service will be celebrated on Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon. This is a full celebration of the Holy Eucharist so it will suffice as your Sunday worship for the day. If you wish to have prayers for healing and anointing for healing or feel you have the gift of healing you may find this service a welcome alternative.

## Office Closed



The parish office will be closed on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of Labor Day.

## Dinner and a Movie Resumes



Dinner and a Movie will resume on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. This month's movie will be "How to Train Your Dragon." It is essentially a children's movie but it is incredibly entertaining and contains many themes about family interaction and relationships. So, no matter your age, come to the church at 6:00 p.m. with your meal and prepare to see a thoroughly enjoying flick. ***Parents, why not bring your children.*** Discussion will follow at the end of the movie.

## Sunday School Begins on September 13<sup>th</sup> with Make a Sundae Sunday



Sunday School will begin on September 13<sup>th</sup> with our second annual "Make a Sundae Sunday." Children and adults will make ice cream sundaes at coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service. So make sure you are here to begin Sunday School and enjoy fun, fellowship and a treat.

## Sunday School Registration



It's time to register for Sunday School. You can register by going to our website at [stbarnabaswarwick.org](http://stbarnabaswarwick.org) and clicking on the link on the homepage and follow the instructions. As noted in the above article, Sunday School will begin on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Kids, You Can Be an Acolyte



Kids, if you are eight years old you can be an acolyte at St. Barnabas. Being an acolyte is a very important ministry. You lead the procession into and out of church and serve the priest at the altar in various ways. We will train you in what to do and the more who take part in this very important ministry of the church the lighter the work load. We especially need to get some new acolytes as we have lost five because of families moving away. If you are interested please speak to Fr. Jim or Emily Seddon.

## Invite a Friend to Church Sunday on September 27<sup>th</sup>



Last year we held our first “Invite a Friend to Church Sunday” and several people became new members of St. Barnabas because you invited them to church. This year our “Invite a Friend to Church Sunday” will be held on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Just think of the difference you might make in someone’s life by inviting them to come and share our worship and faith. There will be a brunch following the 10:00 a.m. service.

## Calling All Crafters (or Wannabes)



You have probably noticed that kneeling at the altar rail can be a little hard on the knees. We would like to create needlepoint kneelers for the altar rail. Joan Schofield and Barbara Fox have started designing needlepoint sets that will be made into kneeling cushions based on the large front stained glass windows. Each kneeler will feature either a star or a cross from those windows, or a symbol important to the church.

We are looking for participation from the congregation at large for help in this endeavor. You need not have needlepoint experience to help, just a willingness to learn and some time (or money) to donate to the project.

There will be several evening sessions to teach anyone not familiar with needlepointing the ins and outs (pun intended) of the craft, plus occasions to get together to share, compare, and address problems that arise. We will be announcing more details in the near future but in the meantime if you have questions or would like to help, please contact Joan or Barbara.

## *Music Notes*



With busy lives, overworked schedules and daily responsibilities pulling us in every direction, it is often very difficult to think about becoming involved in another activity or group. That is the challenge I sometimes hear from those I ask to consider joining the choir – the concern over making such a commitment.

Tennis great, Martina Navratilova is quoted as saying, “The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is *involved*; the pig is *committed*.”

I’m not looking for pigs – I’m looking for choir members!

Please consider being involved in the music ministry at St. Barnabas. Involvement means gathering with us for one rehearsal a week and singing at the 10:00 am Sunday liturgy. If you are not sure quite how this might fit into your schedule, then try it for a few weeks and see if it is workable. If you might be reluctant because you feel it will be a commitment for the rest of the year (or the rest of your life!), then perhaps you can sing for a season, i.e. the fall, Lent and Easter, or perhaps just for Advent and Christmas. If a Wednesday and Sunday time frame might not work *every* week, perhaps you are able to join us for 3 out of 4 rehearsals or miss a Sunday here and there.

The St. Barnabas Choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 9th at 6:30 pm** and will sing for the first service of the choir season on Sunday, September 13th at the 10:00 am Eucharist. We invite anyone interested in singing to join us. No audition or experience is necessary! But we seek those who have a willingness to learn and to be involved in an enjoyable ministry of music. Please feel free to speak with me about the choir and how you can be involved. And remember, no pigs need apply!

***Ted Platt***

Director of Music

## **Flu Clinic**



A flu clinic will be held in Stevens Hall on Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Come prepared with your medical information cards and get your flu shot that day. If you don’t have medical insurance you can still get a flu shot for \$?.

# September 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:30 pm AA Meeting	2 10am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures	3 7 pm Boy Scouts	4	5 3:30 pm Renewal of Marriage Vows Peter and Wanda Michaelson
<b>6 15 Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist 12 noon Healing Service	<b>7 Labor Day</b> Office Closed 7:30 pm AA Meeting	8 7:30 pm AA Meeting	9 10am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures 6:30 pm Choir Re- hearsal	10 7 pm Boy Scouts	11 6 pm Dinner and a Movie	12
<b>13 16 Pentecost</b> <b>Sunday School</b> <b>Begins</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist	14 6:30 pm Vestry Meet- ing 7:30 pm AA Meeting	15 7:30 pm AA Meeting	16 10am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures 6:30 pm Choir Re- hearsal	17 7 pm Boy Scouts	18	19
<b>20 17 Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist	21 7:30 pm AA Meeting	22 7:30 pm AA Meeting	23 10am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures 6:30 pm Choir Re- hearsal	24 7 pm Boy Scouts	25	26
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