

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

August 2016

Prayer for the Selection of Our Next Rector

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the hearts and minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

A Message from Father Jim

I had the opportunity to be in the Adirondack Mountains on the weekend of July 16th with parishioners from St. Barnabas and Christ Church, Westerly, for our white water rafting trip. I simply went up as organizer for the trip since my surgeon still won't let me engage in that kind of physical activity. So while everyone was rafting on Saturday I had the day to myself.

One of the reasons I really love going to the mountains is that life slows down for me there and outside noise is at a minimum. It allows me to take a deep breath, quiet down, and take stock of my surroundings. It is at times like this – when I look around me at the majesty of the mountains, forests and lakes – that I most deeply feel the presence of God.

It always reminds me of the lesson we heard from 1 Kings a few weeks ago about the prophet Elijah running for his life because Queen Jezebel has threatened to kill him. He is on the mountainside and he is commanded to stand there because the Lord is about to pass by. First there came a mighty wind so strong that it was splitting the mountain and breaking rocks in pieces but the Lord was not in the wind. Then there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. Then there was a fire but the Lord was not in the fire. Last of all came the sound of sheer silence and the God spoke to Elijah out of the silence.

We really do have too much busyness in our lives. In my sermon that I preached at St. Andrew's Church in Schroon Lake on the 17th, I asked several questions. When was the last time you laid outside on your back and simply watched the clouds float by overhead? When was the last time you just sat by a stream or a brook and listened to the water flow? When was the last time you watched butterflies fly in the air on a sunny day or just sat and listened to the rain? I believe that it is at times like these, when we empty ourselves of all that clutters our hearts and minds, and simply open ourselves up to God's creation that we can be transported into the presence of God.

Summer is a time of family activity, with all the busyness that goes along with vacations and day trips. But why not take some time to just stop, be silent, and listen for the voice of God in your life?

Fr. Jim on Vacation

Fr. Jim will be away on vacation in the Adirondack Mountains during the month of August. Robin, our Parish Administrator, will be in the office Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. till noon. The Wardens will be checking the voicemail for messages left after office hours. In case of pastoral emergency please leave a message and they will contact the clergy on call.

Supply Clergy for August

On August 7th our celebrant and preacher will be the Rev. Gardiner (Tuck) Shattuck. On August 14th, 21st and 28th our celebrant and preacher will be the Rev. Gary Lemery.

Sunday School Reorganizing

Given the number of youth activities that now take place on Sunday mornings, Sunday school attendance was very spotty last year. Father Jim met to brainstorm with the teachers and we are going to do a bit of reorganizing for 2016-2017.

- First of all, Gail Frueh has consented to serve as “Sunday School Superintendent.” In this capacity she will take on all the required administrative work which will allow the teachers to simply teach.
- We will be looking for a new curriculum. We want to find something that is still lectionary based – meaning it teaches the children about the same lessons you parents hear in church – but that is better suited for a small Sunday school enrollment. Our current curriculum is very expensive and is best suited for a large Sunday school.
- We will begin the year with two grade levels or classes: pre-k to grade 3 and grades 4 through 6. If we find more older children registering we will expand to another class.
- ***Every parent wants a church with a strong Sunday school but this can only happen if you take part.*** First of all to make this program work we need one additional teacher for the grade 4 to 6 class so that there will be two teachers for each level. In this way if one of them has to be away for a Sunday the class will still be covered. Additionally, to keep up with the required “Safe Church” guidelines we should have three adults in each classroom. So we are asking parents to volunteer to “chaperone” a class each week. Gail Frueh will make out a schedule and if we get enough volunteers you may only have to do this once a month or so. You need not teach. ***We just need extra bodies to help***, especially with the younger grade level.
- Rather than trying to put together a traditional Christmas Pageant at one of the busiest times of the year, we are going to try to put together an “Advent Pageant” which will be part of the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 18th.
- We are going to order *The Sunday Paper* which is a cartoon edition of the Bible lessons for the week. Children can take this home and read them and interact with their parents while learning about the Bible and their faith.
- We try to teach our children that Jesus is always with us, not just when we are in church on Sunday morning. So we are purchasing a stuffed “Jesus doll” which will go home with a different child or family each week. The children will keep a “journal” of what they did with Jesus all week long and this will be shared with the other children at some time during the Sunday school class.

Sunday School Begins on September 11th

Mark your calendars. Sunday School will begin on September 11th. Join us for some outdoor fun and games as we “come back to Sunday school.” You can register that day or online by going to our website at stbarnabaswarwick.org. We will also make ice cream sundaes in the parish hall following the service. So that you can also mark your calendars we have made up a schedule of when Sunday school will not meet through 2016-2017:

- October 6, 2016 Columbus Day weekend
- November 27, 2016 Sunday after Thanksgiving
- December 25, 2016 Christmas falls on a Sunday this year
- January 1, 2017 New Year’s Day falls on a Sunday this year
- February 19, 2017 Beginning February school vacation
- April 16, 2017 Easter Sunday and beginning of April school vacation
- May 28, 2017 Memorial Day weekend

The last day of Sunday school for the 2016-2017 school year will be June 11, 2017.

Search for New Rector Making Progress *(from Kristen Marcks, Communications Team)*

The Portfolio Team is wrapping everything up and will be seeking your input to one last survey in the next few days. Please thank them for all the groundwork they have laid and show your support by responding to the upcoming survey as it will afford specific information that the Discernment Team will use as it begins its part of the process. The Portfolio Team has already compiled information and responses to questions that are accessible to potential candidates by way of the Diocesan website which present a snapshot of who we are at SBC and what direction we, as a congregation, want to move in future years. This final survey will be available to parishioners in both hardcopy and electronic forms so as to give all members the opportunity to let their thoughts be heard. Expect an email notice as well as a mailing in early August. The Portfolio Team is comprised of Eric Simonian (Convener), Paul Schofield, Kathy Fraits, Tammy Salisbury, Heidi Seddon and Jessica Iozzi.

The Discernment Team has begun meeting, and is currently refining the overall process they will follow to review applications and interview the candidates for rector. They expect to begin receiving candidate names from the Bishop's Office by the early September. Their goal is to present the final candidate to the Vestry for its approval by November, with the expectation that our new rector would be with us at the beginning of 2017. The Discernment team members are Stan Schofield (convener), David McIntyre, Joan Newell, Angie Marcks, Jim Mixner, Beth Marsh, Christine Lindopp and Stephanie VanPatten.

Opportunity for Healing Prayers



If you feel you are in need of healing prayers and the laying on of hands and anointing, we give you this opportunity on the first Sunday of the month. At the end of each service simply move to the front pews of the church. After the priest greets those leaving church he will go to the altar rail and invite you forward for prayers and anointing.

Outreach

We have 2 ongoing collections weekly....nonperishable food items to benefit the West Bay Marketplace and full size toiletries, paper goods and cleaning products are collected for the House of Hope. Please put items in the appropriate marked boxes in the back of the church.

We continue to provide meals to RI Family Shelter and House of Hope residents once a month. We could use more volunteers to help in this ministry. I put together a team of 3 to prepare the meals which include dinner, dessert and drinks. If you'd like to participate please see Julie Mixner for details.

We are Seeking to Hire a New Sexton

Our sexton, Frank Adams, has had to tender his resignation because of a change in his full-time employment. We are seeking to hire a new sexton to work part-time for about 12 hours per week. According to Diocesan regulations we cannot hire a parishioner for this position but if you know anyone who is retired, or a young mom who is looking to make some extra money while the kids are in school please have them call Fr. Jim.

Music Notes



I recently attended a Drum and Bugle Corp competition. It was a thrilling night of watching the very best in high school and college youth from all over the country perform incredible shows for marching bands. Using the best musical arrangements, heart pounding percussion routines, dynamic marching maneuvers, and incredible choreography, color and motion the competition presented stunning musical and visual effects. It was the very best in Drum and Bugle Corp performance.

Soon, we will all be watching the very best in another format – the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. We will be thrilled, excited, put on the edge of our seats and in awe of the very best in Olympic sports.

It makes me wonder about how we offer our best in giving praise to God. Do we as a congregation capture the attention of visitors by our singing? Do we stir-up the hearts of the faithful by our hymns of praise? Some feel that they cannot sing, or do not have a good singing voice, so therefore never add their voice to liturgy and song. But giving our “best” in praising God does not require phenomenal talent or great skill.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “God does not call us to be successful; but we are called to be faithful.” Ultimately, the music of the church is not measured by the musical skill of God’s people in giving praise, but it is measured in its effectiveness in building faith and empowering God’s people to grow into all they were created to be. Skill and talent is a beautiful blessing in church music, but giving our BEST in praise to God requires faith! Music adds to the beauty of worship, enlivens scripture, moves people to deep spiritual places and evokes the spirit and power of God. We need *every* voice for that.

Help us at St. Barnabas to do our best in praising God. Add your voice to the hymns and liturgy. Offer your best (at whatever level of skill or talent) in giving praise to God. As I have often said, sing your faith!

And if you want to join with other faithful people in giving their best to praise God, the St. Barnabas Choir will resume rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 7 at 6:30 pm.**

Ted Platt

Director of Music

Congratulations Graduate



Congratulations to Kyle J. Swenson son of Jack Swenson, who graduated from Lincoln Technical Institute in the Medical Assistance Program.

Help for the Hearing Impaired



Please remember that we have installed our new “Hearing Assistance System” in the church. The ushers will know how this system works. You can use either regular headphones or a loop if you have a hearing aid. Those who have used it are amazed at how well they can hear the entire service.

How You Can Be Involved on Sunday Morning

There are many ways in which you can be involved before, during and after church on Sunday morning. Think about taking part in some of these important ministries and September is a great month to start.

- **Altar Guild:** Members of the Altar Guild prepare the Eucharistic vessels for each service, help keep the sacristy and sanctuary clean, and wash the Eucharistic vessels and linens after each service. Altar Guild can be a very rewarding experience and members are crucial to the worshiping life of any congregation. If you would be interested in becoming a member of the Altar Guild please speak to Joan Schofield.
- **Lector and/or Intercessor:** Lectors and Intercessors read the lessons and lead the Prayers of the People at each service. If you are interested in this ministry but would like some training or coaching before doing so please speak to Fr. Jim. If you would like to do this and want to go on the schedule, please speak to Stan Schofield.
- **Lay Eucharistic Minister:** Lay Eucharistic ministers administer the chalice at each service of Holy Eucharist. Anyone wishing to be a Eucharistic Minister must be trained by Fr. Jim who will then apply for a license from Bishop Knisely for you to carry out this ministry. This ministry also requires Safe Church certification.
- **Greeters:** Being a greeter on Sunday morning is an extremely important ministry as greeters are the first person a visitor to St. Barnabas will see. Greeters welcome people to the church and give them a service bulletin and, on occasion, operate the elevator for those who need it to get into church. All you need to have is a friendly smile and the ability to be at church about 20 minutes before the service begins. If you would like to be a greeter, please contact Bill Barker.
- **Coffee Hour:** From September through June we host a coffee hour downstairs in Schweitzer Hall after the 10 a.m. service. This gives parishioners an opportunity to socialize and also provides venue for visitors to be welcomed by and get to know members of the parish. We can always use more people to provide baked goods for coffee hour. If you are interested in helping out here please speak to Chris Lindopp or Joan Newell.
- **Acolytes:** Being an acolyte is a very important ministry. Any child at least 8 years of age or any adult is welcome to be an acolyte. 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. If you are interested please speak to Fr. Jim or Paul Schofield.

Please Keep Up Your Pledge This Summer



As you know, the church must pay its bills all throughout the year. We ask that you do your best to keep up your pledge during the summer months as we primarily rely on our pledges to meet our commitments.

Robin On Vacation

Robin will be on vacation August 8th – August 12th. The parish office will be closed, you may leave a message & the wardens will be checking the machine daily.

Preparing for Our New Rector

We have just purchased a new church software program that will help us to better track our parishioners and make the job of the new rector much easier when he or she begins ministering at St. Barnabas. In addition it also tracks giving information, allows us to send out mass emails, can actually print a parish directory and will allow the annual Parochial Report to be filled out in a matter of minutes. But in order for us to use this program in the optimal manner we need to make sure we have all your personal or family information and that it is up-to-date. So could you please fill out the following form and either mail it to the church or place it in an envelope and put it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Last Name _____

Head of Household First Name _____

Head of Household DOB _____

Spouse or Partner First Name if Applicable _____

Spouse or Partner DOB _____

Minor Children Living with you and DOB _____

Mailing Address _____

Email Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Cell Phone Number(s) _____

Related to Other Parishioners, Name and Relations _____

August 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7:30 am AA Meeting	2 7:30 am AA Meeting	3	4	5	6
7 12 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 8:45 am Prayers and Anointing for Healing 10 am Holy Eucharist 11:15 am Prayers and Anointing for Healing	8 7:30 am AA Meeting	9 7:30 am AA Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 13 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist	15 7:30 am AA Meeting	16 7:30 am AA Meeting	17	18	19	20
21 14 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist	22 7:30 am AA Meeting	23 7:30 am AA Meeting	24	25	26	27
28 15 Pentecost 8 am Holy Eucharist 10 am Holy Eucharist	29 7:30 am AA Meeting	30 7:30 am AA Meeting	31			