

# 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

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October 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

Earlier this month I received news that one of the most influential people in my life – the Rev. George M. Chaplin – had died at the age of 93. As the rector of St. Mark's in Warren, Fr. Chaplin brought me to the Episcopal Church, encouraged and supported me for ordination, and then presented me to Bishop Hunt at my ordination to both the Diaconate and the Priesthood. He was not only my priest and pastor but a dear personal friend. He and his wife, Dottie, who pre-deceased him, shared more than a few holiday meals with my family at our home or theirs and he was always there when I needed advice or a shoulder to cry on.

Some of you have heard me speak of him in sermons – about how I one day, at the lowest point in my life, simply knocked on the door of the St. Mark's rectory – a veritable stranger to Fr. George – and how that changed the direction my life would take. I didn't know it at the time, but he then taught me the first lesson I needed to learn as a priest: I wasn't ordained only to care for my parishioners or only for Episcopalians but for anyone who knocked at my door. When I struggled with whether or not I should become ordained because I didn't think I was good enough or pure enough or holy enough to be a priest, Fr. George was the one who said to me, "You are right Jim. You are not good enough or pure enough or holy enough to be a priest. And you never will be. But God has called you and he will use you as he sees fit if you let him. God can draw a beautiful picture with crooked lines."

When my mother died, I cried on his shoulder. When my father died I did the same. When my previous marriage ended he was there to encourage me. When Barbe and I got married he was there rejoicing at the celebration. I could go on and on telling stories about him. For the past several years he had to take a portable oxygen unit with him wherever he went but the night he died he had earlier attended his 75<sup>th</sup> reunion from Roger's High School. He was a man who lived until he died.

I posted a notice of his death on a Facebook group for people from Warren and the outpouring of remarks from dozens of people whose life he touched moved me to tears. I hope he always knew how many people loved him and were grateful for the role he had played in their lives.

I had the opportunity to speak at his retirement party years ago. At the time I was the fairly new Rector at All Saints' Memorial Church in Providence. I remember saying that many priests see success measured by the size of their congregation, the number of people attending on Sunday morning, or a large budget and program. But if in my ministry, I could only affect one person's life the way he affected mine, then I would consider my ministry to be a success.

I had spoken to him on the telephone about a month ago to let him know that another former parishioner from St. Mark's who had gone on to be a Vocational Deacon had died. We spoke for a while and he said, "You know Jimmy, I still remember you in my prayers every day." What an incredible gift that this wonderful, gentle, faithful man and priest, prayed for me every day for nearly forty years.

Rest in Peace George, and I am sure that the angels led you into paradise, and that you are reunited with Dottie and all the people who loved you and whom you loved. I know you will always live on in my heart and mind until we see each other again.

I have told you many times in sermons that the way people see you living out your Christian faith is important – that someone may accept or reject Christ because of the things they see you say and do. I can only pray that thirty-three years into my ministry that I have been able to affect the life of someone else and bring that person to Christ or to a closer relationship with Christ because of the way Fr. Chaplin changed my life. Don't ever underestimate what you can do to further God's kingdom.

*Jim+*

## Healing Prayers October 2nd



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 Fr. Jim greets those leaving church he will go to the altar rail and invite you forward for prayers and anointing.

## Fr. Jim Away

Fr. Jim will be taking his last vacation Sunday on October 9<sup>th</sup>, the Columbus Day weekend. In case of a pastoral emergency call the church and speak to Robin or leave a message if you call after office hours and one of the Wardens will contact the clergy person on call. Fr. Gary Lemery will be our Celebrant and Preacher that day.

## Office Closed



The parish office will be closed on Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, in celebration of Columbus Day.

## Save the Date for the Flu Clinic



A flu clinic will be held in Stevens Hall on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 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 \$25.00.

## Dinner and a Movie Discontinued



“Dinner and a Movie” has been discontinued. Friday evening did not seem to be a good evening for people to attend this program but it was the only one available.

## 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.

## Crop Walk 2017



St. Barnabas took an active part in the West Bay Crop Hunger Walks the past two years. In 2014, we raised the second highest amount of donations. The hunger walks are sponsored nationally by Church World Services (CWS) to fight hunger locally, nationally and internationally. The local recipient from funds raised by the West Bay Hunger Walk is West Bay Marketplace.

The past two hunger walks were held in Conimicut in the Fall along Narragansett Bay and organized by Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church. The next Hunger Walk is planned for the Spring of 2017 rather than this fall. The proposed date at this time is the weekend of May 19, 2017. A route also being considered for the walk is the Rocky Point 5K, although neither the date or walk route is set in stone yet.

The local organizers from Woodbury Union church are looking to expand fundraising events in advance of the walk and expand outreach to more congregations, organizations and businesses to participate or support the walk. They are also looking for more people from other congregations to take a more active role in leadership and support activities such as logistics, fundraisers, business sponsor liaison, treasurer responsibilities, in addition to the walk itself.

Our Vestry has affirmed our continuing support for this worthwhile charity. We are looking for additional volunteers from St Barnabas willing to be engaged with Woodbury Union Church and CWS to assist in planning and supporting this event.

If you are interested, please see David McIntyre.

## Search for Our New Rector

**The Portfolio Team** would like to present a summary of the results of the parish survey. The survey was made up of three components: the first was to gather demographics of the participants; the second was to inquire as to the desired qualities in our new rector; and the third was to assess the parish's level of satisfaction with services, pastoral care and parish life at St. Barnabas Church.

Eighty members participated in the survey, the majority of which were women age 55 and older. Approximately 88 percent of those surveyed have lived in this area for more than 20 years and are unlikely to move out of this area in the foreseeable future. Over 70 percent have been coming to St. Barnabas for more than six years and attend services weekly. More than half of those surveyed neither hold any leadership roles nor are they involved in any church group activities.

When asked about desired qualities in our new rector, most responded with "doesn't matter as long as the priest is capable and a good fit." Of those participants that did express a preference, the greatest was for a heterosexual male, with or without children, age 36 – 50, who is willing to perform same-sex marriages.

Most participants are satisfied with St. Barnabas Church's current performance in pastoral care and Christian education and feel that St. Barnabas provides a meaningful worship experience of God and the Christian tradition but would still like to see more emphasis in nearly all areas, especially in deepening their personal, spiritual relationship with God, providing Christian education to children and youth, helping members discover their own gifts for ministry and service and more effectively expressing our denominational heritage and tradition. In general, participants view St. Barnabas as a friendly church but would like more instruction on how to better respond to guests and how to talk to friends and acquaintances about visiting our church. Over 50 percent responded that they are right in the middle when it comes to theological issues; they have a strong spiritual commitment; their faith is important to everyday life; and they are very satisfied with their life. The majority feel that: leaders adequately acknowledge and thank volunteers; members are encouraged to discover their particular gifts for ministry and service; members help each other out in times of trouble; every member who is capable and interested has an equal opportunity to hold key leadership roles; important decisions are rarely made without open discussion by church leaders and members; and the current morale of church members is high.

Thanks to each individual who took the time to complete the survey. The above is a brief overview of the survey results. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this in greater detail, please feel free to speak with Eric Simonian, Convener of the Portfolio Team.

**The Discernment Team** met with Linda Grenz from the Diocese on September 18th. She provided us with information and resumes for a good number of candidates who have asked to be considered for the rector position. Our team met on September 22 to review and discuss all of this candidate information and will be scheduling telephone interviews with selected candidates over the next two weeks. After that, we will finalize a smaller group of candidates to be invited here for a personal interview and three day orientation visit. We will keep you updated as our work progresses, and please keep our team in your prayers.

## 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!

## Music Notes



### *Halloween, J.S. Bach and the Glory of God*

Music stirs the emotions – it can offer comfort, strength, joy and even fear!

The top classical music compositions to elicit fear include Saint-Saens' *Danse Macabre* depicting the revelry of the Grim Reaper at midnight on Halloween – with his cursed fiddle, Death summons the dead from their graves to kick up their heels until dawn. Also, there is Bernard Hermann's *Psycho Suite* which was used in the score for the Alfred Hitchcock 1960 film *Psycho* and instantly creates fear and disturbance with its massed string dissonances.

And then there's J.S. Bach's towering monument of organ music, the *Toccatina in D minor*, with its deep sense of foreboding, will forever be associated with imagery of spooky old castles and phantoms. The piece is perhaps most widely known by its appearance in the opening minutes of the 1940 Disney classic *Fantasia*, in which it was adapted for orchestra. The 1962 film version of *The Phantom of the Opera* used this piece to create suspense and horror. Since then it has a strong association with horror films.

Of course, this was NOT Bach's intent.

A toccata comes from the Italian word, *toccare*, "to touch." It represents a musical form for keyboard instruments that is designed to reveal the virtuosity of the performer's touch. In Bach's day, toccatas often served as introductions to fugues, which in their complete form, would have been used as preludes and/or postludes for liturgical settings in a church.

Neither Bach nor his 18<sup>th</sup> century contemporaries had any idea that his music would last through the ages. He wrote for his time. He was actually completely obscure for a century after his death until his music was rediscovered by Felix Mendelssohn. Thus many of his compositions were lost – no one knows how many. But on those that do survive there is the interesting insertion in Bach's own hand of the letters J.J. at the beginning of each and S.D.G. at the end. They are the abbreviations for the Latin, *Jesu Juva* (Jesus Help Me!) and *Soli Deo Gloria* (To the Glory of God Alone!).

In light of the season, in honor of the powerful church music of Bach, and "To the Glory of God Alone" this organist will play the *Toccatina in D minor* by Bach for the postlude on Sunday, Oct. 30. (Jesus, help me!).

**Ted Platt**

Director of Music

## The Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Rhode Island

**The Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Rhode Island**, will hold their Annual Meeting and United Thank Offering Fall Ingathering at St. Mary's Home for Children in North Providence on **November 10, 2016**. The Annual Meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and will include a short presentation about St. Mary's Home for Children. Bishop Knisely will preside at the Noon Day Eucharist and Installation of the E.C.W. Officers for the coming year, followed by a catered luncheon. Tours of St. Mary's Home will also be offered. This is an opportunity for you to learn more about the work E.C.W. does, as well as St. Mary's Home for Children. The United Thank Offering is an integral part of ECW- Diocese of Rhode Island, where collections of your pocket change reflect the blessings in your daily living. Reservations for the luncheon are required. Cost is \$10.00 per person. If you are interested in attending, please see me for more details.

Thank You!!!

Joan Schofield

## Advent Program (*Not a Silent Night*)



This year's Advent Program is a video and short book study titled "Not a Silent Night." It was prepared by Adam Hamilton and many of you enjoyed his Lenten Study that we did earlier this year.

In "Not a Silent Night" we experience Advent and Christmas with the one who knew Jesus more intimately than anyone else—his mother, Mary. Imagine the pain she felt at the crucifixion, her pride as Jesus' ministry grew, and her unrestrained joy when she looked into his tiny face that fateful night in the stable. Adam Hamilton helps us witness the life of Jesus from Mary's unique perspective, starting at the very end and traveling back in time to the very beginning—the night of Christ's birth.

Each participant must sign up for the study and order the book. Fr. Jim will need to know by **November 13<sup>th</sup>** if you wish him to order a book for you. The cost of the book is \$11.38. The study is broken into 5 segments and you will read a chapter each week and then watch a ten minute video on the following chapter topics:

1. Beginning with the End
2. The Piercing of Mary's Soul
3. Amazed, Astounded, and Astonished
4. Mary, Full of Grace
5. It Was Not a Silent Night

Fr. Jim is offering two options for taking part in this program either on Sunday morning following the coffee hour or on Monday evening beginning at 6:30 p.m. We are going to double up on the first two sessions so that we can finish this in three weeks and we won't meet the week of 3 Advent because the Vestry meeting is on Monday, December 13th.

We will meet on:

Sunday, November 27th and Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, December 5th

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> and Monday December 19th

There will be a sign-up sheet at the back of the church. Please indicate which session you are most likely to attend although you can switch back and forth as the same material will be covered on both days.

## Rector's Discretionary Fund



Gifts have been given to the Rector's Discretionary Fund by The Bayles/Simonian Family, Valerie Dreyer and Richard Urquhart.

## Altar Kneelers



Last month's Encourager detailed the exciting progress of the Needlepoint Altar Kneeler Project. The enthusiasm and skill of our 16 talented workers has moved right along, faster than we could have anticipated when this project began last January. All of the completed needlepoint canvases have now been delivered to the upholstery company to be professionally finished with the foam cushioning, fabric backing and piping. If you haven't seen it, the first completed piece has been displayed during our Sunday services. Each cushion is a beautiful work of art, reflecting the beauty of the crosses and stars of our stained glass windows.

On All Saints' Day, November 6th, the altar kneelers will be formally dedicated at the 10 o'clock service. It will be a day of remembrance and thanksgiving as we honor the memory of our loved ones.

I've been approached by parishioners who have asked to be a part of this project by giving a donation as a memorial gift. If that is something you'd like to consider, a suggested donation of \$50.00 will cover the remaining cost of one kneeler (\$125.00), but any amount you would like to donate would be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form below and return with your donation to the church or place in the offering plate during services.

I hope you and your families can join us at this service as we hold our loved ones up in prayer.  
Thank You!!!

Sincerely,  
Joan Schofield, Altar Guild



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I would like to be a sponsor of the Needlepoint Altar Kneelers:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to *St. Barnabas Church* and note "kneelers" on the memo line.

## 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. Adult children not living with you do not need to be included on this form. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**ALL SAINTS DAY**

**SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES**

Please print the names of loved ones whom you would like remembered in the  
All Saints' Day Bulletin.  
Only those who have died in the past year will be remembered by name during the Holy Eucharist.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

O God, we praise and magnify thy Holy Name for all thy servants  
who have finished their course in thy faith and fear;  
for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets,  
apostles, and martyrs; and for all thy other righteous servants,  
known to us and unknown; and we beseech thee that,  
encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers,  
and strengthened by their fellowship,  
we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the  
saints in light; through the merits of thy Son  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
*Amen*

# October 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<b>2 20 Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 10 am Holy Eucharist Healing Prayers after both services.	<b>3</b> 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>4</b> 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>5</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 7:00 pm Boys Scouts	7	8
<b>9 21 Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 10 am Holy Eucharist	<b>10 Columbus Day</b> Office closed 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>12</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Boys Scouts	14	15
<b>16 22 Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 10 am Holy Eucharist	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>19</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> 7:00 pm Boys Scouts	21	22
<b>23 23 Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 10 am Holy Eucharist	<b>24</b> 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>25</b> 7:30 am AA Meeting	<b>26</b> 10 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Exploring Sunday's Scriptures 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Boys Scouts	28	29
<b>30 24 Pentecost</b> 8 am Holy Eucharist 9:45 am Sunday School 10 am Holy Eucharist	<b>31</b> 7:30 am AA Meeting					