

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 2017

Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

“Jacob wrestled with a man at a place called Peniel”

Genesis 32:22-32

Jacob is alone. No family with him. No possessions. Just him, wrestling with “a man,” or “an angel” (that’s what has usually been taught), but as the story unfolds, we find that Jacob was actually wrestling with God. The name of the location, Peniel, literally means, “The face of God,” so perhaps the best translation of that passage is: “The one who struggled with God face to face.”

Have you ever struggled with God? Or wrestled with an angel? Like Jacob, the bell to start the wrestling match will typically be heard when you are all alone. When the T.V. is turned off, the internet is down, the iPad has no more battery life, and you are stuck in a place you don’t want to be. It is then that you are confronted with the reality of life and death, and in that moment, you may come face to face with God.

That sounds like a very scary proposition, something most of us might seek to avoid. However, the truth is that Jacob was blessed because of this Divine wrestling match. This really got me thinking: was Jacob wrestling against God? Or was it that Jacob wrestled WITH God, facing together the perils of this world. In good Episcopal fashion, the truth is probably both: Jacob wrestled against God, deciding between the will of Jacob and “Thy will be done,” and Jacob wrestled against the world WITH God at his side.

What this story teaches us is that the difficulties of faith and the struggles of life are not to be avoided. When we put away our distractions, it is possible to come face to face with the God who loves us, protects us, and provides for our every need. In wrestling, we discover who we truly are, what in life is actually worth fighting for, and we begin to more fully understand who God really is. In the end, God will want us to change a few things in our life, for our own good, but more importantly, the Almighty wants to be a very present help in the time of need. The God of Jacob is not a cruel judge looking to punish us for something we may have done wrong; instead, our Lord is full of love and compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God is mighty to save, a tower of strength, and our sure defense. The Lord seeks to strengthen us when we stand, raise us up if we fall, comfort us when we are discouraged or sorrowful, and fill us with a peace that passes all understanding. Start wrestling and find out for yourself.

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott Lee

Monthly Youth Sunday on June 4th



Kids, our monthly Youth Sunday will take place on June 4th. Kids will be greeters, take the offering, bring the gifts to the altar and have a special talk with Fr. Scott. We hope all the children will be in church on this Sunday!

Healing Prayers on June 4th



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.

Parish Conversation



Sunday, June 4th as part of coffee hour we will have a candid discussion about what has happened in the church's past, where we are now and where you would like to see us going in the future. This will be a town hall style meeting for questions and answers.

Last Day of Sunday School



The last day of Sunday School will be June 11th. We hope all the children will be here for the parish picnic.

Parish Picnic – June 11th



In honor of St. Barnabas Feast Day which is June 12th we will be having our parish picnic on Sunday, June 11th after the 10:00 a.m. service. The church will supply hot dogs; hamburgers, rolls, condiments and beverages, there will also be an ice cream social. We ask that you bring some type of salad or dessert to share. There will be a basket if you would like to contribute to offset the cost of the meat.

Happy Father's Day June 18, 2017



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

Youth Group



When school ends, Youth group begins! Starting on Sunday, June 25th all middle school and high school students are invited every week for food, fun and conversations about faith. We will meet in Schweitzer Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. and ending between 7:30 p.m./8:00 p.m. depending on the topic of conversation. Contact Fr. Scott if you have any questions or **if you would like to provide a meal** for the budding Youth program.

Lawn Care



Now that spring has arrived, we need volunteers for our lawn cutting teams. We provide all the equipment, we just need YOU. If you're interested in helping, or need more information please contact Joseph Rodrigues at 401-633-2602 or at soundlab@cox.net or after Sunday services

E.C.W-U.T.O. Update



Our church recently served as the host parish to the Episcopal Church Women, Diocese of Rhode Island, Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering. The day was filled with worship and fellowship as we gathered to learn more about the Rhythms of Grace Program at Church of the Advent, Coventry. The Rev. Dennis Bucco and Deacon Mary Ann Mello spoke of their work about this ministry to strengthen the faith of the autistic community. They also showed a video and offered additional informational pamphlets. The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Habecker, the U.T.O. Coordinator for the Diocese of Rhode Island, gave thanks to all of the Episcopal Church Women who work on behalf of their individual parishes throughout the diocese to support U.T.O., among so many other missions and ministries where there is need year round. A display table highlighted a few of the charities that directly benefit from E.C.W.-R.I.

The Spring Ingathering collected over \$2400.00 and will be forwarded to the National U.T.O. Committee, and be applied to the 2017 grant program. St. Barnabas Church is always very generous with its donation! Our church focusses our collection during the springtime, even though U.T.O. gathers twice a year at a special service of thanksgiving. Blue Boxes are always available!!! The next Ingathering will be October 28, 2017 at St. Paul's Church, Portsmouth, R.I. When we count our blessings and gather our pocket change, no matter the amount, we can do great things together, making big differences in the least expected places! Thank you for your continuing support and generosity! And thank you to those parishioners who welcomed our friends from around the diocese.

Sincerely,

Joan Schofield, U.T.O. Coordinator for St. Barnabas

Episcopal Conference Center Brochures



Brochures for the summer camping season at ECC are available on the table at the back of the church. There are camps for children as young as entering the 2nd grade in September and as old as entering the 12th grade. There is even a camp for an entire family. Money should never prevent anyone from attending camp. If you need assistance, simply contact Fr. Scott.

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!

Episcopal Charities Update



As of May 5th, St. Barnabas has pledged \$3,490 towards the 2017 Episcopal Charity Campaign. This is a great start! This is about half of what our parish pledged last year. 100% of what you donate goes out directly as grant money to one of the many charities in RI helping those in need. If you have already pledged, I thank you for your support. If you have not yet pledged this year, I ask that you prayerfully consider making one. If you have any questions about Episcopal Charities or need pledge information, please see Julie Mixner.

Also, the campaign is putting together teams of people to be on the grant review teams. You would pay a site visit to a requesting charity and do an interview, and you would be required to attend 2 meetings with the Episcopal Charities board. This is a very rewarding experience. You get to see first-hand the works of God going on in our own state and get to meet people that are directly impacted by receiving grants. If you are interested in being a part of this process, see Julie Mixner (jmix99@gmail.com) for more details!

Thank you! Julie

Music Notes



Thank you to everyone for the delightful farewell reception as I embark upon a new ministry. Thank you especially to the choir for their tireless dedication in offering their music to God, to the church vestry for their support, and to Fr. Scott who, in the short time we were able to work together, joyfully and enthusiastically supported me and the ministry of music.

As St. Barnabas was known as the “Son of Encouragement” I wish to leave you with words of encouragement: I encourage you to keep singing and to continue to hold up the music of the church as a vital part of our proclamation of the gospel. The world and our communities need encouragement. Music can touch the heart in a way that offers hope and encouragement to a broken and troubled world. The music of the church – your music – offers the hope and encouragement that only the good news of Christ can offer.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, “encourage one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.” (Colossians 3:16)

With gratitude in my heart,

Ted Platt

Director of Music

June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary	2	3
4 Day of Pentecost Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:00 a.m. Rite II Parish Conversation during coffee hour.	5 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	6 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	7 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	8 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	9	10 8:00 a.m. St. Barnabas Women's breakfast T's breakfast East Greenwich
11 Trinity Sunday Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:00 a.m. Rite II Parish Picnic Last day of Sunday School	12 6:30 p.m. Vestry 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	13 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	14 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	15 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	16	17
18 St. Barnabas Day Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:00 a.m. Rite II	19 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	20 10:00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	21 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	22 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	23	24
25 Third Sunday after Pentecost Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:00 a.m. Rite II 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	26 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	27 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:30 p.m. AA Meeting	28 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m. Bible Study	29 10: 00 a.m. Mornings with Mary 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts	30	