

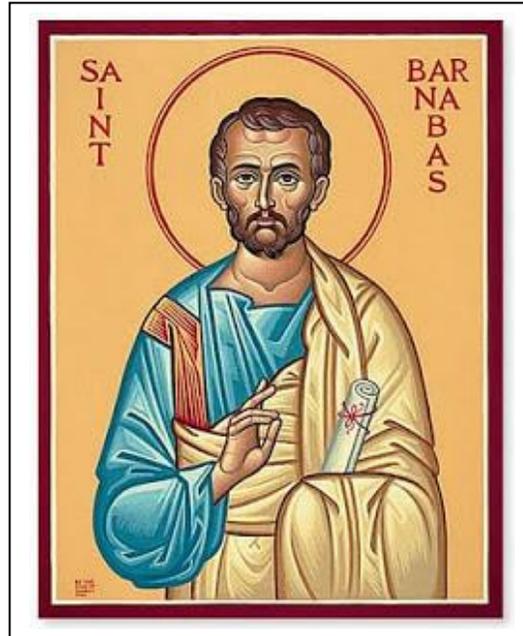
The Encourager

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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February 2022



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully.”
(1 Corinthians 13:12)

That passage of Scripture comes from what is often called, “The Love Chapter”. Many of us know the rest of the chapter by heart, “Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude . . . It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.”

I think just about everyone would agree that love is the most wonderful part of life, right? And, we all know what love looks like, don’t we? We know the difference between love and hate, and we all prefer to receive love.

Given that, Paul is teaching us that the best part of this life, love, is our best window into what the world to come will be like. The love “we see in a mirror, dimly . . . we will see face to face” in heaven. The love I know “only in part . . . I will know fully” in eternity.

I have done a fair bit of study on the topic of near-death experiences. This is when people die, but they are revived and brought back to life in our world. Almost every single person who tells the story of their experience dying does not talk of fear or pain. They speak about a feeling of absolute, complete, and perfect love. They are surrounded with pure light and wonderful love.

Many of those who died and came back to tell about it, talk about seeing loved ones. Some individuals encounter a person they would describe as Jesus or God. You might think those experiences are only true for Episcopalians, but people from different denominations and even different religions all share the common theme of warmth, peace, light, and love.

What I find absolutely amazing is that every single person who has one of these near-death experiences devotes the remainder of their life to being more loving. It seems that after coming in contact with that kind of brilliant love, all they want to do is share love with others. Does that seem odd to you?

It probably shouldn't seem all that strange. Jesus spoke of heaven as if his very own eyes had seen it. And, if we consider the teachings to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34), it makes sense that Christ had known the love of heaven, which is why our Savior was able to share love with us. Then, as we receive the love from God, why would we refrain from sharing that kind of love with others?

There is a sense, of course, that a person must know love before love can be shared. I know that each and every one of us knows something about love. Some of us have deeper reservoirs of love from which to draw from, but there is not one of us who knows nothing of love. Those waters of love are not to be stored as a reserve. Love is to be shared. When it is, love grows deeper and wider and even more magnificent.

I hope that you believe that absolute and pure love is your destiny when this life is over. Since we know heaven will be filled with love, let us strive to make love known "on earth as it is in heaven". Instead of rushing to get to heaven, let us make our time on earth a little more heavenly by loving one another the way our Savior instructed us to do.

Faithfully, Fr. Scott

P.S. As you probably know, the Annual meeting was postponed due to our recent snow storm. It is rescheduled for this Sunday, February 6, at 11:00 am. Church will be the same at both 8:00 and 10:00 am. We will then take a few minutes to get ready while we let those who need to leave do so. We need at least 35 active members to conduct the business we need to accomplish. Most of you, by the way, are an active member. The requirements are that you have attended worship at least three times the previous year and support the parish. Please plan to attend. Please plan to vote. The meeting shouldn't take long, I expect only 20 or 30 minutes, and it is the important work that equips us to do the loving work we are called to do. Hope to see you then.



Annual Meeting Vestry Elections

Unless other names are put forward at the rescheduled meeting, below is the list of those you can expect to be elected to the leadership positions in our parish.

Senior Warden (two year term):

Heather Rodrigues

Junior Warden (two year term):

David Dolbashian

Treasurer (one year term):

Stanley Schofield

Parish Clerk (one year term):

Stephanie Van Patten

Vestry at Large (two year terms):

Pruet Beauregard (second term)

James Mixner (second term)

James Turner

Geraldine Fox

Gail Frueh

There are up to two Open Positions, but we may wait till next year to fill them so we don't elect seven this year and only one next year.

Vestry continuing current term: Marilyn Davis.

Diocesan Convention (one year terms):

Delegates

David McIntyre

Stanley Schofield

Alternates

Joseph Rodrigues

Heidi Seddon

Healing Prayers February 6th



You have the opportunity to participate in prayers for healing, the laying on of hands, and anointing with Holy Oil. At the end of the service, simply move to the front of the church. After Fr. Scott greets those leaving church he will join you as we pray for ourselves and those in need. If you ever need prayers for healing please speak to Fr. Scott, you do not need to wait until the first Sunday of the month.

Lent Begins



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday falling on March 2nd. There will be two services that day. The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. The imposition of ashes will be offered at both services.

Stations of the Cross



Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays during Lent at 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. The service itself is about 20-25 minutes. There will also be an optional Lenten Study following each service. The Stations of the Cross have been a part of Lenten devotion for centuries, and I invite you to make it a part of your preparation for Easter this year.

Lenten Study



On Wednesday evenings beginning March 9th at 7 pm Fr. Scott and Ivy Swinski will lead a one hour conversation about Faith using the TV show *Ted Lasso* as our starting point. You may join us in person in the Parish Hall or a Zoom link can be provided.

Morning Prayer



On Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Fr. Scott holds an abbreviated Morning Prayer Service. This gives us another chance to pray for this world, this nation, our church, our friends, family and even our enemies.

Happy Birthday



We would like to wish those celebrating birthdays in the month of February a very Happy Birthday!

Andrew Giles	Geena Lee Toro
Angeline Marcks	Jayne McBride
Beverly Nicholson-Smith	
Caleb DelSesto	Pam Peloso
Craig Merritt	Maria Campos
Dorothy Klekot	Allyn Frost
Kyle Swenson	Susan Federico
Linden Rogers	Coreena Turner
Marcia Carpenter	Cheryl Marble
Marion St. Onge	Donald Carpenter
Michele Carignan	Donna-Mae Coolen
Muriel Smith	Katherine Richardson
Peyton Silvestri	Greta Shuster
Steven Iozzi	Alice Malveto

Happenings at St. Barnabas



Sunday Holy Eucharist

8:00 a.m. (Rite I)

10:00 a.m. (Rite II)

Morning Prayer

Tuesday & Thursday

10:00 a.m.

Worship and Bible Study

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m. Bible Study



Prayer Requests

Prayer Chain

Our prayer chain is organized to meet the prayer needs of our parish family as well as those in our community of family, friends and neighbors. It functions as a rapid response to anyone in need of prayers. Because prayer requests are communicated by e-mail, the Prayer Chain is available 24/7. Robin Beckwith, our coordinator keeps a list of voluntary prayer intercessors, and we always welcome new volunteers! Please contact Robin Beckwith our prayer chain coordinator if you have a prayer request or would like to volunteer.

Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



On Wednesdays, there is another opportunity for worship and study. At 10:00 a.m. there will be a Rite I Eucharist in the Guild Room immediately followed by a Bible study. All are welcome!



Thank you to those who continue to donate to the Food Bank during these difficult times. They are much appreciated and help local residents in need. You can bring them to church on Sunday mornings; there is a donation bin at the back of the church or to the parish office during office hours. Thank you to Richard Carr who has volunteered to bring the donations to Westbay.

Snow Blower



We would like to thank Marilyn Davis for her donation of an additional snow blower to St. Barnabas, it will make clean up much easier.

Thank You for your Generosity



“On behalf of our constituents, staff, and Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for helping to provide gifts this holiday season to those we serve here at House of Hope. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide gifts for **342 individuals and 19 companion pets**. With your generosity, we have had a surplus of supplies that we have continued distributing since the holiday season ended. Thank you for helping us make Christmas so special for those we serve!”

Sincerely,
Melissa Behm, Fund Development Manager