

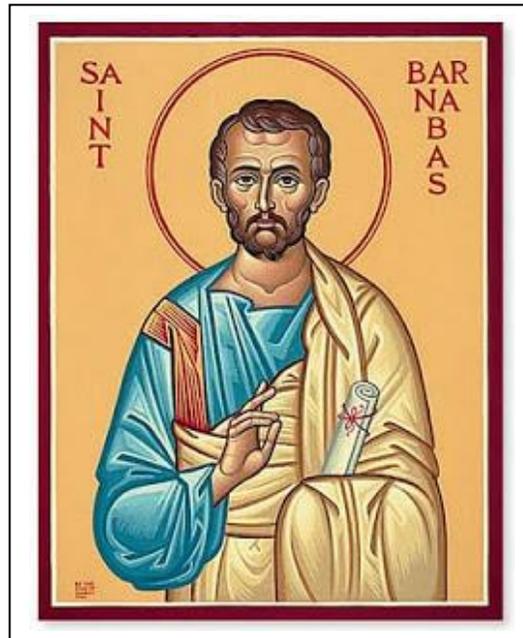
The Encourager

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

June 2022



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

*“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born and a time to die . . .
a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance . . .”* (from Ecclesiastes 3)

Most of you are probably singing *Turn, Turn, Turn* by the Byrds right about now. I remember listening to that song as a child. I didn't realize until high school that it is virtually a direct quote of Scripture. Based on this curiosity, I spent quite a bit of time studying Ecclesiastes.

This short book is often called, “The Wisdom of King Solomon.” It is written during the absolute best years for the people of God. King David brought safety and security to the land and David's son, Solomon, reigned with insight and discernment. There was plenty of food, plenty of work. This was the fulfillment of the promise of God. The people now lived in the bountiful land, a land flowing with milk and honey, which is to say that everyone enjoyed the fat and sweet things in life.

King Solomon, in particular, had an unprecedented level of comfort. From this abundance, the king contemplated the meaning of life. The portion the Byrds chose to use in a song speaks the simple truth about life. Life is filled with both good and difficult, joyous and sorrowful, and we move in and out of these times similar to the way the seasons change.

The problem, as I see it, is that most of us have the idea that the goal of life is to minimize the difficult and sorrowful while seeking to maximize the good and joyous. Is that really the point? It seems to me that by trying to minimize the parts we don't like, we actually miss out on the most important and most wonderful aspects of life. Are you missing out on the best parts of life by trying to avoid anything negative?

I think that fear limits many of us, holding us back from the abundant life God desires for us. One thing I find interesting: Fear is not listed in that long list of the seasons of life. I think that fear limits many of us, holding us back from the abundant life God desires for us.

One thing I find interesting: Fear is not listed in that long list of the seasons of life. Why? Because fear isn't an action. Everything on that list is an activity, doing something. Fear, in most cases, promotes in-action, rather than the actions Wisdom describes. While fear may prevent a few heartaches, it also keeps us from hearts filled with laughter and love.

Jesus said, "I came that (you) may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10) Another way of describing abundant is fullness. Christ came so that we might have the *fullness* of life. When life is full, it looks like Ecclesiastes. It has times of both good and difficult, joyous and sorrowful. The important thing to remember is that the actions of weeping and laughing, mourning and dancing, are all held within the love of one another and the love of our Savior.

In fact, the reason we weep and mourn is because it is hard to lose someone we love. But, that sting is merely a reminder that we were part of something wonderful. The promise in the heartache is that we will be part of something wonderful again as the seasons again change.

As we move into our summer months, this "season" feels more significant than most years. CoViD isn't gone, but we do seem to truly be emerging from what might be called, "CoViD Winter". The past two years have been a time of mourning and weeping. It is time for some laughter and dancing. Are we ready to embrace this time of prosperity and hope? Or, is fear preventing us from the abundance that is right at our fingertips?

Later in Ecclesiastes we hear, "Go, then, eat your bread with gladness . . . with a merry heart . . . God has long ago approved what you do . . . enjoy life with the one(s) you love." (From Ecclesiastes 9) While life may be filled with good and difficult, joyous and sorrowful, it's the only life we get on earth. Let's enjoy it! May God give you strength and true Wisdom as you follow Christ in the way of Love, which is the pathway to an abundant and full life.

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott

St. Barnabas Day, June 12th



Sunday June 12th following the 10:00 a.m. service we will be celebrating St Barnabas day with a cookout. Fingers crossed that weather cooperates, it will be held in Dorothy Mayor Park (Schweitzer Hall in case of rain). The Vestry will be supplying hamburgers and hot dogs, buns and condiments. If you would like to attend, we are asking people bring a side dish or a dessert. An attendance and dish sign-up sheet is located at the back of the church. We ask that you sign up no later than June 5th in order to assist with food planning. Hope to see you there!

Father's Day, June 19th



Happy Father's Day to all the father's and father figures in our congregation!

Happy Birthday



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

Barbara-Jean Lynch
Cora Cardilli
Ellen Wright
Gabriella Pari
Ian Turner
Jack Turner
Jane Horridge
Joseph Rodrigues, Jr.
Kara Lee
Katia Nichols
Keith Beauregard
Marilyn Morrow
Rosalind Butziger
Stephen Picard
Susan Campos

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. Please call Robin in the office for her contact information.

Flowers & Sanctuary Candle



If you would like to have flowers on the Altar or the Sanctuary Candle lit in memory of someone special or in celebration of a special event, there is a calendar with envelopes located in the back of the church. Please complete and drop in the collection plate or you may hand to an usher.

WestBay Community Action



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.

Social Media



If you haven't already, please like our Facebook page (St Barnabas Episcopal Church, Warwick, RI) and our Instagram page (stbarnabaswarwick). With everything going on you won't miss out on any parish news.

Coffee Hour



Thank you to those who have made coffee hour a success! We look forward to resuming in the fall.

Holy Baptisms



Congratulations to Luca Cardilli, Raymond Melise Jr., Dasia Melise, Raquel Healey, Isabella Mossman, and Jude Henry Cavallo who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at St. Barnabas during the month of May.

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. We are currently studying the Parables of Jesus All are welcome!

Morning Prayer



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

Congratulations



Congratulations to all the graduates in our congregation!!! From Elementary School through High School and College, we congratulate you and all of your accomplishments! We wish you luck on the next chapter of your journey.

ECC Summer Camp 2022



THE EPISCOPAL
CONFERENCE CENTER

872 Reservoir Rd., Pascoag, RI

Camp Registration is Open! Camp programs for entering 2-12th grade, families, and people with special needs. Learn more at www.eccri.org Brocures are also available on the back table in the church. Money should never prevent anyone from attending camp. If you need assistance, please contact Fr. Scott.

Healing Prayers First Sunday of each Month



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.

Heather's Highlights



Hello all! We have had some happy things happen during the month of May. Our May Day Potluck Brunch was a great success with enjoyment had by all who attended. I would like to thank everyone who took part in this event. To Richard, Ronald, Laurie, Michelle, Gerri, Pruet and Don; I send special appreciation for helping set up and decorate as well as cleaning up and washing all dishes. To everyone who brought a dish to share--thank you so much. We truly have some talented chefs in our congregation! I truly hope all who attended enjoyed the delicious food and company.

Mother's Day was celebrated this year for all Moms', Grandmothers, Aunts, Godmothers and Mother figures in our parish. A small token of appreciation and love was given to those in attendance at both services.

Providence Books Through Bars have moved in downstairs and will soon be ready to pursue their ministry again. More info will be made available as they become settled into their new space.

A new, more user friendly website is in the works for St. Barnabas. More information will be made after design and formation of the upgraded website.

Also with Spring & Summer upon us, and with a limited number of volunteers, we have decided to look into a landscaping service for lawn care. I'd like to extend deep gratitude to the volunteers in the years past who donated their time to maintain the landscape, St. Barnabas Church thanks you.

As always, if you have any questions feel free to contact me, please call Robin in the Parish Office for my contact information.

Thank you, Heather Rodrigues, Sr. Warden

For Travelers



O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*