

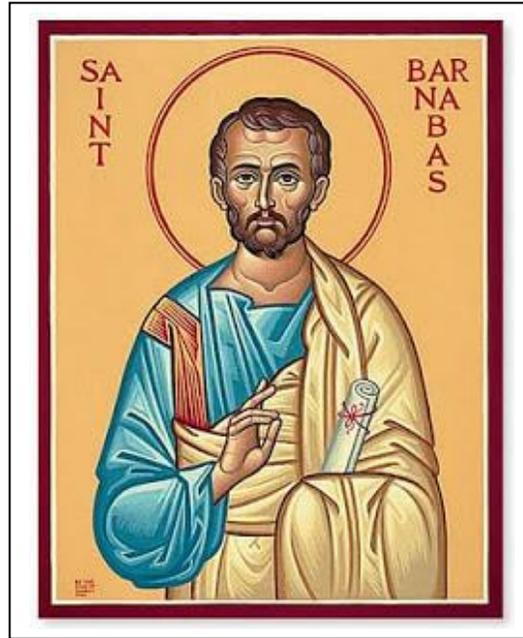
The Encourager

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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July 2022



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

*“Forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us” (Matthew 6:12)*

There are several different ways of translating the word, “trespasses.” Our own Book of Common Prayer offers another version, using “sins” in place of “trespasses.” Some Churches use the word, “debts.” I spent some time thinking about these different options, and the statements that each one makes.

To use the language of “debts” and “debtors” seems to reduce all of our actions to a monetary exchange. Is that the point of this part of The Lord’s Prayer? I do not believe that we are to understand Christ’s mission in economic terms.

To use the language of “sins” is a better translation. It helps us explicitly name those things that we have done wrong, or things that others have done wrong to us. The reason The Book of Common Prayer gives that as an option is because it is in line with the ministry of Jesus. The Gospels are filled with conversations about sin. Don’t worry, I am not suggesting we start using that on Sunday Mornings, but you might try using it occasionally in your own, private time of prayer. Name the things you have done wrong, specifically, trusting our Savior to “Forgive us our sins.”

What is the significance of our “trespasses” language? Well, to trespass is to go somewhere you are not meant to go. Trespassing is crossing a line that is not meant to be crossed. One of the ways to understand the Ten Commandments is as borders, boundaries to keep us from going somewhere we should not go.

“Thou shalt not kill . . . Thou shalt not commit adultery . . . Thou shalt not steal,” are three of the most well-known commandments. Each of them is a line that we are not meant to cross. When we do, we harm others, but we also harm ourselves. When a person kills another, a piece of kindness is lost. When a person commits adultery, a piece of faithfulness is broken. When a person steals, a piece of honesty is sacrificed.

By breaking these commandments, we are crossing the line from the good person we should be, who God made us to be. We start becoming the kind of person we will be ashamed to see staring back in a mirror. Who is that murderous, unfaithful, dishonest human? I don't think I recognize that person.

Jesus teaches that even the thoughts of anger, lust, and greed are dangerous. They are the first small step across those lines, those boundaries that are intended to help us be the type of person we want to be, the person God created us to be.

So, we ask, "forgive us our trespasses." Please forgive my anger and steps towards killing; restore the kindness that was lost. Please forgive my lust and steps towards adultery; restore the faithfulness that was broken. Please forgive my greed and steps towards stealing; restore the honesty that was sacrificed. Lift me from this desolate place to which I have wandered, put an end to my trespassing, and bring me back to the loving presence of Christ who forgives.

This is all so that we tend to the most important Commandments, all of which have to do with being in right relationship with our God. Are you in a right relationship with God? Have you sinned? Or, have you simply wandered away a little bit? Are you trespassing across lines that you were not meant to cross? It is completely normal to wander a bit. The problem is that it is very easy to wander so far that we sometimes get lost.

Hopefully, you haven't wandered very far. But our trespassing isn't really the point. The Good News, is that open arms are waiting for you to return home. Like the father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, God is waiting for you to "come to your senses" in that land where you may be lost. The Lord of heaven and earth rushes to greet you, placing a new, perfect robe on your shoulders. This "best robe" signifies that you are indeed forgiven. You have been restored to the loving presence of Almighty God. It is then we realize those commandments, the boundaries, are intended to be the loving arms of the Lord holding us close to the place we should always stay. The reason we should stay there is because that is where I am most like the person that I am delighted to see looking back at me in a mirror.

Faithfully,
Fr. Scott

Healing Prayers July 3rd



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. Michaelson 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.

Out of Office



Robin will be out of the office July 4th – July 7th. Fr. Scott will also be out of town for a couple of weeks, but he will be accessible by phone. There are clergy available if you have a pastoral emergency while he is away. Simply call Fr. Scott if you need something, and he will work to get the assistance you request.

Morning Prayer



On Tuesdays & Thursdays mornings at 10:00 a.m. During the summer, Fr. Scott will hold it when he is in town. Please call the office to verify before coming to the church.

Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



We will not meet during the summer, we will resume in September.

Happy Birthday



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

Adele Condron	Josh Faiola
Alexandra Hinger	William Spearman
Anthony Peloso	Ashley Rodrigues
Ariana Beauregard	Valerie Dryer
Beth Marsh	Mary Jo Berman
Beth Nelson	Sandra Hartley
Bethany Rogers	Isabella Meyer
Breanna Buker	Madelynn Iozzi
Christina Tyson	Kathleen O'Neill
Haylee Clukey	Monette Hinger
Jean Robinson	William Dodge
Jerome Loftus	Stan Schofield
Joseph Gauthier	Pete Fontaine
Sheila Laurenza	The Rev. Peter Michaelson

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.

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.

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.

Donate Pull Tabs for Recycling



Minutes of expensive treatments and other support services for the children are supplemented by selling the recycled metal. Whenever you pop a top, say a prayer for the children and bring your tops to church and place in the collection containers! Keep those tab tops coming and transform them into a blessing instead of sending them to the landfill. Just another small way you can make a difference!

Thank You!!!

Heather's Highlights



A few exciting happenings in the month of June!

It's graduation time! St. Barnabas would like to congratulate our young parishioners on their graduations over the past few weeks. Congrats to Ben (Georgetown University), Teagan (Tollgate High School) Kara, Janelle, John (Pilgrim High School); as well as any other graduates in our congregation. We are so proud of you all, and send our love and well wishes for an amazing future ahead!

St. Barnabas Day celebration was held June 12th. A big THANK YOU to the chefs in our congregation that brought a dish to share, and to our fantastic grillers---Paul Schofield, Joseph Rodrigues, and J.R. Delicious food and great company of family and friends made St. Barnabas Day a success.

A token of appreciation and remembrance was given to the Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles, Godfathers, and Father figures of the St. Barnabas congregation after each service on Sunday June 19th in celebration of Father's Day. We hope you enjoyed the sweet treat.

SAVE THE DATE! St. Mary's Day celebration will be August 14th following the 10am service. A sign-up sheet will be in the back of the church for attendance and potluck dishes. Any questions, contact Gail Frueh at cheersltd@yahoo.com or 401-323-0800.

Enjoy the summer, and as always feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Stay safe and Happy Summer! Heather Rodrigues, Senior Warden

Mark your Calendars!



On Saturday, October 15, 2022 we will hold the **2nd Annual No More Hunger Walk** to call attention to food insecurity in our community and support local food pantries. This event coincides with **World Food Day** which occurs on October 16th every year.

We invite **YOU** and **YOUR GROUP** to join us in the fight against hunger. Registration starts at 9:00am and the walk will begin at 10:00am from St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 111 West Shore Road, Warwick. The route is along West Shore Road to Donovan Park in the center of Conimicut Village. Walkers have the option to end their walk there or return to St. Mark's.

Each participating group will register its own walkers and support the hunger ministry of its choice. We will need a volunteer to take charge for St. Barnabas.

If your church or group is interested in participating, please contact the office of Woodbury Union Church @ 401-737-8232 or via email Woodburychurchri@gmail.com.