

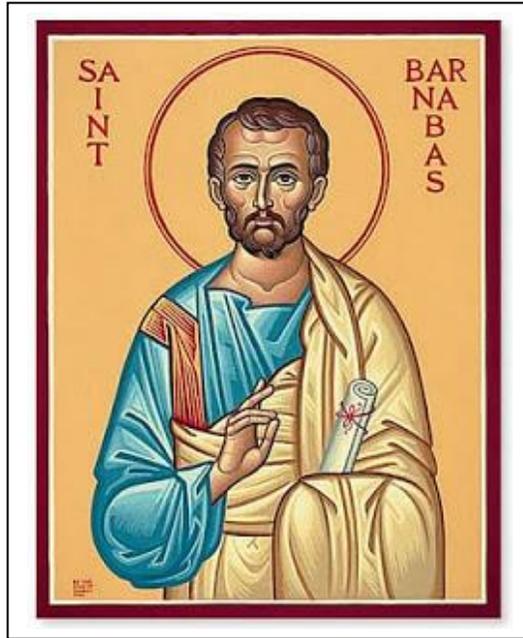
The Encourager

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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August 2022



Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

*“(Many) things on earth are small, yet they are exceedingly wise:
the ants are a people without strength, yet they provide their food in the summer . . .”*
(Proverbs 30:25)

August has always been bitter-sweet for me. It was hot (which we can all relate to), so I spend days many at the pool with friends or waterskiing at the lake with family. However, my parents were teachers. August meant their attention would return to work. It also meant that school was fast approaching. Freedom and Summer fun were rapidly coming to an end.

For me, August was a combination of many things: dread of the inevitable, a wish to enjoy every minute, and a big dose of complacency. Yes, there was always a part of me that simply wanted to sit around and do nothing because these were the last days laziness was possible.

I think many of us find ourselves with similar feelings right now. The world is unlike anything I have ever known. Part of me dreads whatever may be coming next because it has been one thing after another. Then, there is part of me wants to enjoy every minute because I know every breath is a precious gift. Finally, there is a sense of complacency because the problems we face today are so enormous that I feel helpless in the face of them. Can you relate to that mixture of emotions?

When I get overwhelmed with things, I turn to the pages of the Bible for inspiration and wisdom. Proverbs is one place I like to start. It is very practical wisdom for the daily lives of real people. Some of the analogies may be a little foreign to us, but the wisdom is relevant and helpful.

As a side note, if you have every wanted to start reading the Bible but don't know where to start, let me share this advice with you: Read two short chapters every day. First, read only the words of Jesus (often referred to as the Red Letter Words) through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, one chapter each day. We are, after all, CHRISTians, so the words of Christ should be primary. Second, read one Proverb a day. There are thirty-one Proverbs, so match

them to the day of the month. Don't worry about the months that have thirty-one days, and don't fret if you miss a day. Just read Proverbs 15 on the fifteenth day of the month, and so on. After a few months of engaging the Scriptures this way, you will be exposed to the love of God revealed in Jesus and wisdom for how to faithfully live day to day.

So, I'm overwhelmed. I feel like I don't know what may be coming next, I want to enjoy every moment I have, and I feel somewhat helpless in the face of such colossal atrocities in our world. What do I do? I learn from the ant.

The ant is very small; many may even suggest one ant is insignificant. The ant, however, doesn't worry about what others think. The ant simply uses the strength it has in this moment. As you probably know, an ant has strength that is much greater than size may suggest. It uses this strength, during this summer lull, to provide food. The ant stores up food for when food gets scarce. Because of the efforts of this small, seemingly insignificant creature, the entire colony of ants will survive and thrive.

Now, to be perfectly honest, I don't really like ants. The wisdom to learn is not that we should all start to appreciate ants. No! The wisdom is to learn from them before driving them from our yards. What we learn is that we are not helpless. We are not insignificant. We have strength that far exceeds what we think.

Therefore, like the ant, we can prepare for the worst that may come our way, while hoping for the best. We can find enjoyment in our work and our rest. And, we can claim our strength to provide for our community when scarcity arrives.

At the dawn of this August, I don't know exactly what may come our way next. In a very real way, I am being told to prepare that food may become scarce for many people. Prices continue to rise, at a rate faster than wages. Housing has become even more unattainable. Will I learn from the ant? Instead of letting helplessness fuel my complacency, will I use this time to store up for the scarcity that may come? Will I store up enough to share with the community?

I pray that things do not get as difficult as some experts are suggesting. With wisdom as our guide, we will be OK even if they do. Stay safe. Walk in love. God bless you all.

Faithfully, Fr. Lee

Fr. Scott Away



Fr. Scott will be out of the office August 3rd – 12th. He will return for Sunday services on August 14th. There will be supply clergy available if needed, please contact Robin in the office 737-4141 if you are in need of anything.

Healing Prayers August 7th



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 **Rev. Noel Bailey** greets those leaving church he will join you as we pray for ourselves and those in need.

St. Mary's Day



St. Mary's Day Potluck Luncheon will be held Sunday August 14th following the 10am service. A potluck sign-up sheet for finger sandwiches and salads is located on the table in the back of the church. If you wish to bring an item on the list, please sign your name next to the item. Any questions, contact Gail Frueh. Please call Robin in the office for her contact information. We hope to see you there!

Happy Birthday



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

Alexander Forsberg	Katelyn Volk
Amy Salisbury	Maejor Robinson
Ann Whiteley	Luca Petrarca
Brooklyn Silvestri	Michaela Lombari
Catherine Spearman	Fr. Scott Lee
Joshua Williams	Natatie Mitchell
Karen Whittaker	Joanne Varden
Macey Crehan	Alexis Forsberg
Madison Wiech	George Shuster
Marion Menzies	Robert Boss Jr.
Marjorie Pollard	Bea VanPatten
Marsha McElroy	Judi Tetreault
Peggy Gauthier	Samantha Harding
Steve McBride	Karl Volk

Holiday Bazaar



We are back! I am thrilled that we are able to have this event again and grateful to be trusted as the Chairperson for another year! This year's Holiday Bazaar is going to be **November 19th**. I plan to have our first organizational meeting on Sunday, August 28th following the 10am service. I know some of you have already gotten a jump on items for your table which is awesome! I encourage EVERYONE who wants to participate to attend the meeting and bring your ideas. Please contact Robin in the office for Emily's contact information.

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. Please call during the summer months to verify that it will take place.

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.

Blessing of the Backpacks



Sunday August 28th during the 10am service, students of all ages and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks or school items to be blessed by Father Scott for a successful and safe upcoming school year.

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.

Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



We look forward to resuming in September.

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!!!

Missing Information



Do we have your current contact information? Have you been receiving a birthday postcard, monthly Encourager or our emails (even though sent infrequently)? If not please contact Robin in the parish office to verify that we have everything correct in our records. She can be reached at 737-4141 or via email @ Parishadmin@stbarnabaswarwick.org.

It Takes Many People to Run a Church



There are many positions where we could use help at St. Barnabas. These include Ushers, Readers, Chalice Bearers, Acolytes, Altar Guild, Money Counters, Choir, lawn mowing, upkeep of flower beds, coffee hour. Please speak with Fr. Scott or call the parish office to find out about the opportunities where you can serve.

Heather's Highlights



Summer is in full swing, and we hope everyone is enjoying time with family and friends.

As August arrives, we would like to wish all our high school and college graduates the best of luck as they enter the next chapter in their lives. Whether you are attending college, a trade school, or entering the work force; St. Barnabas is sending you love and prayers, and will always be here for you...Good Luck!

Providence Books thru Bars are officially ready for volunteers. If anyone wishes to learn more about this group and what it entails, please see Father Scott.

A big thank you to Father Michaelson for presiding during Father Scott's time off recently. We appreciate your time.

Here are a few August dates to keep in mind:

Sunday August 14th, we will be celebrating St. Mary's Day with a potluck celebration luncheon following the 10am service. A sign-up sheet for attendance and potluck dishes will be on the back table of the church. Any questions feel free to contact Gail Frueh at cheerltd@yahoo.com or 401-323-0800.

Sunday August 28th, the Blessing of Backpacks will take place during the 10am service. Students of all ages and teachers in our congregation are invited to bring backpacks or school items for a blessing by Father Scott for a successful and safe upcoming school year.

Enjoy the rest of summer, stay safe. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Thank you,
Heather Rodrigues. Sr. Warden

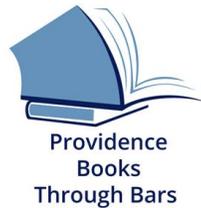
Gardening Volunteers Are Needed



We are seeking volunteers to help with watering the flower containers by the office door & small side garden, front stairs, front sidewalk; as well as the front sign garden and blue spruce tree in Dorothy Mayor Park. Watering would be every other day (Warwick is on an odd/even day schedule according to addresses per the Mayor, hence odd number days). Also weeding the front gardens and side area from the parking lot and the small garden next to the office would be helpful. This could be done weekly or every other week. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Heather Rodrigues at pumpkinpatch9@cox.net or 524-6387.

St. Barnabas extends a Huge and Grateful Thank You to Diane Whitehead and Tom Chadwick for countless hours of their dedication to maintaining St. Barnabas Church's gardens throughout the years. You both have brought beauty and curb appeal to our church grounds, and the city of Warwick and our Congregation extends our thanks and appreciation.

Books through Bars



Is up and running! They will be downstairs after the 10 am service on Sunday mornings to work on requests and to pack up books. If you would like to volunteer just head downstairs after the service and someone will put you to work or if you'd like to volunteer another time just let them know.

Donations are accepted and very much appreciated. There will be a table marked book donations in the large room as well as donation receipts which you can pick up if you need one. We take only paperbacks. No hardbacks or spiral-bound books. Hardback are not accepted in many prisons and are expensive to mail. No audio books or CDs.

We also have agreements with several local bookstores where you can purchase books for us. Feel free to visit us on our Facebook page [<https://www.facebook.com/ProvBTB>] or at the web site [<https://provbtb.org/books-we-need/>].

Feel free to reach out to Therese Zink. Please contact Robin in the parish office for Therese's contact information.

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**.