

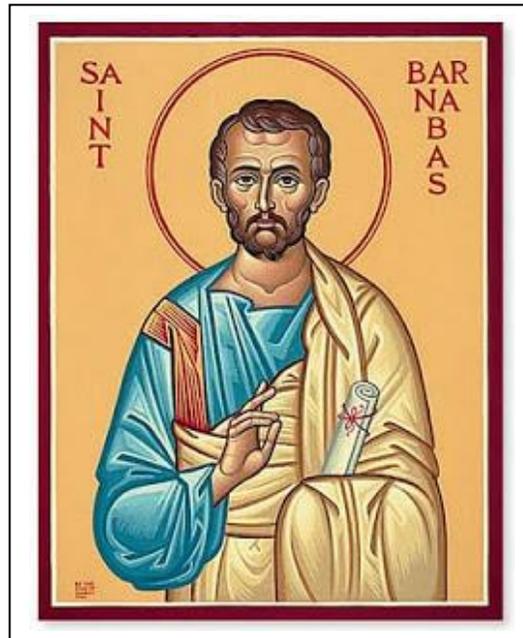
# The Encourager

*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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September 2022



## Some FatherLee thoughts . . .

*"Remember the marvels (God) has done."* (Psalm 105:5)

There are many, many Psalms that look back to the Exodus for understanding, insight, and wisdom to aid in the present time. I, too, have been spending much of my personal study time looking back to examine how the people of God responded after being led from slavery in Egypt. The truth is: They didn't adjust to freedom very well at all.

The people complained a lot. "And the people complained against Moses, saying, 'What shall we drink?'" (Exodus 15:22). "The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness . . . 'in the land of Egypt . . . we sat by the pots of meat and ate our fill of bread.'" (Exodus 16:2-3) But, to every one of those complaints, the Almighty responded by providing them with water, meat, and bread.

In a similar way, we are emerging from slavery to CoViD (I don't think that is an overstatement). Have you noticed an increase in people's complaining? Our complaints are not always about food and water, but they do speak to concerns of scarcity much like our faith ancestors. If we are to apply lessons learned eons ago, one thing is certain: God hears the cry for help and provides for the needs of the people.

I like to think of it this way: Moses took the complaints from the people and turned them into prayers. The Almighty, I believe, always hears and responds to prayer. We may crave a different response, or wish for expedited shipping, but we can take comfort knowing that God will always respond and provide for our needs. So, consider turning your complaints to prayers.

God heard the cry from slaves in Egypt, a people who seemed to be forgotten. The Almighty freed them and gave them what they needed as they took each and every step towards the Promised Land. In the same way, the Lord hears our prayers and will always work to bring freedom, provide for the essentials of this life, and will one day bring us home to everlasting life in our Promised Land.

To place our complaints before God as prayers will also shift our focus. Rather than concentrating on that terrible thing, whatever it is, our attention turns to see the loving face of our Creator and Redeemer.

I encourage you to contemplate the Almighty, “the maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 146:6) Consider to infinite power of God, might that is only tempered by perfect love.

This is the Lord, the only One who can remedy the problems we face because, let’s face it, most of our complaints are about things out of our control. We can’t fix all these problems, but so pray shifts us from angst about what we cannot control to hope in the “God who does wonders.” (Psalm 77:14)

I cannot control the forces of nature, for example. Does complaining about them do anything productive? Personally, I think that complaining makes us bitter, and there is no freedom in bitterness, nor is there love. However, if I pray to the Almighty “For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth,” (BCP 384) I place the forces of nature in the hands of the One who created them, who can bring order to them, so the earth can provide for the people as God intends.

Also, I cannot mend the divisions in our country, and to complain about them really only increases the divide. However, I can pray. Pray to our Savior who desires unity, “that all of them may be one.” (John 17:21) By placing the enmity of this land in the palms of the God of Love, we recognize that “God alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections . . .” God alone can “grant your people grace to love.” (BCP 219)

Complaining about government, as another example, will never fix it. Praying, on the other hand, can bring about positive change. We can pray for people to cast votes so “there may be justice and peace on the earth.” (BCP 387) We can pray for our leaders, so “that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person.” (BCP 390) And, by praying for the world in which we live, we will probably realize that our situation is actually pretty good when compared to Egypt, Babylon, Rome, and countless dictators throughout history. But, if things do get to that bad, the Almighty has proven, time and time again, to rescue the people in need.

Finally, Jesus tells us to “love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!” (Matthew 5:44) I cannot change the hearts of cruel people. I believe God can change their hearts, but more importantly, the Almighty can change my heart. “I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.” (Ezekiel 36:26) A heart of flesh is a heart that can love.

So, remember the marvels God has done. The Almighty “is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8) This means the Lord will do similar things for us that God has done for people in the past. Focus, therefore, on the love, hope, and strength our Savior offers to us. Turn your complaints into prayers, then sit back and watch the wonders the Almighty will do. God still works miracles, the greatest miracle being “the peace that surpasses all understanding.” (Philippians 4:6) May your heart be changed, so you may know true peace.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Lee

## Healing Prayers September 4<sup>th</sup>



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.

## Parish Office Closed



The office will be closed on Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day.

## 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.

## Pantry Cleaning



A big thank you to who cleaned out and reorganized the kitchen pantry. It was on a personal "to do list" for the Senior Warden and she appreciates the volunteer (s) that did the daunting task. It looks beautiful! Coffee Hour and future events will run smoothly now that every item has its place.

## Coffee Hour



### Fellowship

We are hoping to resume coffee hour on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Laurie Furney has volunteered to help each week but we need other volunteers to make this fellowship happen. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church if you would like to volunteer.

## Happy Grandparent's Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>



To our parishioners who have the distinct pleasure of being a grandparent, Happy Grandparent's Day! Whether you have grandchildren, grand pets or are a Grandparent figure in someone's life, may you enjoy this special day.

## Happy Birthday



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

Bonne Simonian  
Donald Morrow  
Gene Toro  
Gerri Fox  
Jason Pari  
Joyce Budlong  
Karen Thornton  
Kristy Marble  
Laurie Furney  
Michelle Gilbert  
Nolan Hinz  
Paisley Harding  
Patricia Loftus  
Richard Riley  
Savannah Lee  
Scott Simonian  
Wayne Pollard

Heidi Seddon  
Peter Furney  
Stephanie VanPatten  
Leonard Johnson  
Ronald Bonenfant  
Michael Spearman  
Jenna Mixner  
Stephanie Riley-Schafer  
Mike Marsh  
Shirley Bettencourt  
Joseph Angell  
Kyle Wheeler  
Iris Rogers  
Bart Boss  
Jessica Mixner  
Mark Menzies  
David Perkins-Hagen

## 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. Contact the office for her contact information.

## 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!!!***

## Holiday Bazaar



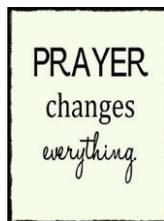
Thanks to all who attended this year's Bazaar initial organizational meeting. We were able to generate some great ideas for raffle items! As there were many who could not attend the meeting, and we still have a lot of need, a second meeting will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 service. While we have many seasoned bazaar volunteers, we do need many more hands to supplement. The bazaar is our major fundraiser of the year, so please lend your support and come to the next meeting. Any questions, comments or new ideas, please email or call me. Emily (If you are in need of Emily's contact information, please call Robin in the office.)

## WestBay Community Action



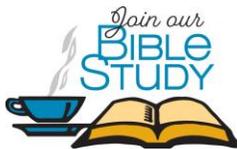
Thank you to those who continue to donate to the Food Bank during these difficult times. They are much appreciated and help local residents in need. You can bring them to church on Sunday mornings; there is a donation bin at the back of the church or to the parish office during office hours. Thank you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

## 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.

## Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



We will resume on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. Please join Fr. Scott for 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!

## Safe Church Training



Diocesan Safe Church Trainers will conduct this important training in-person for lay leaders and church staff on Saturday, October 1st at St. Barnabas in Warwick with from 9am to 12:30pm. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Universal training is required for church employees, volunteers working with youth, home visitors and church leaders including vestry members, volunteer program leaders and Altar Guild. Certification of training shall be renewed every three years.

## Mark your Calendars!

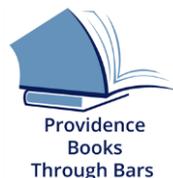


On Saturday, October 15, 2022 we will hold the 2nd Annual No More Hunger Walk to call attention to food insecurity in our community and support local food pantries. This event coincides with World Food Day which occurs on October 16th every year.

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. Gerri Fox will be the coordinator for St. Barnabas. If you have questions and if you would like to walk, please contact the office for her contact information. Here's hoping for a strong showing from our parish!

## Books through Bars



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 is a box in the back of the church and there is also a table downstairs marked book donations in the large room as well as donation receipts which you can pick up if you need one.

## Stewardship Reminder from the Junior Warden



This is a friendly reminder regarding next year's pledges. Although we are still in the summer season, fall and winter are not far away.

Please remember that as this year starts to draw to an end, St. Barnabas will begin to send reminders about your pledges for 2023. I ask that you begin to think about your participation now and what you can do to help your community.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me @ 401-569-2477 or email me @ [dolbus@dolbashianlaw.com](mailto:dolbus@dolbashianlaw.com).

Thank you, David Dolbashian.



### Sanctuary Lamp Restoration

Candles have long been used in Christian worship. The most obvious candle, the Sanctuary Lamp, hangs near the tabernacle and is kept ever-burning to mark the presence of the Reserved Sacrament. It is only extinguished when the Sacrament is removed, from Maundy Thursday to the Easter Vigil.

Our Lamp has stood the test of time since 1926 and is showing a lot of wear and tear. It is in need of refurbishing on multiple fronts: the decorative chains, worn finishes, minor bent areas and ease in raising and lowering it.

Plans are underway to begin this restoration project through Tally's Religious Gifts and Church Supply. Tally's uses several vendors for this kind of ornate work. The total cost will be \$2900.00 and will take up to 6 months to complete the detailed work. There will be a temporary light in place during this period of time.

If you would like to contribute to this restoration project in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for a special occasion, donations will be most welcomed.

More information is at the back of the church with specially marked envelopes, or contact Robin for more information.

### Calling All Singers!



Choir rehearsals will resume Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the early service and going until 9:45 am. This will be our regular rehearsal time each week unless otherwise indicated. Are you a regular choir member? Welcome back! Do you think God is calling you to be a part of the music ministry at St. Barnabas? Here is an opportunity to sing to the Lord and enjoy the fellowship of other like-minded members. See you September 18<sup>th</sup>! Any questions please speak to David after services on Sundays.

## 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.

## Holy Baptisms



Congratulations to Logan Hayes Buonanno who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism here at St. Barnabas on August 14<sup>th</sup>.



## Heather's Highlights

As the unofficial end of summer approaches, I hope everyone has made wonderful memories during this summer of 2022.

First I would like to say WELCOME!!! St. Barnabas has been blessed with several new parishioners this summer and we are happy to have you! St. Barnabas also extends our well wishes and thoughts to our parishioners whom aren't comfortable yet returning to in-person services. We miss you and hope you are doing well.

I would like to say Thank You to Gail Frueh, Marilyn Davis, Gerri Fox, Ronald Bonefant and Richard Budlong for organizing the St. Mary's Day Potluck celebration, it was a great success! To everyone that contributed sandwiches, salads, and desserts; everything was delicious! To the clean-up volunteers as well, we appreciate your help. And of course... thank you to all who attended. We hope you enjoyed yourselves.

As the new school year begins, St. Barnabas would like to wish all students and teachers in our congregation; along with their families, a successful and safe school year. Thank you to those who participated in the Blessing of Backpacks as well.

Thank you to Rev. Noel Bailey for presiding while Fr. Scott and his family were away. We appreciate your time and visiting with us.

Save the date!!...our Holiday Bazaar has returned and will be held Nov. 19th! If you would like to be a volunteer or like more information, please reach out to Emily McMahon 401-499-9994 or EHopeS88@gmail.com.

Regarding volunteers, we are always looking for parishioner help. If your ministry is gardening, musical, hospitality, or if you wish to be an acolyte, reader, or usher; feel free to discuss with either Fr. Scott or myself. Of course, assistance or training would be provided in any ministry. Enjoy the last few days of summer and the new school year. If anyone has any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Thank-you,  
Heather Rodrigues  
Sr, Warden