

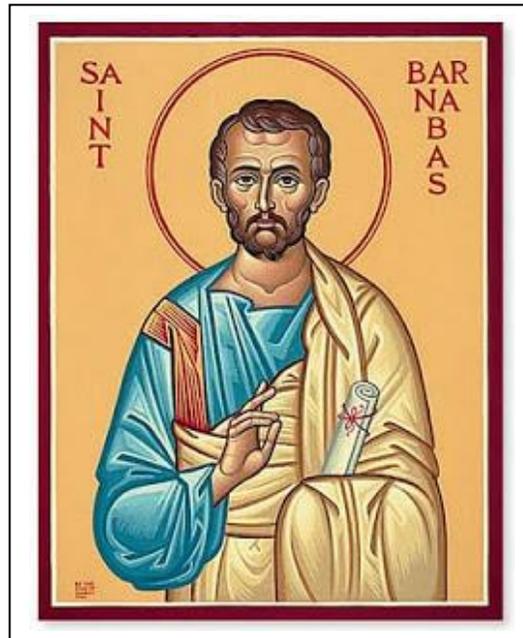
The Encourager

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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October 2022



Some FatherLee thoughts:

“The Lord being merciful to (Lot), and (the angels) brought him out and left him outside the city . . . they said, “Flee for your life; do not look back or stop anywhere . . . But Lot’s wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.” (from Genesis 19:16-26)

It can be really hard to understand what is going on in the book of Genesis. I believe we struggle with it because we read Genesis looking to address 21st century issues, and we place modern day values on people who were primitive and violent. Basically, we try to make the stories say something they were never intended to say instead of simply letting God teach us through them. And, the Almighty does speak through those ancient stories.

What I appreciate most about Genesis is the lack of certainty among the people of faith. Abraham, for example, found favor with God just by showing hospitality. That’s it. There were no magical words recited from a holy book. Abraham simply demonstrated basic human kindness. Then, when tested, Abraham was seen as faithful. God’s response was a promise, “I will certainly bless you. I will make the children born into your family as many as the stars in the sky. I will make them as many as the grains of sand on the seashore.” (Genesis 22:17) Abraham continued to be faithful with only that vague promise.

One thing to remember when reading Genesis is: Those people lived the same volatile world that surrounds us. There were, of course, violent humans doing terrible things, but there were also volcanoes and earthquakes and hurricanes and tidal waves. They, however, did not have 3-D radar, seismographs, and thousands of years of learning. Therefore, they explained a natural disaster by concluding “the Lord rained down fire and burning sulfur from the sky.” (Genesis 19:24) They understood that every calamity was judgement and punishment from God because, let’s face it, some people are cruel and need to be punished.

And, since Lot was spared from catastrophic death from what I would suggest was a volcanic eruption, much like Pompeii, he believed his survival was the result of the Lord being merciful. “Flee!” Lot is told. “Run and don’t look back . . . But Lot’s wife looked back.” And, because she looked back, she became a pillar of salt.

Most people get stuck on the salt. Did she become a rock formation? Did she evaporate? What's with the salt? Personally, I don't think salt is where our attention should be focused. We should probably take a moment to contemplate the significance of "looking back". People can't move forward if they're constantly looking back.

I encourage you to pay close attention to your conversations. People seem to spend most of their time talking about the pandemic, which is largely behind us. We are constantly reflecting back at this or that. Perhaps, this is the only way to process because we have all been through a traumatic experience, and we need to decompress. That can be very helpful. There is a point, however, when reminiscing prevents us from moving on. Is the past keeping us from the future?

For Lot's wife, she shifted her attention from the hope of the life that lay ahead, and she concentrated on the death and destruction that should have stayed behind her. One realization that came to me recently is that I have been making the same mistake in some ways. I have spent energy lamenting what was, like Lot's wife, instead of being faithful to the simple promises of God, the way Father Abraham modeled. Am I the only one making that mistake?

We are given an invitation by Jesus, "Come. Follow Me." (Matthew 4:19) In this scenario, notice that Christ is ahead of us, leading a way forward. There is an acknowledgment that God was with us in the past, but in this present movement we are going from the past into the future. God leads towards a hope-filled tomorrow, and every step we take is surrounded by the love of our Savior and the love shared among all who faithfully follow. May the Almighty set you free from the pain and fear of the past, so you can enjoy this present moment and move into a promising future.

Faithfully,
Fr. Lee

Healing Prayers October 2nd



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.

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.

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 from 9am to 12:30pm. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Training is required for church employees and volunteers, training shall be renewed every three years. Call Robin in the Parish Office if you would like to register.

Coffee Hour



Coffee hour has resumed! Laurie Furney has volunteered to help each week but we need other volunteers to have this fellowship continue. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church if you would like to volunteer.

Happy Birthday



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

Alexa Page
Gabiella Bracken
Heather Rodrigues
Henry Walker
Kerri Hinz
Laura Drew
Lisa Godfrey-Maio

Bill Williams
Arnold (Nick) Butziger
Jeremy Seddon
Edwin Fielder
Richard Budlong
Corrine Berry
Margaret Andersen

Wendy Norris
Shawn Pratt
Brooke Mitchell
Sandra Fletcher
Christopher Seddon
Nicole Nickerson

Have You Ever Wanted to Visit Israel



Sam, from Bethlehem Art Works, is able to arrange a 10 day trip for 10 or more next summer or fall, for St. Mark's & St. Barnabas. There is a sign-up sheet on the table if you are interested. There is NO commitment yet – we just need to know who may be interested. Cost would be approx. \$4,000-\$5,000.



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 her. Please contact Robin in the parish office for Gerri's contact information.

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.

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!!!**

Calling All Singers!



Choir rehearsals have resumed! It will take place immediately following the early service and going until 9:45 am. This will be our regular rehearsal time each week unless otherwise indicated.

Any questions, or if you would like to join the choir, please speak to David after services on Sundays.

Holiday Bazaar



Our Holiday bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 19th from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Thank you to all who attended this year's Bazaar organizational meetings. We were able to generate some great ideas for raffle items! 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 on October 16th after the 10:00 a.m. service. Any questions, comments or new ideas, please email or call 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



Each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. there will be a Rite I Eucharist in the Guild Room immediately followed by a Bible study. At 6:30 p.m. we will watch the series "The Chosen", which is a unique presentation of the life and ministry of Jesus. Each episode is 30 minutes, with a discussion immediately after.



Heather's Highlights

"Hello & welcome to fall!

We have a few exciting happenings as the season is changing.

It has been wonderful seeing everyone return since Covid began. Along with our newer parishioners, we are blessed and grateful to see you all each week.

Sanctuary Lamp Restoration plans are starting. The entire lamp has been removed and the process takes about 6 months (A temporary light is in place next to the Bishop's chair during this time) If you wish to donate to the refurbishing fund, envelopes are located on the back table in the church.

Coffee Hour has returned. Volunteers are always needed...from setting up, to baking, and cleaning up. If you are able to serve in this ministry, please see Laurie Furney.

Choir rehearsals have started. They are held Sunday mornings, starting after the 8am service until 9:45am. Anyone is welcome to join, no matter your musical background.

SAVE THE DATE! Our Annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for November 19th. Donations for the Penny Social table and bakers for the Bake Table are being gladly accepted. White Elephant table items may be brought in and placed in the second Sunday school classroom starting the middle of October. Helpers for the bazaar are always welcomed...from set up, day of, and clean up. Any **questions** please see Fr. Scott or Emily McMahon.

We hope all Grandparents & Grandparent-figures enjoyed their special day.

Finishing touches are being made for our new website. More information will be coming when it is finalized and "live". Thank you to our Jr. Warden for taking on this update. Several repairs have been made in church to aid in maintenance, and more in the near future are planned.

The month of October has many dates and events our parishioners should be aware of, here they are:

October 1st, from 9am-12:30pm, Safe Church training will be held in Schweitzer Hall. Anyone who works or volunteers at church is encouraged to attend. Please contact Robin to register.

October 2nd, a Blessings of the Animals service will be held in Dorothy Mayor Park (if inclement weather, meet in Schweitzer Hall) at 5pm. All animals are invited with their parents for a blessing.

October 9th is Clergy Day! Make sure to say an extra prayer of Thanksgiving for Fr. Scott being in our lives and leading us in our life journey.

October 15th, the Second Annual No More Hunger Walk is being held, starting at St. Mark's church at 9am. If you wish to donate or walk, or would like more information, please see Gerri Fox, the walk coordinator for St. Barnabas.

October 16th, a meeting for the holiday bazaar "mailings" will be held after the 10am service in the Guild room. Volunteers are welcomed!

As the holidays approach and 2022 starts to wind down, we are reminded how blessed we are to be a part of a welcoming community here at St. Barnabas. I urge you all to discover a ministry that calls to you, introduce yourself to a parishioner you haven't met yet, and know we are grateful to have you in our lives. Any questions you are welcome to contact me.

Thank you, Heather Rodrigues, Sr. Warden

ALL SAINTS DAY
SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES

Please print the names of loved ones whom you would like remembered in the All Saints' Day Bulletin (November 6th). Please make special note of those who have died in the past year, so we can remember them by name during the Holy Eucharist.

Please submit names no later than Monday, October 31st.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

O God, we praise and magnify thy Holy Name for all thy servants who have finished their course in thy faith and fear; for the blessed Virgin Mary; for the holy patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs; and for all thy other righteous servants, known to us an unknown; and we beseech thee that, encouraged by their examples, aided by their prayers, and strengthened by their fellowship, we also may be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Parish Office Closed



The office will be closed on Monday, October 10th, in observance of Columbus Day.

Sanctuary Lamp Restoration Fund

The restoration of our Sanctuary Lamp has begun!

During this work, we will be using the sanctuary lamp base that once hung in St. Mary's Church, Warwick Neck, placed on a newly built shelf created by Fr. Scott. If you would like to contribute to this restoration project in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a special occasion, donations would be most welcome. The total project cost is \$2900.00 and will take up to six months to complete.

Kindly complete and place the form, with your donation, in the envelope provided to be a part of this enduring restoration.

Given by: _____ Pledge# _____

Address _____

In Memory _____

In Thanksgiving _____

