

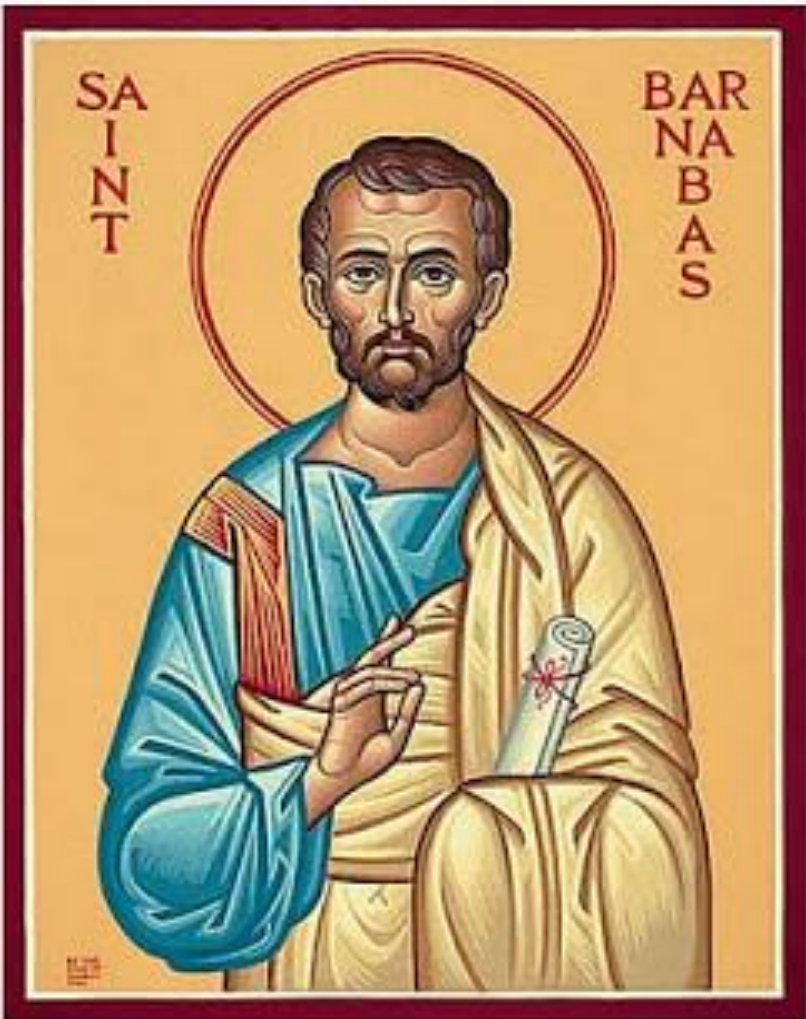
The Encourager

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

November 2024



Some FatherLee thoughts:

Then there came a voice to him that said,

“What are you doing here, Elijah?”” (1 Kings 19:13)

It is fascinating is how many times we encounter an important phrase in Scripture, “The Word of the Lord came, saying . . .” What made the prophets unique is that they could discern between the voice of the Lord from the noise of the world and the normal thoughts in their head.

We see this play out in Elijah, arguably the most notable of all the prophets who hears the voice of God and chooses to follow those instructions with one notable exception. 1 Kings 18:40 tell us that, “Elijah said to the people, ‘Seize the (false) prophets . . .’ They seized them, and Elijah killed them.”

I’ll leave it to you to decide if the Almighty, who commands us to not kill, told Elijah to kill anyone who doesn’t agree with him, or if the prophet just used the Lord to justify his own actions. The important thing is for us to ask ourselves: Am I listening for the voice of the God? Or, I am wanting to use the Lord to justify my opinions and my actions?

To get to the main point, after that deadly episode, the Lord came to Elijah, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” The prophet responds, in what sounds almost like a confession, “I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts.”

The Word said, “Go and stand on the mountain; the Lord is about to pass by.” In this instruction, it’s again clear that it is the voice of God instructing the prophet. Elijah, being faithful, goes to listen.

Suddenly, there is a great wind. It was so strong that it split the mountains and beat rocks to pieces, but the Lord was not in the wind. Then there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. Then a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. How often do we look for God in disasters? Is that where we will find God?

After the fire, there was the sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he covered his head and went to the entrance of the cave. Using the same exact words, the voice of God asked, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" Responding the same way, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts." Then the Lord said, "Go! Return on your way." But, what changed?

I'm convinced that something changed in this experience: Elijah's heart. The prophet experienced the very presence of God who is revealed not in calamity and destruction, but in the sound of sheer silence.

How much silence do you allow in your typical day? Most people always seem to have a screen on, and noise fills the space. We distract ourselves so much that we don't even allow the Almighty to be revealed to us. That's because most of us hate silence, don't we?

Silence is where we come face to face with ourselves, and I don't always like who I am.

The important thing to remember is that we don't face ourselves alone in that mirror. The Almighty stands beside us when we look in the mirror of ourselves in silence. "You are my beloved child," the Lord speaks to our reflection. "I created you. You are beautifully and wonderfully made. I have redeemed you. I love you!" declares Almighty God.

Once we see ourselves in that mirror, then we can hear the Lord say to us, "Go, return on your way." In other words, "Go back to your life, but return changed by the assurance of God found in the silence."

Faithfully, Fr. Scott Lee

P.S. The election will be over soon. We may like or dislike the outcome, but our lives will actually change little. Our lives can change for the better, however, if we take time away from all the noise and listen for God, who says, "Peace be with you!"

Deacon's Greetings

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. (Matthew 18:21-22)

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)

In August, as part of my continuing education for this year, I visited the Adelynrood Retreat & Conference Center in Byfield, MA for a personal weekend retreat. During my stay I shared meals and the daily cycle of prayer with members of The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, a community of vowed lay and ordained women called to a life of prayer, thanksgiving and simplicity.

The retreat center is situated in the woods, similarly to ECC, and includes the *Stations of Creation* described as "a meditative walk through the Adelynrood grounds, providing an opportunity for quiet reflection, renewal, and recreation in our gardens and natural settings."

Station 1 is the Portal Steps and St. Francis, which is a statue of St. Francis in a natural shaded ledge garden next to a staircase of large rock steps leading up to the entrance. Station 2 is the Pollinator Garden with beautiful tall flowers and milkweed for the monarch butterflies. Station 3 is the Cloister Garden with Japanese-style planting along the path at the side of the chapel. I enjoyed finding each station and stopping at them for reflection. However, the station I stayed with the longest was Station 4 - the Garden of Forgiveness. Built in loving memory of a Companion, it's described as a place of prayer and reconciliation where "the fountain and its sound of Living Water call us to forgiveness."

The Garden of Forgiveness has a stone fountain with a round basin as its focus. Two sets of half-circle curved benches face each other with an open center to walk through. The station's design of simple clean lines invites contemplation, and the sound of water flowing in the fountain mingles with birdsong. I imagined sitting on the benches with those I struggle to forgive - both those who are alive now and those who have died.

My prayer became a pattern of sitting on a bench to pray and consider those who I'm not yet able to forgive, then getting up to run my fingers under the water.

It takes a lot of strength to forgive. Sometimes it's an ongoing process. I know that it takes a lot of strength because I often feel like I don't have enough. My prayer has often been: "God, I have a mustard seed-sized portion of *wanting* to forgive, yet I struggle to let go of the hurt. I keep licking the same wounds and pulling my grief around me like a blanket. Yet I want to forgive. Can you work with that?"

Forgiveness is difficult, in part, because it involves working through the grief of relationships changed or ended, grief of what was and is no longer or of what could have been, and grief over the things we've done and left undone as well as the things done to us by others, or things they've left forever not done.

Forgiveness is certainly not the work of weakness. It requires us to do the hard work of remaining in in relationship with someone (as long as it's safe to do so) and open ourselves to God's transforming grace as we communicate honestly and firmly and compassionately with someone who has grieved us and may or may not even be sorry.

Author and fellow Episcopalian Madeleine L'Engle wrote about her own struggles with forgiveness. She writes that in her own life she has found that it's "salutary to bless six people I don't like much every morning before breakfast. If we can do that, remembering that the person in the world who has done us the most harm can be forgiven by God, just as we are, then we have begun the long road to forgiveness."

I encourage you to join me in this practice of praying for such people in your life each morning - whether it's one person, or six, or ten. Pray that God will bless and forgive them, and that we might be able, someday, to forgive them too. Whether seven or seventy-seven times. As many times as it takes. May doing so bring us peace, as we draw closer to our God whose forgiveness knows no limits.

God's Peace,
Andrea

Dave's Details

Notes from the Senior Warden / November 2024

Greetings all.

For the last four years now, it has been a pleasure for me to have an opportunity to stand up in our spiritual home and address all of you as members of my church family. As is my tradition in fall, my discussion focuses on what we all can do financially to move St. Barnabas forward into the next year. Stewardship and pledging are subjects that always make many uncomfortable, and understandably so. Discussions of money, of accountability for funds in a setting such as a Church have traditionally been subjects that people avoided discussing because they were thought to be crass, embarrassing, and not in the spirit of worship.

The frank reality is different. We do need to discuss it. Every January we have our annual meeting, and we present a budget of what we believe we would need to spend to maintain, if not to improve the building, and our community. That budget is immensely dependent on what this Church collectively is willing to pledge. The Vestry cannot submit such a budget in good conscience without having a firm understanding of what we know is pledged for the upcoming year. It is crucial that we have your help now in pledging so we can appropriately assess what is needed for next year's finances.

This is not an appeal to guilt you, nor is it my intent to berate. Quite the opposite, in fact. I am fully aware that we are constantly asked to give more and more in all aspects of life these days. However, this institution gives us a spiritual return that is immeasurable and that does not have an actual price tag. Not only is St. Barnabas our way to connect with God through Jesus, it allows us a way to connect to each other, and to give us collectively a way to help and assist those who we may not know or ever meet. Christ reminds who are neighbor may be; Anyone in need. Your pledge and donation enables us to collectively affect change, be it on a large scale, but also just as importantly, on a scale of one.

The act of pledging should never be seen as drudgery or a morose obligation. It is a vehicle for you to touch the lives of your friends, your church family, those who may come here in the future and those who are in the most desperate of situations. What is more Christian than that action? Is it not to serve as a catalyst of helping your fellow human being? It is in that spirit that I ask for your pledge.

You should have received a letter in the mail with a pledge slip. We would need them back prior to the November Vestry meeting so we can accurately address the 2025 budget. Those can be mailed or dropped into the collection plates on Sunday. For those of you who currently pledge, I thank you. I am going to ask to see if you can raise that pledge ever so slightly, to keep up with the times and costs we have. For those who need to draw back, we understand, and I would encourage you to keep active in a volunteer spirit to stay connected. For those who donate weekly by dropping cash into the collection plate every Sunday, I again say thank you. If you could solidify that effort into something that helps us plan for the future by committing to a pledge, so much the better. Lastly, for those who have not pledged in the past, and would like to and just are not sure what this is all about, please feel free to talk to me or Stan Schofield, our Treasurer. I am sure the rewards will do your soul a dose of good.

Thank you and God Bless,
David M. Dolbashian, Esq., Senior Warden,
St. Barnabas Episcopal, Warwick, RI

Daylight Savings, November 3rd



Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2nd.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Saturday, November 23, 2024
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Plans are coming along nicely for this year's Christmas Bazaar. This is our church's major fundraiser, and once again we're counting on the support of all of our parishioners to make it a success in 2024. This year, we're introducing a few new ideas too!

NEW: MYSTERY GRAB BAGS: We're looking for inexpensive new items valued at approximately \$5-\$10 to fill our mystery grab bags. We have volunteers who will wrap these items and note the appropriate age and gender of who the mystery gift might be appropriate for. You can bring your new, unwrapped item to church with you, and I'll make sure it gets into the right hands.

NEW: GIFT BASKETS: This year we're going to *sell* pre-made gift baskets. Would you consider making one? You can fill it with whatever you'd like. Perhaps it will be a theme basket or a snack basket or perhaps a holiday basket. Please note that these gift baskets will be sold for \$20 or less, so please keep that in mind when you're filling your basket.

PENNY SOCIAL: Please remember this table while you're out shopping for things like decorative items for the home, small appliances, electronics, dolls, children's toys, sports equipment, candles, holiday decorations, etc. New, unused items are a welcome donation for this table!

BAKED GOODS: Now is the time to start thinking about your favorite sweet treats! This table typically offers cakes, pies, cookies, fudge and even dog treats! All baked goods should be dropped off on either Thursday or Friday night during set-up or first thing Saturday morning.

CRAFTS: Are you creative? Do you enjoy making crafts? The Crafts Table accepts all hand-made craft items.

CHRISTIAN ITEMS: We also offer Christian items such as books, cards, crosses, medals, pendants and more. If you'd like to donate new, unused Christian items, we'd welcome your donation.

ATTIC TREASURES: It's time to tackle that Fall cleaning, but don't just throw everything away! Please consider donating your old but still good items to the Attic Treasures Room. As they say, "one man's junk, is another man's treasure." Items can be dropped off prior to the date of the bazaar.

SET UP/CLEAN UP: We are looking for at least three more sets of helping hands. Set-up is on Thursday & Friday night, November 21 and 22, and clean-up begins at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 23. The more volunteers we have, the easier it is for everyone, plus we have a bit of fun too! If you can help during any of these times, please let me know.

In addition to all of the above, there are some costs associated with the bazaar start-up. If you'd like to donate, any monetary donation will be gratefully appreciated.

Please remember to indicate on all of your donations which table you are donating to.

Please reach out to me with any questions, comments or new ideas. I'd love to hear from you.

Thank you,

Heidi Seddon
HJSeddon@GMail.com
401.241.1983

**Sponsor a Spot in the
Booster / Ad Booklet**

This is your opportunity to show your support by sponsoring a booster line, or by sponsoring a ¼ page, ½ page, ¾ page or full-page ad in the Bazaar Booklet. This is a great way to give a shout-out for best wishes for a successful bazaar, to remember a loved one, to sponsor a spiritual message or to promote your own business. Prices are as follows:

SINGLE LINE BOOSTER = \$10 each

¼ PAGE = \$30

½ PAGE = \$60

¾ PAGE = \$90

FULL PAGE = \$120

Please indicate below the exact wording you'd like printed in the booklet or provide us with a copy of your ad, business card or company logo.

Your name

Telephone _____ **Pledge No.** _____

Amount Enclosed _____

In payment of: Booster _____ ¼ page _____
 ½ page _____ full page _____

Please talk to Jim Turner with any questions.

Note: Booklet Sponsorships will be accepted through November 17th

Bazaar Raffle Tickets



If you want/need more raffle tickets, there are extra in the office. Give Robin a call and she can get them ready for you to pick up.

St. Barnabas Church has moved to YouTube!



We have moved our weekly services to YouTube. Please visit the link below to watch our first video featuring Fr. Scott and be sure to subscribe. <https://youtu.be/tUOnRWfSo8s> The plan is that you will be able to watch us live on YouTube or our website. After worship, the video will be shared back to Facebook, so it will be available after the fact on all three platforms. Thank you for your patience during this transition and for regularly joining us both in person and online.

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.

Healing Prayers November 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. Scott greets those leaving church he will join you as we pray for ourselves and those in need.

Vestry Members for 2025



'Vestry' is defined as a meeting of parishioners conducting parochial business for the better of the church. St. Barnabas is looking for new Vestry members beginning in 2025. A Vestry term is for two years. There are several openings, as well as guidelines to be a member. Becoming member at Large requirements are as follows:

1. You must be baptized in the Episcopal church
2. 18 yrs. or older,
3. Attend regularly
4. A pledging member in good standing
5. Be available via email or online for Zoom meetings

If you wish to volunteer to join, please see Fr. Scott, Sr. Warden, David Dolbashian, or Junior Warden Jo Taylor.

Happy Birthday



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

Andrea Hutnak	James Drew
David Dolbashian	Parker DelSesto
David McIntyre	Sarah Nicholson-Conde
Deirdra Patterson	Mike Patterson
James Mixner	Janelle Mixner
Marilyn Davis	John Mixner
Marilyn Varden	Lee Whitaker
Maurice Antaya	

Thanksgiving Food Drive



During this holiday season, St. Barnabas Church is committed to helping our local community by feeding those who might otherwise go hungry. We're continuing to partner with The House of Hope with a goal toward providing Thanksgiving meals to 21 Warwick families.

There are many ways that you can give. Your donation, no matter how large or small, will make a difference in the lives of these families. This year, we're collecting food items for Thanksgiving meals along with gift cards to local supermarkets. Following is a list of suggested food items, or you can also make a monetary donation that we'll use to buy any needed additional food items once all collections are in. Please be sure to clearly note on your gift cards or check "*Thanksgiving Food Drive.*" We will be collecting donations throughout the month of November until the 24th (Sunday before Thanksgiving).

Donations can be brought to church on Sunday mornings; you can also drop your donation off during office hours (M-F | 9 a.m. – noon); or you can send your check and/or gift card(s) by mail.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanksgiving Blessings to you and your family,

Heidi Seddon

HJSeddon@GMail.com

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TURKEYS

10-12 lb. bird – All turkeys have already been sponsored!!

NON-PERISHABLES

- Canned vegetables
- Instant potatoes
- Candied yams
- Biscuit mix or corn bread mix
- Cranberry sauce
- Gravy (jar or mix)
- Stuffing mix
- Canned fruit
- Dessert: Pudding and/or Jello, cookie mix, cake and/or brownie mix

FRESH PRODUCE (last Sunday only, November 24)

- Potatoes
- Onions
- Carrots
- Celery
- Squash
- Turnip

EXTRAS

- Plastic wrap
- Aluminum Foil
- Holiday Paper Plates, Napkins, etc.

SUPERMARKET GIFT CARDS

- \$20 denomination



Veterans Day



Thank you to our Veterans and their families in the congregation for your service and sacrifices. We also remember our fallen veterans that made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedom. Your service, sacrifice, and dedication to the United States of America do not go un-noticed. Thank you and God Bless You!

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. Her email is klara777@aol.com

Morning Prayer



On Tuesday 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.

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.

Mid-week Eucharist & Bible Study



On Wednesday's 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!

Daughters of the King



The Daughters of Hope want to thank the members of St Barnabas for the generous donations of personal care items donated to the Aubin Center of Hasbro Children's Hospital. The case managers of the Aubin Center are beyond thankful for the love and care our membership has shown. Between monetary donations and garments/toiletries, we provided a huge amount of goods to be shared (filled up the entire back of an SUV!). These items are for the use for children in transitions from their homes to foster care. What can be a difficult time, can be eased by providing these children with clean and new items.

Daughters of the King



St. Barnabas Church is blessed to be the home of the (DoK) Daughter's of the King chapter in Rhode Island. Daughters of the King is a holy order whose mission is the extension of Christ's kingdom through prayer, service and evangelism. Daughters meet at 7 pm on the first Tuesday of each month in the Guild Room. If you think Daughters of the King is something that calls to you, then come curious with an open heart and we'll explore where the Spirit may lead. If you have any questions, please reach out to Fr. Scott who can put you in contact with the Daughters. For more information on the Order, you can visit www.doknotional.org

Ashley Lee
Daughters of the King, Member at Large
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Happy Thanksgiving



The office will be closed on Thursday, November 28th and Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving, but don't forget the Thanksgiving service at 10:00 am.

Annual Tree Lighting



On Sunday, December 1st @ 4:00 p.m. we will be having our annual Advent Tree Lighting Service in Dorothy Mayer Park. We are inviting our neighboring parish Warwick Central Baptist to join us during the outdoor service. After the lighting, Warwick Central Baptist is inviting us back to their parish for refreshments, pizza and Advent wreath making. An attendance sheet will be on the back table, please let us know how many. This will ensure enough wreaths and food will be available as we join Warwick Central Baptist.

Grief Group



We will be offering a study of the Book of Lamentations, and are looking at forming a grief support group, possibly meeting every other week. The plan is to begin in November and meet through the holiday season, which can be a particularly difficult time. If there is significant interest for a different day/time, please let Fr. Scott know. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church, if you are interested, please put your name and check the evenings that would work best for you.

Food Donations



With the winter and holiday months coming, please continue to bring in your nonperishable items. Hunger is on the rise, and more and more are turning to our local food bank for help. We thank all of you for your continued support. There is a donation bin at the back of the church, or you may drop them off to the parish office during office hours. Thank you to Richard Carr who has volunteered to bring the donations to Westbay Community Action.

Learn & Lead Event - November 9, 2024



The word “evangelism” is emotionally fraught in some Episcopal circles. Outside the physical walls of a church, many Episcopalians find it awkward to speak openly about their faith. Yet, the resurrected Jesus told the apostles to “go forth and make disciples of all nations.” For the nine years the Most Rev. Michael B. Curry has served as presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, evangelism has been one of his three top priorities (the others being racial reconciliation and creation care).

A fresh perspective on evangelism will be on offer at the diocese’s next Learn & Lead event, taking place at St. John’s, Barrington, beginning at 9:00 a.m. on November 9. Titled “Evangelism & Church Growth,” the daylong program will feature keynote remarks by the Rev. Dr. Hillary D. Raining, a Pennsylvania priest who is widely known as founder of The Hive, an extensive online Episcopal resource for spirituality and wellness.

<https://onrealm.org/EpiscopalRI/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=YjBjZGZiMwYtN2I0MS00NTA2LTk2NTQtYjFINjAxNDY1MmYy>



Bell Choir

If any person is interested in joining/participating in the "Bell Choir" for this coming Christmas / Easter 2025 please speak with Mr. Twaun Doyle, the music department would like to start practice soon. Please contact Twaun at 401-952-5110, or via email Twaun_Doyle@yahoo.com.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

A decorative illustration of golden wheat stalks with long, flowing awns, positioned below the title.

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.