



The Saint Barnabas Connection

Happy Easter!
Spring 2013

The Newsletter of Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Episcopal Church
13 West Bates Avenue, Villas, New Jersey 08251
609-886-5960 ~ www.SaintBarnabasVillas.org



From Pastor Lisa

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

Easter is ushered in with the proclamation “Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!” We make this acclamation without any physical proof of the miracle or without having been at the entrance to the empty tomb. So how do we know this – what makes it so easy for us to accept the reality and glory of the resurrection? We know this – we believe this – because the faith that resides deep in our hearts and souls tells us it is true. There is a memory, a remembrance, of a love so great that it has the power to transform us at our very core.

We remember it because we relive it each week in the reading of the prayers as we celebrate the Eucharist together. We remember it because each Holy Week we relive the final days of Jesus’ life along with the disciples and the persons gathered along the road that led our Savior to fulfill his promise of salvation on the hilltop of Golgotha. Our muscles cringe at the thought of the scourging that disfigured Jesus’ flesh. Our hearts break with Mary as her Son is ridiculed, insulted and spit upon. We feel the weight of the cross on our backs as Simon is called upon to carry the cross for a man he may not have even known. We weep with the Daughters of Jerusalem as they cry out for the man who came to change the world and to love a

broken people. We are converted alongside the Roman soldier who came to the realization that Jesus was indeed the Son of God. We huddle in the darkness with the grief stricken disciples during the three days between the crucifixion and the resurrection when even the scriptures go silent. And eventually we rejoice with Mary Madgelene at the discovery that Jesus has indeed risen from the grave and lives among us.

The process of remembering and retelling the story is called anamnesis. Whenever the church gathers around the bread and wine she retells the story of God’s relationship with the world and relives the events of the Jesus and his disciples in those last days. The church gathers around the table and gives thanks for the gift of life – our own lives reborn in the death and resurrection of Christ. Through the process of anamnesis we become a community bound together across the generations by our common experience, through the love of God, and the eternal gift of the Holy Spirit.

So this Easter season, let us celebrate the gift of remembering and give thanks for God’s only Son who gave up his life so that we might have life.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,
Pastor Lisa+



From Maureen Kersch, Senior Warden

We started off 2013 with a little FUN!-draising. We held our annual penny party at the Villas Fire Hall. Many in the community joined us and we had a wonderful time selling everyone's slightly used treasures. Thank you to all who donated items and who volunteered and helped with the penny party. Next, our much-needed new parish hall kitchen stove and floor were christened on Shrove Tuesday with our annual pancake supper. Thirty people came to partake of a delicious dinner. Speaking of delicious dinners, all are welcome to come and enjoy our monthly "on the house" meals. On the last Thursday of each month from 4 to 6 PM, Saint Barnabas serves a hardy hot meal free of charge. (Love offerings are welcome.) Please bring your friends because all are invited.

Our weekly Yoga for the People is on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. This is a freewill-offering-based yoga class for all levels from beginner to advanced. We do this yoga by candlelight. It is very relaxing. Please come and join us. In addition, we had our first stress reducer Drum Circle on Thursday, March 14, at 6:30 PM. Twenty-four people participated. We had lots of fun. No special talent is required. We even have extra drums if you need one. Our Drum Circle meets at 6:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month.

Moving on, our next FUN!-draiser for 2013, our ham dinner, was on Saturday, March 16. Some 45 people joined us. Thank you, one and all, to all who generously offered a helping hand with this event.

Finally, there are some new signs out and about helping folks in our community get to know us better here at Saint Barnabas. Do you know where they are? Please let me know if you do!

Until next time,
Maureen



Young Voices

We asked some of our Sunday School children and teens what they did special for Lent. Here is what they said.

Chris stopped playing video games. Ava stopped watching the Disney Channel. Leo gave up playing with his toys and stopped eating candy too. Cheyenne stopped eating candy. Ashley cut back playing on her iPod, and she also practiced her dancing and flute more. Amanda made it a point to remember to take her vitamins. Kelly practiced her music for brass band, even though she does not like to. Xavier tried to be nicer to everyone. TJ worked on giving up candy. Ingrid did not play too much on her laptop. And Rebecca called it quits on candy!



"Read us the story about Pontius Pirate!"

Please Don't Forget

We gladly visit parishioners unable to join us for worship. Please contact the church office so that we may plan visits.

Also, a Federal Privacy Act (HIPPA) prohibits hospitals from notifying non-family members including clergy about patients. If you know of any Saint Barnabas parishioners who are hospitalized or if you know that you will be in the hospital, please contact the church office so that visits can be arranged. Thank you!

The Branches

Village Shoppes of Rio Grande
1304 Route 47 – Store A-H

Rio Grande, NJ 08242

(next to Saint Mary's This 'n That Thrift Shop)

The Branches is a combined effort by Saint Mary's Church, Stone Harbor, and Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Church, Villas, to bring the presence of our churches into yet another part of our county. Both churches believe that we have something special to share with everyone: the good news about our God who loves us and is calling us to share that love with one another. So, we chose to establish this storefront ministry through which we hope people will catch a glimpse of what God's love can do in our lives, of how that love can transform hearts, make us new again, and restore hope in ourselves and to our world. The Branches is a journey into God's love, and that journey best takes place in community, wherever two or three are gathered.

The Branches is in the Village Shoppes mall in Rio Grande at the intersection of Vermont Avenue and 2nd Street. Parking is available behind the Family Dollar Store just off of Routes 9 and 47. For more information about The Branches and events and activities held there, please visit www.TheBranchesRioGrande.org.



Bible Study at The Branches

Starting on Monday, April 22, from 6 to 7 PM at the Branches, and continuing on subsequent Monday evenings, Pastor Lisa will begin a new series, *The Other Scriptures: The Books that did not make it into The Bible*. *The Gospel of Thomas, The Gospel of Mary, The Gospel of Judas*, and other writings will be discussed. There is no charge. All are welcome.



Some Events at The Branches

SafeHaven

1st Sunday of each month – 7 PM

SafeHaven is a fellowship for gay Christians of all denominations, providing a safe and comfortable place for us to explore our experiences as people of faith in the LGBT community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender). Sometimes, we add Q for those who are questioning their sexuality. It can be difficult to live out one's faith in Jesus Christ when others who call themselves Christian reject you. For additional information, please contact Dick Webber at 609-886-5133.

South Jersey Legal Aid

1st Thursday of each month – 10 AM to 12 Noon
and 3rd Thursday of each month – 1 to 3 PM

Representatives provide free legal advice to low income residents of Cape May County.

South Jersey Mobile Food Pantry

2nd Friday of each month – 10 AM

The mobile food bank meets in the parking lot across from The Branches. Participants must be registered. Stop by The Branches to register. The mobile food pantry is open to residents of Rio Grande and surrounding towns. Distributions run from 10 AM to 12 Noon. The mobile pantry is provided by Community FoodBank of NJ/Southern Branch. Please contact Danielle Provenzano at 609-383-8843 extension 120 with any questions.

Movie Night

3rd Sunday of each month – 7 PM

A free movie night for teens and adults followed by discussion of the film. For additional information and for this month's movie selection, please contact Kevin at loftirish@hotmail.com.

From Leslie Flick, Treasurer

Please mark your calendars and join us for these upcoming events. Please invite your family and friends, too. Thank you for spreading the word!

- ❖ Turkey Dinner – April 20, Saturday
- ❖ Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet – May 11, Saturday
- ❖ Hoagie Sale – May 25, Saturday
- ❖ Father's Day Breakfast Buffet – June 15, Saturday
- ❖ Bazaar and Kids Fair – July 13, Saturday
- ❖ Breakfast Buffet – August 31, Saturday
- ❖ Spaghetti Dinner – September 21, Saturday

Dinners are from 4 to 6 PM. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children. Kids under 6 eat free. Takeout is available. Breakfasts are from 8 to 11 AM. Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children. Kids under 6 eat free. Takeout is available.

If you are able to lend a hand with any of these events, please let me know. I will be most grateful. Plus, we all have lots of fun!

Offerings for our building fund are always welcome and sincerely appreciated. Envelopes are in the pews. This fund helps us with major repairs. Many, many thanks!

Last but not least. Please bring your empty ink cartridges to church and drop them off in our office. We convert them into credit to offset the cost of office supplies. Thanks so very much!

Sincerely,
Leslie



"Actually, I'm not staying after service to pray... My knee is stuck in some bubble gum!"



The Paradoxical Commandments by Doctor Kent M. Keith

People are illogical, unreasonable, and self-centered. *Love them anyway.*

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. *Do good anyway.*

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. *Succeed anyway.*

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. *Do good anyway.*

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. *Be honest and frank anyway.*

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. *Think big anyway.*

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs. *Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. *Build anyway.*

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. *Help people anyway.*

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. *Give the world the best you have anyway.*

WELCOME!

New to Saint Barnabas? Interested in learning more about our church community? Then please visit us at SaintBarnabasVillas.org. We also invite you to worship with us on Sundays at 8 and 10 AM. Sunday School is at 10 AM too.

Take care. God bless. See you next issue.