



The Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Connection

Fall 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

As a child, or perhaps even now as an adult, have you ever squinted and stared at the clouds or the bark of a tree or the exposed grain of wood because you could see an object in the pattern? Perhaps it was an image of a fluffy bunny or an airplane the faint outline of an angel in the sky that drew you attention unexpectedly. Or maybe it was the hooded figure with the hooked nose and scowling face that looking back at you every time you caught you a glimpse of the giant oak tree when glanced over from the safety of your backyard swing.

What is it about these images that draw us in? What trick do they play on our minds that our eyes go from seeing an element in a nondescript landscape or object to then losing ourselves in a newly perceived hidden object? The neural sciences teach us that our brains tend to fill in the gaps in order to make sense of the world around us. If you look at a text with certain words omitted or with numbers replaced by numbers, our brains will make sense of it and in seconds we will be able to read through the paragraph.

But obviously pictures and words are not the same. So how does our mind make the leap

from visual chaos to order? We could identify a cloud and leave it at that but then patterns emerge from within and we start to organize and make sense of them. One person sees a rabbit and another sees a dragon. Our experiences and emotions - comfort, familiarity, and fear - enter into the equation and an image that speaks to our souls begins to emerge.

A few weeks ago I was standing at the altar as the offering was being brought forward. I looked down at the table that had just been set by Deacon Sue and caught an image lurking in the brightness of the chalice. It was actually the paten full of the hosts waiting to be consecrated that was being reflected back to me. But this familiar sight was not identifiable in the image. Instead what was I looking at was more like a black blob with a white center. But then my heart and soul began to speak with my head and the image transformed into what looked like a bright white light encased within a womb. I thought to myself what a perfect image this was being formed on the outside of this holy vessel because from within these two sacred symbols of our church was contained the greatest gift that God has ever given the us - the Light of the World manifest in the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. >>>

As we approach the coming of Lord incarnate in human form during the upcoming Advent season, I know that I will be looking at that reflection, as long as it is visible to me, in a different light. In those moments before the bread and wine are made holy and then given up to the world in the sacrament of the Eucharist, I have come to treasure that brief time as a period of transformation and reflection on what it means to have the fruit of Mary's womb offered as a sacrifice for the salvation of my soul. I invite you to ponder this sacred mystery each Sunday as well as we begin our journey in the anticipation and expectation of Advent as we await the coming of the Christ Child from the womb of the Blessed Virgin.



A Day to Rejoice!

On June 30:

- ❖ Kelly Joanna Henderson and Amber Michelle St. John were baptized.
- ❖ Robert Hunt, Amanda Chiaro, Kelly Henderson, and Ryan Hastings were confirmed.
- ❖ Susan Neely, Robin Schafer, and James Stevens were received into the Church.
- ❖ Barbara Southard and Jeanne Montis reaffirmed their baptismal vows.
- ❖ Pastor Lisa celebrated her two year anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Best wishes, everyone!



**Thank
You!**

From Maureen Kersch, Senior Warden

It has been a very busy summer here at Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay.

We started July with an exhibit at the "Whale of a Day" festival in Town Bank. We did this to tell people about Saint Barnabas Church. It went very well. Lots of old and new friends stopped by to visit us and our exhibit.

We had lots of fun with our summer Kids Fun Fair. The big hit attraction was the water balloon piñata. The kids enjoyed a free hotdog lunch while their parents enjoyed going through our indoor yard sale.

The highlight of my summer was camping on the beach in Wildwood with the "Take A Closer Walk "camp weekend. A small group of us from Saint Barnabas went camping on the Wildwood beach. It was a Christian youth group weekend. We had a wonderful time and plan on doing it again next summer.

The end of August brought us to the "Blessing of the Backpacks". We filled over 100 backpacks and sent them to various schools in the area. While we were blessing backpacks at one end of the church hall, folks at the other end of the hall were making hoagies to sell for Labor Day weekend, both here and at Saint Mary's in Stone Harbor. We ended August with a breakfast buffet.

In the early part of September, Pastor Lisa and I met Bishop-elect Chip. He plans to visit us at Saint Barnabas as soon as he can.

Mid-September took us to our pasta dinner. We had a wonderful time "feeding His sheep" ... and whoever knew that sheep liked pasta and meatballs?!?! Now, we move on to Fall and the beautiful cool weather.

Thank you to all who help make Saint Barnabas the fantastic place it is!



From Larry Stephens, Junior Warden

Thanks to your help and generosity, we have been able to accomplish quite a bit so far this year with our buildings and property here at Saint Barnabas.

- ✓ A shed for much-needed additional storage space was purchased.
- ✓ Shelving was mounted in the shed.
- ✓ New security lighting was installed on the outside of our building.
- ✓ New plumbing was put in under the kitchen.
- ✓ We have a new kitchen floor...
- ✓ and a new kitchen stove.
- ✓ All exit lights were fixed and are working properly.
- ✓ The church and hall were power washed.
- ✓ Several trees and bushes were removed to help improve security.
- ✓ The floor tile at the entrances to the church and hall was replaced.
- ✓ The shelves in the hallway were removed so that there now is better access for those with walkers and wheelchairs.
- ✓ Two new chests for storage were purchased for the sacristy.
- ✓ The church steeple was caulked.
- ✓ Natural gas was installed.
- ✓ New 7-day thermostats were installed.

Thank you for your continued support. Without you, none of this would have been possible. Our church is our home and God's home, too. We need each another.



**From Michele Noble,
Hospitality Coordinator at The Branches**

Plenty has been going on at The Branches. We were entertained by The 7 Mile Island Stars. We were graced by Joan Kramer R.N. who did free blood pressure screenings. We have Coffee and Conversation every day we are open and access is provided to the internet on our public-use computer system. On Mondays, Chair Yoga draws a diverse crowd. On Fridays from 6 to 7 PM, enjoy Yoga Flow for all levels. (A \$5 donation is suggested.) On Tuesdays, we are graced with visits from Easter Seals participants. Wednesdays have seen our lunch program extended into the summer for a second year, providing lunches to the community through the efforts of Saint Mary's and Saint Barnabas parishioners. We have craft classes on Fridays from 12 PM to 1:30 PM. Classes included handmade greeting cards, decorated candles, homemade buttons, and making envelopes out of old magazines. Please come and join us for any or all of these activities.

In October, Doctor George Zitnay will run a Grief and Sorrow group on Thursdays from 10 AM to 12:30 PM. If you know anyone struggling with a loss, please pass this information on to them. As always, SafeHaven meets on the first Sunday of the month at 7 PM and Movie Night is on the third Sunday of the month at 7 PM.

We seek volunteers willing to come in and run a craft class, lend a listening ear, or come start a new program to grow The Branches Outreach Center. Do you want to run a book club? Sewing/knitting/crocheting club? Other ideas? Please feel free to contact me at 609-892-1329 with any ideas you have.

Lastly, **THANK YOU!** Without your support, none of what we do is possible.



From Leslie Flick, Treasurer

Hello, everyone. Here are a few items I'd like to share...

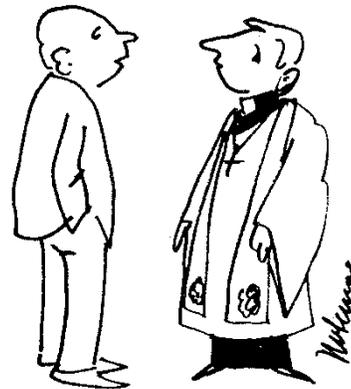
- Thank you to all who support our fundraisers. Your attendance and the presence of your guests help us with our church utilities and other expenses.
- Please bring your empty ink cartridges to church and place them in the box in the narthex. They help us offset the cost of office supplies at Staples.
- Our food pantry runs solely on donations and does not receive any monies from our regular Sunday collections. If you would like to make a financial contribution to our food pantry, that would be fantastic. Please note clearly that you want the donation to go to the food pantry. Presently, we are helping and feeding about 100 families a month.
- Beginning Sunday, October 6, we will sell homemade soup to benefit Saint Barnabas Church. The cost is \$3 per pint. We normally carry vegetable, split pea, chicken noodle, and turkey rice. We also may have turkey barbeque at \$4 a pint. To purchase soup, please see me on Sundays.
- On Saturday, October 12, we hold our turkey dinner from 4 to 6 PM in our hall. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children. Kids under 6 eat free. Takeout is available. Please spread the word. If you can lend a hand, please let me know.
- At The Branches, Saint Barnabas will serve hot lunches on the first Wednesday of each month. We can use some assistance making soup starting November 6.
- Our Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale will be on Saturday, November 9, from 9 AM to 1 PM in our parish hall.

■ On Saturday, November 23, we will pack Thanksgiving boxes for the needy at 9 AM in our parish hall. Can you possibly lend a hand packing boxes?

■ On Saturday, December 21, we will pack Christmas boxes for the needy at 9 AM in our parish hall. Once again, we appreciate any service you can offer.

■ On Saturday, January 11, 2014, we have our meatloaf and macaroni 'n cheese dinner from 4 to 6 PM in the parish hall. Please mark your calendar. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$4 for children. Kids under 6 eat free. As always, takeout is available.

Thank you for all you do for our Saint Barnabas Church family and the community we serve. Thank you for your prayers, too!



“ ‘Love your enemies’, is easy for you to say! You get paid to do it! Me... I am just a volunteer!”





Lifelong Christian Formation

Lifelong Christian Faith Formation in the Episcopal Church is lifelong growth in the knowledge, service and love of God as followers of Jesus and is informed by Scripture, tradition and reason.

I have called you friends. John 15:14-16

Through the Episcopal Church, God invites all people:

- ✚ To enter into a prayerful life of worship, continuous learning, intentional outreach, advocacy and service.
- ✚ To hear the Word of God through scripture, to honor church teachings, and continually to embrace the joy of Baptism and Eucharist, spreading the Good News of the risen Christ and ministering to all.
- ✚ To respond to the needs of our constantly changing communities, as Jesus calls us, in ways that reflect our diversity and cultures as we seek, wonder and discover together.
- ✚ To hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people, placing ourselves in the stories of our faith, thereby empowering us to proclaim the Gospel message.

*You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit.
John 15:14-16*

Through the Episcopal Church, God inspires all people:

- ✚ To experience Anglican liturgy, which draws us closer to God, helps us discern God's will and encourages us to share our faith journeys.
- ✚ To study Scripture, mindful of the context of our societies and cultures, calling us to seek truth anew while remaining fully present in the community of faith.
- ✚ To develop new learning experiences, equipping disciples for life in a world of secular challenges and carefully listening for the words of modern sages who embody the teachings of Jesus.
- ✚ To prepare for a sustainable future by calling the community to become guardians of God's creation.

I am giving you these commands that you may love one another. John 15:17

Through The Episcopal Church, God transforms all people:

- ✚ By doing the work Jesus calls us to do, living into the reality that we are all created in the image of God and carrying out God's work of reconciliation, love, forgiveness, healing, justice and peace.
- ✚ By striving to be a loving and witnessing community, which faithfully confronts the tensions in the church and the world as we struggle to live God's will.
- ✚ By seeking out diverse and expansive ways to empower prophetic action, evangelism, advocacy and collaboration in our contemporary global context.
- ✚ By holding all accountable to lift every voice in order to reconcile oppressed and oppressor to the love of God in Jesus our Lord.

Christian Faith Formation in the Episcopal Church is a lifelong journey with Jesus, in Jesus, and to Jesus.



**A Poem
by our Sunday School Children**

Look up in the sky,
with the sun so high.
The light of the sun
may go by
and the clouds may cry,
so the rainbow comes in the sky.

When the day is over,
the moon will come up
and shine at night.
The stars shine bright.

All sleepy animals
during the day,
when the moon comes out,
they'll play.
And all the other animals
will come and say, "Good night."

The cycle will go on without end
as will Jesus' love for you
because Jesus is your friend.



"Mom! The usher found the frog I put
in the offering plate!"



Mom's Poppy Seed Bread

■ *Bread (2 loaves)*

- 2 cups unsifted flour
- 1½ tsp. salt
- 1½ tsp. baking powder
*(or ¾ tsp. baking soda and ½ tsp. Cream of Tartar)**
- 3 eggs
- 1 ⅛ cups oil (⅛ cup = 2 tbs.)
- 2 ¼ cups sugar
- 1½ cups milk
*(or ¾ cups milk and ¾ cups buttermilk)**
- 1½ tsp. butter flavor
- 1½ tsp. almond extract
- 1½ tsp. vanilla extract
- 1½ tbsp. poppy seed

■ *Glaze (2 loaves)*

- ¼ cup orange juice
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ tsp. almond extract
- ½ tsp. butter extract
- ½ tsp. vanilla extract

Mix all ingredients and mix on medium setting for 2 minutes. Grease and flour pans. Bake at 350°F for 60 minutes. Prick with fork or test with straw. Pour or paint glaze over top while hot. Cool bread 30 minutes and remove from pans.

** recipe used to replace baking powder*

Thanks to Jim Stevens for sharing this recipe.





God Has No Hands But Ours

A popular story says that following World War II, some German students volunteered to help rebuild a cathedral in England, one that had been badly damaged by the Luftwaffe bombings. As work progressed, they were not sure how to best restore a large statue of Jesus with his arms outstretched and bearing the inscription, "Come unto Me."

They were able to repair all the damage to the statue except for Christ's hands which had been completely destroyed. Should they even attempt to rebuild these?

Finally, the workers reached a decision that still stands today. They decided to leave the hands off and changed the inscription to read: "Christ has no hands but ours."

The phrase "Christ has no hands but ours" is a reference to this prayer by Teresa of Avila. May it be our prayer too:

*Lord Christ,
You have no body on earth but ours,
No hands but ours,
No feet but ours.
Ours are the eyes through which your
compassion
Must look out on the world.
Ours are the feet by which you may still
Go about doing good.
Ours are the hands with which
You bless people now.
Bless our minds and bodies,
That we may be a blessing to others.*

Amen.



The Question and Answer Box

Our question for this issue is an important one: *When he was a boy, did Jesus have a puppy?*

Answer: Truth be told, we really don't know. *But honestly... Maybe... just maybe...*

One day, when Jesus was outside playing with his pals, he saw a puppy. She looked so sad. She was lost and confused. Jesus and his friends cautiously approached her. Joseph and Mary taught Jesus to be careful when he met a dog he did not know. Jesus said to the puppy, "Don't worry. We'll help you. Everything will be OK. You'll see." So the little dog went with Jesus and his buddies. They looked all over the neighborhood to see if anyone lost this sad pup. But no one knew her.

It got to be suppertime and the kids had to go home. Jesus went home too, and he asked his doggie pal to come. He took her to his mom and dad and told them what happened. Jesus then asked Joseph and Mary if they could take her in!

Well, Joseph and Mary had to think about this because they were poor. Adopting a puppy was a big responsibility. But they gladly said OK and Jesus and the puppy were very happy. The little dog gave Jesus zillions of kisses.

Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and the puppy all ate dinner together. Jesus called his new friend Nahara, which in Aramaic means "light". Jesus saw that Nahara's face would light up with love and joy now that she had a caring family and good home.

That night, Nahara slept next to Jesus on a little bed. The following morning, after breakfast, Nahara stayed with Jesus when he helped his dad, Joseph, in the family carpentry shop. After lunch, Jesus played ball with her. Then they ran down to the lake and went swimming with Jesus' friends. The girls, boys, Nahara, and Jesus had lots of fun in the warm afternoon sun.



Jesus and Nahara go for a walk.



We Believe

We believe in one God.
 We believe in one Lord, Jesus, the Christ.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit.
 We believe in one holy catholic
 and apostolic Church.
 We believe in the whole Church,
 not just some of the Church.
 Not just the left or right sides of the Church.
 The whole Church.
 No one is excluded.
WE NEED EACH OTHER.

The Mission Statement of Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Church

To bear witness to God as known in our
 Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and as
 proclaimed through the Holy Spirit and by
 our patron Barnabas and his fellow apostles.

The Goals of Saint Barnabas by-the-Bay Church

- ❖ Respond to the spiritual and physical needs of people in our community
- ❖ Emphasize spiritual growth through the worship of God in the Episcopal and Anglican traditions
- ❖ Provide pastoral care to make the Gospel relevant in people's lives
- ❖ Educate people in the Christian faith
- ❖ Increase membership involvement
- ❖ Improve our financial status



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Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 8 and 10 AM
 Prayers for Healing during 10 AM Eucharist
 Sunday School at 10 AM
 Holy Eucharist (or Morning Prayer) with
 Prayers for Healing on Thursdays at 10 AM

- The Reverend Lisa A. Hoffman, Vicar
 (609) 435-5543
 Pastoral emergencies (908) 907-1264
 The Reverend Susan E. Cushinotto, Deacon
 (609) 513-3038
 Mrs. Peg Stephens, Church Secretary
 (609) 770-7345
 Mrs. Maureen Kersch, Senior Warden
 (609) 425-1317
 Mr. Larry Stephens, Junior Warden
 (609) 206-9358
 Mrs. Leslie Flick, Treasurer/Food Pantry
 (609) 886-2625
 Mrs. Rosemary Hilvert, Sunday School
 (609) 884-7909
 Mrs. Doris Dorsett, Altar Guild
 (609) 889-0356
 Mr. Anthony Navarra, Music Minister
 (609) 889-0667

