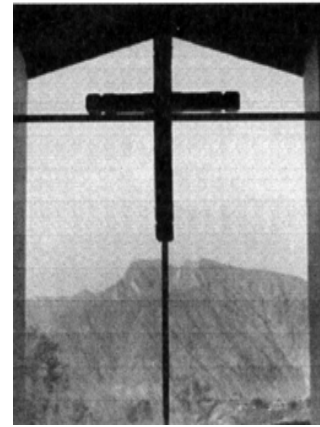


Carillon

St Barnabas Episcopal Church



Our Mission: To Share the Love of Christ / Compartir el amor de Cristo

Borrego Springs, California

April 2006

Volume 9, No.4

Reflections from the Desert

Responding to Evil with Love

If you knew you had 24 hours to live, what would you do? Once Jesus realized that the Jewish civil and religious authorities had decided to have him killed, he prepared himself by prayer, teaching and forgiveness. For us the disciples of Jesus, the end of his life teaches us a unique lesson of how Jesus responded to evil with love.

Holy Thursday: Serve One Another As I Have Served You

It was Passover. Jesus gathered with his disciples and the women to celebrate God's liberating the Jews from slavery in Egypt by eating the ritual Paschal meal. But that night, his last, Jesus opened his heart

"...Jesus taught us that no service, no act of loving kindness, is below the dignity of his followers."

fully to those who were present. He did two things which were not in the prayer book. First, by assuming the role of a slave who washed the feet of guests when they arrived for dinner, Jesus taught us that no service, no act of loving kindness, is below the dignity of his followers. Secondly, in the form of bread and wine, He gave himself to those who were there and commanded that we too do this in memory of Him. What followed was betrayal by one of the 12 for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus was then arrested, denied and beaten by night.

Good Friday: Greater Love Than This No One Has But To Give One's Life For One's Friends



In the early morning, there was a mock Jewish religious court followed by accusations before Pilate. During the occupation, the Romans had reserved capital punishment for themselves so the Jews had to take Jesus to Pilate. Even though he found no case against Jesus, Pilate had him whipped and out of fear of the crowds had Jesus crucified. He died and was buried.

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Spring Gardening and the Joy of Lent



When Alex and I lived in Bend, Oregon, one of our ministries was to drive to Lakeview once a month (some 170+ miles one way), to help “close down that parish.” But the other three Sundays a month we were at Trinity parish in downtown Bend. We keep in touch with the parish by way of their monthly newsletter, and our former Rector, Bill Ellis, had some interesting thoughts about “Spring, Gardening and Lent” in the latest newsletter and I thought they were worth sharing. And our outgoing People’s Warden spoke of having a “Joyful Lent” in our last newsletter and I think the two thoughts go well together. See what you think.

Bill noted that he’d never been able to equate the seasons of the year to the seasons of the Church; especially Spring, when it is used as a metaphor for resurrection. For Bill+, it is more a theological point, rather than the fact that he’s not all that close to nature, and here is where he got interesting...and I got interested! “Spring is the re-creation of the same life as we experienced before. The tree, shrub, the bush, doesn’t die, but rather goes dormant for a while, and then when the conditions are right produces the exact same sort of life as it did before. Resurrection, on the other hand, is the creation of brand new life, something qualitatively different than what came before even if we can see that it has some continuity with what came before.”

So, for Bill+, spring is a great metaphor for Lent. And I think there is something in what he points out. For instance, if you’ve ever had a garden, you know that prior to the “bloom,” and regardless of

the weather conditions, a healthy and productive garden doesn’t just happen, it requires a lot of work. You know the drill: prepare soil, fertilize it, etc. Then you plant the seeds or bushes which require not just water, but protection from weeds, bugs, birds, wind, and so-on. Now, for some folks, working in the garden is an end in itself, but for others it is the hope of producing something beautiful or tasty. That is Lent!

The parallel then, between the spring garden and Lent, is that both call for preparation. We work ourselves up to the point where we can be receptive to the kind of growth that we are all capable of producing. Oh, sure it may mean that we dig up ground we’ve dug up many times before, and like in the garden we get a bit messy and dirty from the effort.

If we are looking for growth, if we want change, then like any gardener in the spring, we do the required work. I agree with Bill, when he says, “spring is a wonderful metaphor for Lent. It reminds us that we really can grow; it points us to the truth that Lent is a moment of the truest and most important sort of optimism and hope and it shows us that the real reason for seasons of penitence is not so that we remind ourselves of what we have done wrong, but so that we can prepare to become new people living new lives.”

So, not only are spring and Lent a great match...but both can bring Joy. May yours be a Joyful Lent.

Nancy Nagy+



Introducing Our New Vestry Clerk

When we thanked Nancy Bye for her many years of faithful service as clerk to the vestry, Alex+ asked Shirley Vialpando to assume that responsibility. Shirley is a full time Borrego resident. She moved from San Diego where she had served for many years both at Episcopal Community Services and at St. Paul's Cathedral. When you see her, please introduce yourself and welcome her to St. Barnabas.



Ecumenical Women's Retreat

For the third consecutive year, Rev. Nancy was the spiritual director for the Ecumenical Women's Retreat at Camp Stevens in Julian. This year the most number of women - 50 - participated. They came from Los Angeles to the Mexican border. The theme was "Our Daily Bread", and throughout the weekend, the women explored a variety of ways to encounter God including garden walks, discussions around Scripture, knitting groups, daily prayer and centering prayer every night at 9 pm. Ladies, circle your calendars now for next year's retreat on the last weekend of February!

Bake Sale April 7th

By popular demand, Friday April 7th from 7-11am at the Market at Christmas Circle, we will have our pre-Easter bake sale. If you are leaving Borrego Springs before that, put your baked gifts in the church freezer or call Faye Dorsey at 767-5542 to use her freezer.

We invite you to help us package the baked goods for sale. Just come to the Parish Hall Thursday, April 6th, from noon to 2pm. Or you can drop off items anytime after 9am on Thursday at the Parish Hall. Cupcakes are very popular, cookie assortments, pies, and tarts too, to name a few. Bring your favorite.

Passing-on the Opportunity

As president of The Women of St. Barnabas for the past 3½ years, I must say it has been a very enriching time for me. I have enjoyed the work (often with the help of you women,) of scheduling speakers, arranging host homes for our lunch meetings, and exploring with all of you how we should distribute the monies made from our bake sales.

Speaking of our bake sales and the way we chose to distribute the monies earned last year, at our February meeting this year we voted for the following:

Trinity Church in Pass Christian	\$764.20
Horizon Hospice	200.00
Desert Home Care	200.00
Camp Steven's Scholarships	200.00
St. Barnabas' Retreat Center	100.00

This left us with \$144.00 to use for unplanned events, like receptions.

While I have enjoyed the honor of leading this group, as of October this year, I'm completing my term as President, and will join the ranks of the participants! So here is your invitation, and opportunity, to fill this position as of November, 2006. Please feel free to speak with me, or (Rev.) Nancy, if you have any questions about duties, or possibilities for this position.

—Kitty Phelps



Clockwise, from above: Bishop Mathes celebrates with us; Victor Levine is confirmed; blessing the new wall (photo by David Born); a snowy view from St. Barnabas; the group from St. Margarets; Alex+, Brad and Ann Marie Tidwell, Victor Levine, Nancy+. Photos by Faye Dorsey.

The Bishop's Annual Visit

Eighteen inches of snow in Julian did not deter our bishop from his annual visit to St. Barnabas. It was a good thing that Bishop Jim Mathes learned to drive in the snow while he served in Chicago. The morning of March 12th gave him another opportunity to use that acquired skill.

We were joined by the rector and 16 parishioners from St. Margaret's in Palm Desert for confirmation (including our Brad and Ann Marie Tidwell and Victor Levine), reception and reaffirmation. After the Holy Eucharist, Bishop Jim blessed our newly constructed 315' wall in our parking lot. Once the

pictures were taken and the reception had finished, he and Canon Howard Smith who accompanied him, went with the vestry for a two hour meeting over lunch at de Anza Country Club. The bishop gave us a personal check from his tithe for our outreach. We conversed about our partnership with Trinity Church in Pass Christian MS, the new clergy ministering in Alpine and in Oceanside as well as our ministry among an elderly population in Borrego Springs. We suggested a drive home which would not involve ice and snow.

—Alex+



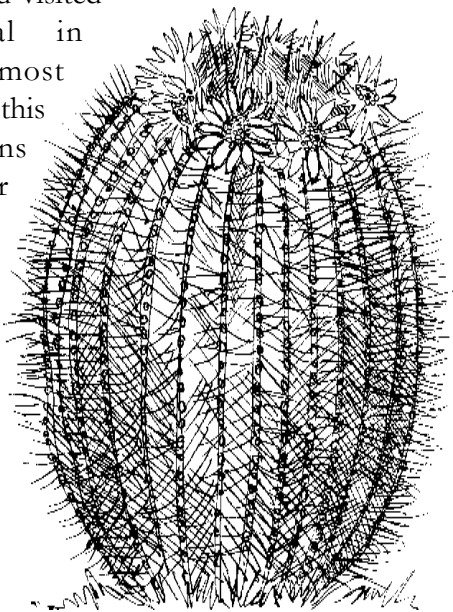
Easter Flowers

Your Altar Guild is planning to decorate St. Barnabas with lovely Easter lilies and spring flowers to celebrate Eastertide. Once again, every cross in the memorial garden will be adorned with a little blooming plant, lilies will flank the altar, and spring flowers will grace the niche and our doorway.

Please make contributions in celebration of those you love and as memorials to those you miss. Recent snows may have dashed our hopes for lilacs, but your donations will assure a glorious Easter in our pretty little church.

Garden Tour Descends on St. Barnabas

On Sunday afternoon, March 26th, between noon and four, nearly 200 people visited our church and grounds as a stop on the Anza-Borrego Desert Natural History Association's Eighth Annual Garden Tour. Visitors were astonished by the lovely view through the window above the altar, touched by the tranquility of the memorial garden, and fascinated by the whole idea of the labyrinth. A few had visited the cathedral in Chartres, but most had no idea of this intriguing means of finding inner quiet. Lemonade and pound cake were served, along with answers to a million questions. A nice day for all.



UTO Update

Despite the many national and world-wide crises that we are all supporting so generously, the congregation of St. Barnabas has said, "Thank you" to God for His daily blessings, filling our United Thank Offering (UTO) Blue boxes during the February campaign. Our donation added up to \$815.30 which will be awarded as grants to deserving programs and projects by the national UTO committee.

Computer Users!

Get your *Carillon* by email and enjoy timely delivery no matter where you are! Contact LynnWilderson@stbarnabasborrego.com to sign up.

Trinity Church Partnership

Keep Praying!

Last month we officially registered our partnership with Trinity Church in Pass Christian, (pronounced PASS Christy-ANN) Mississippi, and we can now expect to get newsletters from them regularly.

Please continue to keep these people in your prayers. It is difficult for those who did not experience the devastation of hurricane Katrina firsthand to appreciate what people on the Gulf of the Mississippi have daily been going through. That is the reason why we mention them weekly during the Prayers of the People and why there will be regular updates in the following issues of the *Carillon*.

In addition, those of you who are strong of body might consider spending a week or two as a volunteer in Pass Christian. A good place to start your research might be www.nationalservice.gov which sponsors Americorps and Seniorcorps.



For Nancy, remembering *Rod Stevens* [RIP 2.27.06]:

God Rest You

There is no chance
Of your being subdued
Or your person
Dulled
You will continue

In my dreams
You are strong
And protesting
Against the coming
Of a disastrous war

And yet
in another space
You are naming
Operas and voices
You have known

And joining the choir
In praising
A higher resource
To which you pledged
Your destiny

Lucky man
To have attained
Such balance
In the face
Of chaos

You remain
Though you are still
Your voice
Speaks
on

And I recall
How once
You sang
So sweetly
(And will not again).

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reflections, continued from page 1

Holy Saturday Vigil: Eternal Vindication

His followers were devastated. They went home in utter despair. The one they loved had been murdered. Since His body was not properly prepared for burial, the women rose at sunrise to perform the ritual anointing. They were shocked to find the stone rolled away and the body missing. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and told her to tell the others. That evening He appeared to them and said: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

What we remember and celebrate in the liturgy of Thursday, Friday and Saturday night is the conclusion of the human life of Jesus. Out of love, Jesus chooses to remain with us and we have communion with Him every time we eat the Bread and drink the Wine in memory of Him. He showed His love for all humanity by His willingness to forgive the sins of everyone. God vindicated Him by not letting death have the last word but rather by granting eternal life. Through baptism we begin our spiritual journey and in death we enter into the fullness of life.

Come, celebrate with us these three holiest days. Our traditional Easter Sunrise service will be on the hill behind the Methodist church. Right after its conclusion, come to St. Barnabas for Holy Communion. There will also be a festive service at 9:30am.

In response to God's unconditional love and promise of everlasting life, our cry is Alleluia! Hebrew for "Praise God!"

Sincerely,

Alex+/Nancy+

"Come, celebrate with us these three holiest days."

Mark Your Calendar

APRIL

- 5th** Women of St. B meet at noon
7th Friday, from 7 - 11 am, Bake Sale at Christmas Circle
9th **Palm Sunday**, meet at the palapa at 7 and 9:30am for the procession
13th **Holy Thursday** service at 6:30pm
14th **Good Friday** church open between noon and 3 pm
15th **Holy Saturday**, Easter Vigil at 6:30pm

16th Easter Sunrise Service

at 6:18am followed by
Holy Communion.

Festive Easter Eucharist

at 9:30am

- 19th** 6pm Sarah's Circle meets at Mary Levine's and men at Bill Walker's

St. Barnabas Carillon

Editing, & Design:

Joanie S. Cahill
JoanieCahill@stbarnabasborrego.com
760-791-4553

Production:

Lynn Wilderson, Bob Cassidy, Victor and Mary Levine.

Newsletter Committee:

Nancy Bye, Victor Levine, Lynn Wilderson, Alex and Nancy Nagy+, Faye Dorsey, photography.

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
2680 Country Club Road
P.O. Box 691
Borrego Springs, CA 92004-0691

Church Office: 760-767-4038
Rectory: 760-767-3620
Alex's email: nagya@cableusa.com
Nancy's email: revsngn@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.stbarnabasborrego.com>