



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

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The Season of Advent

It is that brief but wonderful time of the church year, the season of Advent. That means “coming,” and as the Sunday readings show, there are several layers of meaning at play. There is the “second” or last coming of Christ at the end of time. The Sunday of Christ the King just before Advent starts reminded us the Lord is the One who will sit in judgment at the end, and it is this same Jesus who tells us that even a cup of water, food and clothing to those in need is caring for him. The neighbor is God looking at us! So really, no need as Fr. George Keith said, to worry about when the end time will be. Christ comes to us all of the time. Christ will be coming to us whether or not we have the house cleaned, the menus planned and the decorations up and

shopping done. This continual coming of the Lord to be with us—Emmanuel—as one of us, began with the first coming, into the manger in the Bethlehem barn. Shepherders came, told by angels, to see the newborn king. Later the wise men would find him after following the star from the east. So many comings! But we should rest assured, that God is not far off, indifferent, only waiting to condemn. How could it be so? God became one of us, God came and joined the neighborhood, decided our town was a good place in which to be. So let us greet the Lord in every one of these comings and see the Lord in all around us.

Fr. Michael Plekon



Stewardship at St. Barnabas

Last week you received a most loving, encouraging and practical stewardship letter from Trudy Richard our 2023 Campaign Chair. In my follow-up note to you below, as your St. Barnabas Treasurer, I want to outline what your generous 2022 pledges have made possible for our St. Barnabas Church and our Borrego Community and some of what your pledges can make possible as we go forward into 2023.

Our work together this year has been impressive. At our regular Vestry meeting on Monday, we reviewed and voted to accept our October financials and the first draft of our Budget for 2023. I am pleased to report that we anticipate meeting our goal of a balanced budget for 2022. What we have been able to accomplish with limited funds is miraculous. Like the little boy who willingly and freely shared what he had in the story of the loaves and the fishes, so many have stepped up this year over and over again offering many hours, days and weeks of time and expertise to question, listen carefully, assess and evaluate and then do what they could to make things happen. Margaret puts it this way, "If we all work together, it will all work out just fine – it's just a matter of pitching in." And so we have!! Working conservatively and collaboratively to "put our house in order" before calling our next priest.

One of the biggest miracles for which we are deeply grateful has been the extraordinary gift during our interim period from our two wonderful friends, parish members and sea-

soned priests, Rev. George Keith and Rev. Dr. Michael Plekon both of whom volunteered to be our priests, to preside, preach and be available for pastoral care during this calling period. With George and Michael, our parish member, friend and Senior Warden Margaret Liggett, also theologically trained, have worked as a most gifted, generous and gracious team to see that all aspects of administering our church, our worship, study, fellowship and service have remained vibrant and strong and continued to thrive. What a gift to us all!!!

In and with this spirit, we have thrived and worked miracles including financially. Thus we have used our pledge income (50K) which exceeded initial expectations (30K) and funds set aside from prior years investment income (28K), to accomplish the following projects in chronological order: 1) to engage ESP Associates to work with us getting us close to operating as an efficient family business with records that are clear, accurate and transparent (8K); to fix the loose roof tiles and uneven cement patio panels at the church (3K); 2) to install laminated flooring (11K) and 3) solar (12K) and 4) new HVAC (16K) at the rectory; and 5) to engage an organist, Dr. Charles F. von Gunten for Sunday Services (4.5K). Total Work and Wisdom beyond measure!! Total spent on these project (46.5K). We have truly demonstrated that by the miracle of faith and the action of Love, there was more than enough, an abundance that could be used to support the work of our church community going forward.

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Prayer Requests



Please remember those who have asked for our prayers

We name before God those for whom we offer our prayers. We pray especially for Our President, Our Nation, Our Men and Women in uniform, for all victims of violence, for Laura Buckner, Barbara Ocola, Will Hamilton, Teresia, Jan Jones, George Keith, Chuck, Dacilia, Rosmary, Jim and Karole Fuller, Dorothy Tooley, Trent, Karen and her family, Steve, Alma and Catherine, Julia, Renee Davis, Karen and Don Bobren, Pam McEvoy, Mark Young, Elizabeth and Nate, Sophie, Jamie, Barb Green, Lindsey Staff, Don, Virginia Perrine, Hilda McFarland, Victor, Julianna, Tho, Lauren, Nadia Ritchey, Paul, Cate and Coles, our Guatemalan students: Carlos Jose Yucute Coc, Jason Garcia, Victor Herrera, Brandon Garcia, Maria Zamora and Angelica Abixel. We pray for all frontline workers and those who have died from COVID19 and for all who love them... for all migrants and asylum seekers, and those with decision making power over their lives, and for the people of Afghanistan, Ukrain, Iran and Russia. We pray for the health of planet Earth. And for those we now name . . .

Stewardship at St. Barnabas (Continued)

While we pause to celebrate 2022 with great Joy and Thanksgiving, we also are looking to the wonderful and challenging work for the year ahead. There is so much we are hoping to accomplish together in 2023 with our work, wisdom and wealth! At the top of our list of challenges will be: 1) engaging our next priest to worship, imagine, create and plan our work together in the years ahead as a growing, vibrant and contributing church in our community and beyond. Next year we are anticipating a priest ready to work from half to three quarters time. Given Diocesan guidelines, the compensation will be somewhere in the range of 60K; 2) getting estimates and completing two rectory projects, painting the interior (anticipated cost 8-10K) and new blinds for all the doors and windows (anticipated cost 6K).

Then, our St. Barnabas wish list - we are very hopeful that we will be able to find a way to: 1) fix the sagging Palapa Roof (no estimate yet); 2) make better use of our Parish Hall by purchasing a shed in which to store chairs and tables now stored in the parish hall (6k); 3) add a Micro Grants program for Borrego Community sponsored projects (1-2K); 4) purchase new speakers for our organ (10K) and/or plan for a new organ (60K); other wish list ideas 5)? 6)? 7)? . . .

It is such a blessing to be a member of such a spirited, enthusiastic, and generous church!!

With all Love, Peace and Enjoy we go forward together!!

Cary Page
St. Barnabas Treasurer

Servant Ministry Award Nomination

The people and clergy of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church nominated LLouise and Fred Jee for the Servant Ministry Award of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego. They received the award at the diocesan convention on November 12, 2022. They are what you might call the dynamic duo. They have lived in Borrego since 1975 and have been active at St. Barnabas as it grew from a mission to a parish to the present time. Currently, LLouise is on the vestry, is the sacristan, serves at the altar, prepares the bulletins, helps organize the monthly Food Bank, assists the Sr. Warden, manages the Memorial Garden as well as the memorial services, and generally pitches in whenever something is needed. Among the many other things she has done in the past was teach Sunday school classes (for her own children), she has designed and created many of our chasubles and stoles and other liturgical items, served on the Vestry many times, maintains safe storage for important things like blueprints, and innumerable other things known and unknown.

Fred is our “sound man” and is responsible for the way things sound in the church and has recently become the backup “camera



man” for our Zoom system. Additionally, he is the usher (sometimes he has help in the winter), greets people as they arrive at the church, after the happy hour he cleans up, gathers the trash, waits until everyone is gone and locks up. Fred does the setup for the monthly Food Bank and cleans up afterward. He does things like making sure the fire extinguishers are OK, checks on supplies and refurbishes them, all the things that no one else thinks about. Additionally, he has served as a participant in many audits over the years.

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Servant Ministry Award Nomination (Continued)

They both also are heavily involved in things in the community. Fred developed and organized a growingly respected Film Festival in which he spends massive amounts of time each year reviewing all sorts of submissions. He also participates actively in the Performing Arts Center presentations either in the cast or backstage.

LLouise loves to share her background in education by working as a teacher's aide at the grade school when she isn't busy volunteering with the Archeology group at the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Both Fred and LLouise worked for the state park for years – Fred as a ranger and geology specialist while LLouise mapped the entire park.

But the Jees are not simply very active members of the parish and the community.

They stand out as living icons of Christ in both the parish and the larger community and have been so for decades. No one will ever know how many rides Fred has given to medical appointments, how many visits they have made to seniors, and those recuperating at home. There will never be a tally of all those who have gotten food, clothing or help in other ways from these caring, generous, wonderful people. They have shown us how to live out the Gospel. As another leader in the larger community put it, "They put St. Barnabas on the map. They are examples of how faith is put into practice." Thus, we are grateful for their service to God and their neighbors. We are blessed by their presence and love and wisdom and celebrate them as Servant Ministers of the Lord.

Michael Plekon

Upcoming Events

BMA Christmas Contata December 9th & 10th at 7pm and 11th at 7pm
 Joya Hoyt book signing at Borrego Art Institute December 10th from 1 to 3 pm.
 Charlie Brown Christmas December 18th from 4 to 5pm
 Lessons and Carols at St. Barnabas December 24th at 7 pm

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St. Thomas the Apostle

Thomas the Apostle was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. He is commonly known as “Doubting Thomas,” because he initially doubted the resurrection of Jesus when he was told of it. He later confessed his faith upon seeing the wounds left over from the crucifixion.

St. Thomas travelled outside the Roman Empire, as far as South India, to preach the Gospel. He is regarded as the patron saint of India, and the Feast of Saint Thomas on July 3 is celebrated as Indian Christians’ Day.

“Doubting Thomas” was skeptical at first when he heard that Jesus had risen from the dead and appeared to the other Apostles, saying, “Except I shall see on his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. (John 20:24-29.) But when Jesus appeared later

and invited Thomas to touch his wounds and behold him, Thomas showed his belief by saying “My Lord and my God.” Jesus then said, “Thomas, because thou hast seen

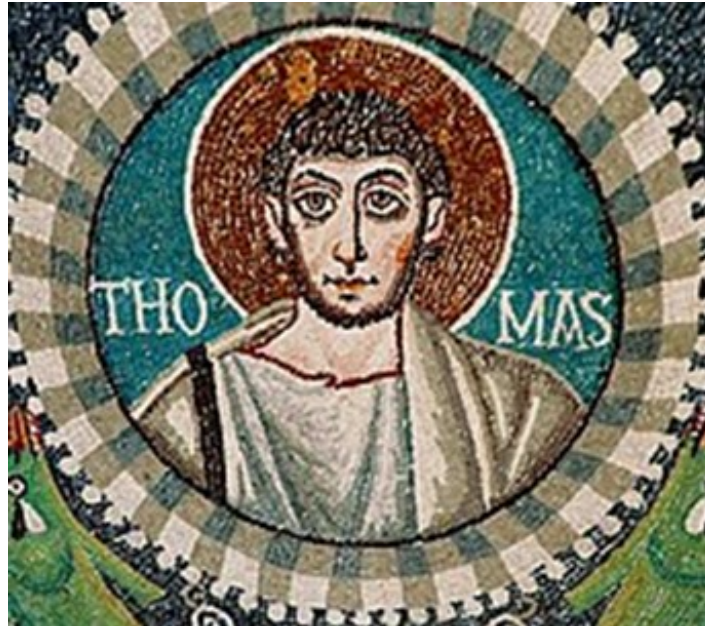
me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”

Thomas was killed with a spear at St. Thomas Mount on July 3, 72 AD in India. From the early 16th century, the tomb was maintained by a Muslim who kept a lamp

burning. St. Thomas Mount has been a revered site by Muslims and Christians since then.

St. Thomas’ feast day is celebrated on several different dates. The Anglican Communion, Hispanic Church and Traditional Catholics observe it on December 21. In addition to the country of India, he is the patron saint of architects.

Wendy Quinn



Joya Hoyt Holding Book Signing

Joya Granbery Hoyt and Pamela Granbery, have, for many years, provided all sorts of learning experiences ranging from quilting to gardening for a Middle School afterschool project. It was called “Outside-the-Box” because they learned things that were not taught things within the normal curriculum of Middle School. It was funded by various projects and was done under the sponsorship of St. Barnabas. When COVID came, it stopped. They decided that the time had come to stop doing this, but in its place, Joya developed a workbook to help others carry on this task. The book, *Expressive Arts Your Way*, was published with the help of the American Legion and the Women’s Auxiliary as a gift to the Borrego Springs Middle School.

There will be a book signing with Joya at the Borrego Art Institute Saturday, December 10th from 1 to 3 pm. This book will make an inspiring Christmas present for people of all ages.

November Vestry Meeting

Financially, we are doing OK for this year. Our net operating results for the year-to-date are still significantly ahead of budget.

The stock market reclaimed some ground in October. However, the gains in October did not entirely offset the losses from September so it is still slow going. Investment losses for the year-to-date are at about \$93k.

After the last break in, we are working to obtain a security system that will allow us to either scare off and/or identify our attackers.

In working on the budget, we decided to establish a reserve fund for maintenance of the Church and the Rectory. That way we won’t have to put maintenance off as long as we did in the past. We also are compiling a “wish list” of things we would like to have. Included are:

- A storage shed so we don’t have to store things in the parish hall and bathrooms
- A new speaker system for the organ. We are replacing the mid-range speakers now (\$1000) but the modern technology of speakers would give us an even more fantastic sound. (\$10,000)
- We are looking at a different community outreach, where we provide mini-grants (\$500 - \$2,000) for people in Borrego who have good ideas but are unable to fund them.
- The palapa needs repair and a new roof.

Patrick reported that we have had a couple of people show some interest being our Rector. We plan to continue running our ad hoping to have more than two to choose from.

You will also be glad to hear that we are developing an employee handbook and are planning to have an Investment Committee to monitor our investment funds. We are trying to be more effective administratively and financially. Also, have opened a membership in a church management system that will allow us to track your pledge payments and donations and send out status notices thru the year and income tax statements in a timely manner. It has several useful tools that the new Rector will probably find to be useful.