CARILLON
ST BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Borrego Springs, California | December 2019 | Volume 22 Issue 12

Excited Anticipation

This has always been my favorite time of year! The count-down to the celebration of Christmas is so joyful as I think of and prepare again for God coming to earth in human form to be with us and for us.

As a child I always was given an Advent calendar - do you remember those? Each day there was a window to open to reveal a portion of a beautiful scene of Jesus' birth, saving the window of infant Jesus and his family for December 25th. Each window was an inspiration and sometimes had bits of scripture offering a peek of what was to come. Even though I knew that window 25 would reveal the holy family, the excitement leading up to it was absolutely thrilling.

That is how I felt as a child, but yet more deeply and profoundly as a maturing adult emerging into my full stature in Christ. Celebrating God giving himself to us in vulnerable human form never ceases to break open my heart with childlike delight, maternal love, and humble gratitude. Such a gift is beyond comprehension, but it is the true and enduring reality of our lives and world. God so loved the world that he became one of us to show us His love in person! That story never gets old because it is happening for each and every one of us every day. God in Christ not only is with us and for us, but also wants to be born into our world through each of us as Christ-bearers. In this God invites us to be active agents in the story of his incarnation here and now.

So here we are once again in this joyful and yet serene time of preparation and expectation. Advent is a lovely time to contemplate that magnificent gift and to nurture the Christ that is gestating in us and eager to be made known and experienced through us. And at the same time Christ is gestating in each of us to become a unique version of himself in the world.

What could be more important or exciting than the possibilities of what Christ will do with each of us as he emerges in and through our lives? Each day is a new window into those possibilities and the divine adventure.

Blessed Advent and Christ-bearing, Laura+

INCARNATION

As we approach Christmas, we think of Jesus' birth and of his being the Incarnation of God, which he is. But if we carefully read the beginning of the Prologue of John's gospel - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it* - we get a hint that Jesus' birth was not the first incarnation.
Richard Rohr, noted Franciscan theologian, suggests that the first Incarnation of God is the Big Bang! As he says "the first incarnation was the moment God joined in unity with the physical universe and became the light inside of everything." Everything is the outpouring of God. It is through Christ, the Logos or Word, that *all things were made*!
Rohr points out that "light is not so much what you directly see as that by which you see everything else". Thus we find in John 8:12, Jesus, as the Christ, says *I am the Light of the world*. He is the amalgam of matter and spirit; He within us allows us to enjoying things in their fullness. This allows us to see as God sees.
As we begin to realize that there is no significant difference between the natural and the supernatural, we begin to see the world differently – we see all the people we encounter every day differently. We are all part of the Divine dance.
The basis of this article comes from a new book by Richard Rohr title *The Universal Christ*

Margaret Liggett

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, Robert Helvig, Nancy Bye, Mary & William Johnson, Jace Christy, Tracey Alexander, David Sigler, Ruth Olivares, Jason Garcia, Victor Herrera, Brandon Garcia, Shauna, Thom Keyes, Randy Aceda, Jamie, Kyle Hoskins, Cal and Trent Hoskins-Kleinkopf, Asylum seekers at the border, Children and Adults held in detention centers, Our Bishop, Susan.

ST. STEPHEN THE MARTYR

St. Stephen is venerated as the first martyr. He was a deacon in the early church in Jerusalem, who aroused enmity among members of the synagogues by his teachings. Accused of blasphemy at his trial, he made a long speech denouncing the Jewish authorities and was subsequently stoned to death. His story is chronicled in Acts of the Apostles.

Stephen was appointed by the Apostles to distribute food and charitable aid to poorer members of the community. When he disagreed with the synagogues' teachings concerning Moses and God, he was accused of blasphemy and tried before the Sanhedrin. In a long speech at his trial, Stephen presented his view of the history of Israel. The God of glory, he said, appeared to Abraham; thus God does not dwell in one particular building (the Temple). He went on to reference God's appearance to Moses in the burning bush, inspiring Moses to lead his people out of Egypt. Nevertheless, the Israelites turned to other gods. This established the second main theme of Stephen's speech, Israel's disobedience to God.

There were two accusations against Stephen at trial: that he had declared that Jesus would destroy the Temple in Jerusalem and that he had challenged the Jewish scriptures' teachings regarding Moses. As the hearing proceeded, the crowd of onlookers became increasingly angry. Stephen looked up and cried, "Look! I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God!" Emulating Jesus, who had just recently been crucified, St. Stephen prayed that the Lord would receive his spirit and his killers be forgiven as he was stoned to death.

St. Stephen is honored on his feast Day, December 26. Among other attributes, he is the patron saint of Altar Servers.

Wendy Quinn

DENIALISM

One of the characteristic themes of the major (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) and minor (Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi) prophets in Scripture, as well as Jesus' ministry is a wakeup call from denialism. In the Scriptural view of denialism, this human tendency is to put ideology and one's own self interests ahead of Reality. That is, in God's realm, according to the prophets and Jesus, Reality starts and ends with God, not one's own self-interested viewpoint.

"HIV does not cause AIDS. The world was created in 4004 BCE. Smoking does not cause cancer. And if climate change is happening, it is nothing to do with man-made CO2 emissions. Peak Oil is just a figment of doomsayers' imaginations run wild". Current statements by certain government authorities in the daily media feed denying wrongdoing.

"The consequences of policies based on views such as these can be fatal. Thabo Mbeki's denial that that HIV caused AIDS prevented thousands of HIV positive mothers in South Africa receiving anti-retrovirals so that they, unnecessarily, transmitted the disease to their children." For years tobacco companies described academic research into the health effects of smoking as the product of an "anti-smoking industry."

My own view is that *denialism* is best thought of as the preaching of falsehoods out of a utility — whether that utility be avarice, payment for services rendered, in-group acceptance, unchecked desire, pure cantankerousness, an unwillingness to admit one is/was wrong, or a character flaw that renders one mendacious and deceitful by nature. These falsehoods are malicious or injurious in that they ultimately are false. They provide an untrue and oftentimes dissembling assessment of reality. However, what makes deniers ultimately accountable is that they preach these falsehoods. Deniers engage in an active stance to convince others of their wrongful beliefs. But why are deniers listened to and are their promulgating of falsehoods, always also lies? The Scriptural advice in both Old and New Testaments is cease and desist in denialism and start listening to God. Then act now on where God is leading.

Ref: Pascal Diethelm and Martin McKee' "Denialism: what is it and how should scientists respond?," in *The European Journal of Public Health* 2009 19(1):2-4; doi:10.1093/eurpub/ckn139 quoted in Mark Hoofnagle, "Denialism in the Literature" at http://scienceblogs.com/denialism/2009/05/denialism_in_the_literature.php.

Lyle Brecht

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

On November 17 Jan Jones, Brenda Best and I enjoyed a performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at the Civic Theater in San Diego. This 50-year-old rock opera by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice tells the story of the last weeks in the life of Jesus, as told through the eyes of Judas. The performances and songs were excellent. The stars, Aaron LaVigne (Jesus), James Delisco Beeks (Judas) and Jenna Rubah (Mary Magdalene), brought life to their roles. As the familiar story unfolds, the viewer is caught up in the drama and human elements associated with the events.

Of course we all know the ending. It was Jan's first time seeing the play, and it had been years since Brenda and I saw it. Comparing notes afterwards, we all agreed that as the drama became more and more tragic, we looked forward to the resurrection. It wasn't included! The last scene was Jesus on the cross – almost too realistic and definitely emotional. Despite the sad ending, however, it was a performance very much worth seeing and superbly done.

Wendy Quinn

PROPHETIC SPEECH

In the Old Testament, the three major prophets' and twelve minor prophets' books figure prominently. The prophetic books written in the eighth century BCE include: Amos, Hosea; First Isaiah (chapters 1-39), and Micah. The urgent message of all four prophets was that disaster was in store due to powerful elites failing to promote justice for their people. Prophets of the late seventh and sixth centuries BCE include: Nahum, Zephaniah, Habakkuk, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Second Isaiah (chapters 40-55). Their message may be summarized as a call to trust in God in the midst of chaos and disaster. The later prophets were largely written after return to Israel after the Babylonian exile and include: Third Isaiah (chapters 56-66), Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi. A common theme is restoration as a result of the hope engendered by trust in God, even after the reality of disaster brought on by the misuse of power by elites.

What the prophets do not do is forecast the future. What they do is to provide political commentary on what is happening now. But this is a far different political commentary than the many talking heads on one's favorite TV channel or the reams of print in one's comfortable-to-read newspaper. Essentially, the prophets were able to offend just about everyone in their day as they called to question the normative assumptions of the times, no matter what "party" they might have belonged to. Instead, what the prophets offered was political commentary based on a non-normative, emancipated, imaginative take on what God was up to in His Reality. A Reality that takes form based on God's faithfulness. That is, the prophets were engaged in truth-telling; telling the truth beyond the apparent facts that were so evident to all of the day. Maybe that is why the message of the prophetic books are so relevant today, as a pointer to the Reality and reminder that God is still at work in our times. Also, just like today, the powers and authorities were threatened by those who chose to speak truth to power.

Ref: "Introduction to the Prophets" by Patricia K. Tull in Walter Brueggemann, From Judgement to Hope: A Study on the Prophets (2019).

Lyle Brecht

THANKSGIVING

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday evening the Borrego Ministers Association held their annual Thanksgiving-eve service at St. Barnabas. On arrival at the church, the attendees were greeted by a cornucopia on the altar and a mosaic made of words for which we should be thankful for. It was designed and put in place by Llouise Jee.

If you can't make out the words from the photo they are: Friends, Choice, Freedom, Worship, Compassion, Family, Community Courage, Health, Love, Thought, Civility Empathy, Speech, Ancestors, Clean Water, Dark Sky, Truth, and Hope. Another interesting facet of the photo is the "Holy" "Holy" "Holy" on the altar standing out so prominently beneath the cornucopia. A bold reminder that all of creation has Christ embedded within it.

The display of words brought to mind all of the wonderful things we enjoy in America. With all of the division we are experiencing currently, we sometimes can forget how blessed we are. We have a country made up of the original inhabitants along with immigrants from around the world, resulting in a wondrous conglomeration of people who, in theory, all have the same rights to achieve what they wish. We have an incredible Constitution that has provided many other countries with the base for their constitutions. We can think what we want, say what we want, and do what we want as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others. We can worship as we wish.

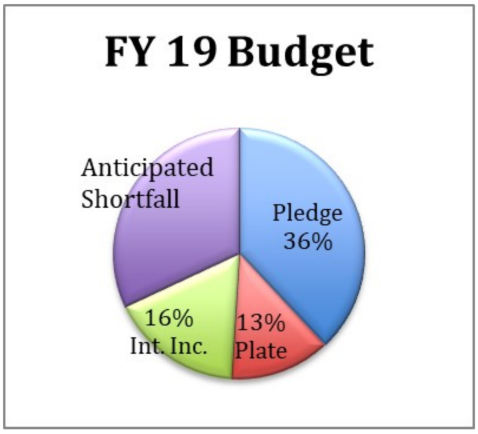
Thank you God, for the infinite blessings you have given us.

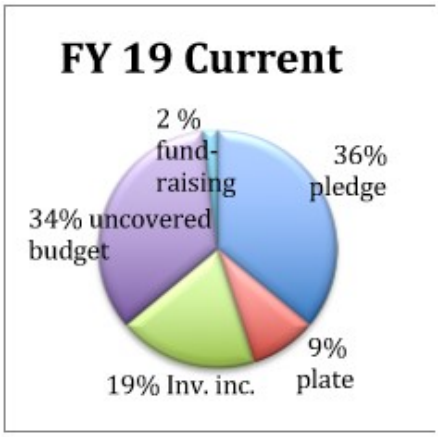
Margaret Liggett

FY 2019 October Financial Update

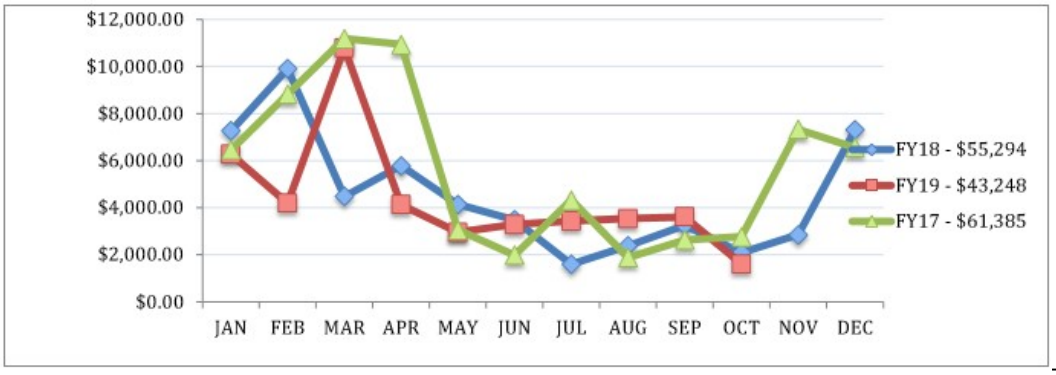
Parishioners have asked to be kept better informed as to the finances of the church. In an attempt to do that The Finance Committee will be including each month in the Carillon the latest numbers that will give you an idea of how the church finances are doing over the course of the year. Year-end budget will be balanced with funds from investment income and capital as needed

Budget for FY 2019	
Expected Pledges	$35,000.00
Expected Open Plate	$12,500.00
Expected Inv. Income	$16,000.00
Total Expected Income	$63,500.00
Total Budgeted Expenditures	$97,492.00
Anticipated Shortfall for FY18	-$33,992.00
Actual for October	
Total Income	$ 1,612.20
Total Expenditures	$ 9,324.86
Net Income	-$ 7,712.66
Actuals Through October	
Pledges Received	$34,620.00
Open Plate Received	$ 8,626.93
BYOB	$ 2,253.28
Parking Lot Sale	$
Planned Giving Gift other inv. income	$ 12.60
Interest Income	$18,661.53
Current Total Income	$ 64,174.34
Actual for FY18	
Total Income	$ 64,174.34
Total Expenditures	$ 81,709.76
Current Position	$ 17,535.42





St. Barnabas Monthly Pledge & Plate Income
FY 18 vs. FY 19 vs. FY17



St. Barnabas Carillon
Editing and Design:

Trent Hoskins-Kleinkopf
stbarnabasborrego@gmail.com

(760) 767-4038

Production:
Trent Hoskins-Kleinkopf

Newsletter Committee:
Trent Hoskins-Kleinkopf, Wendy Quinn, Margaret Liggett,