

Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church Borrego Springs, California



Parish Profile

2680 Country Club Road
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

www.stbarnabasborregosprings.com

Who would be crazy enough to start a Church in the Desert ?



Jesus – for one.

Moses – for two.

Isaiah – for three.

John the Baptist – for four.

The Desert Fathers – for five.

***The People of Saint Barnabas,
Borrego Springs - for six***

The Desert plays a critical role in our faith and the life of the church. God gave Moses the ten commandments in the desert. Isaiah tells us the Lord will make the desert like the garden of the Lord and joy and gladness shall be found there. (Isaiah 51:3) John the Baptist began his ministry in the desert. (Matthew 3:1). The Temptation of Jesus took place in the desert. In the early Christian Church the Desert Fathers and Mothers moved to the desert to seek solitude.

Nearly two millenia later the desert is still a place that fosters spirituality, peace, solitude and faith. St Barnabas Borrego Springs offers the modern faithful the opportunity to fully experience that spirituality, peace, solitude and faith.

About Borrego Springs



Others have described Borrego Springs as “Southern California, but a world apart”. The Desert offers opportunities to experience peace, serenity and spiritual contemplation that simply do not exist in many other places.

St Barnabas is best understood as “Borregan” – formed by the Borrego community and an integral part of the community. Barnabans take this relationship with the Borrego community seriously and it was easily the most often raised topic in a recent congregational survey.

By the numbers St Barnabas is a small congregation in a small community. Although small in number, the congregation has a disproportionate presence among the leadership of the Borrego Springs community.

St Barnabas Community Involvement

As described by Rev Michael Plekon (himself a member) in his book *Community as Church, Church as Community* “The people of God at St. Barnabas have their hands in almost all the outreach that goes on in the valley—hosting and supporting a monthly food bank, volunteering in the schools in science and the arts, teaching English as a Second Language, mentoring students on their way to college, and participating in the performing arts center productions.

**“I THINK ST BARNABAS
PUNCHES ABOVE ITS
WEIGHT IN LOOKING AFTER
THE COMMUNITY”**

Survey Response

Another retired priest who is a member, George Keith, is the artistic director for the Performing Arts Center. Other members are deeply involved with music and theater productions, as well as the yearly film festival. Two retired Priests resident in the parish assist regularly with preaching and teaching. Still others are on town committees interacting with the county supervisors for the area and with local health care providers.”

The most common themes mentioned in the recent congregational survey were: (1) community focus/partnership; (2) love in action; (3) welcoming atmosphere; (4) worship; (5) fellowship; (6) love/compassion; (7) doing the work of Jesus; (8) events; and (9) tradition.

In his book *Call to Excellence: Studies of Eight West Coast Churches*, Rev. Alfred Smith devoted a chapter to St



St Barnabas Food Bank Serves the Greater Borrego Community

Barnabas. He observed that Barnabans “capture the essence of simplicity as they describe their lifestyle; sincerity as they discuss their mission; and serenity in their love for the beauty of the desert. St Barnabas gives that trinity of grace to the stranger. I found the Spirit of God alive at St Barnabas – an excellent community of angels!”

“our church is involved in almost every aspect of Borrego: the School, the Water Board, The Borrego Ministers Association, The Borrego Art Institute, The Borrego Springs Performing Arts, The Anza-Borrego State Park, The Film Festival: anything and everything that makes Borrego a vital and vibrant place to live in community.”

Survey Response

Barnabans enjoy a relationship with Jesus which inspires them to spread the gospel through words and deeds. It is no accident that the Episcopal Church in Borrego Springs is named for Barnabas who is identified in Acts 11:24 as “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith” who brought “a great number of people ... to the Lord” (NIV) Along with Paul, Barnabas is referred to in scripture as one of the Apostles. Acts 14:14. Barnabas and Paul traveled together spreading the Gospel to all who would hear. In this way the Barnabans of Borrego Springs have adopted the very simple mission “to share the Love of Christ.”

Our New Rector

St Barnabas is currently looking for a new rector who – in the words of one survey response – will be “a good fit” for the congregation, but not “in our own image and likeness;” who can bring out the best in the parish and can further inspire us to go forth and spread the word of Jesus through prayer and good works. As stated by Fr. George Keith in a recent sermon we are looking for a Priest who brings God to the People and the People to God.

In the words attributed to St Francis, someone who can preach the Gospel, using words if necessary.

VISION STATEMENT

“As a community, we are devoted to building a harmonious, fully inclusive, group of loving Christians who are engaged, passionate and spiritually healthy. Jesus himself set an example of service, which St. Barnabas will use as the basis for making a compassionate impact in the community and the world. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit and our resourcefulness, we believe we will be able to accomplish our vision.”

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Highlights



Small Desert Based Family Sized Parish

Attendance Fluctuates Seasonally

Worship Services in Episcopal Traditions using the BCP and Supplemental Liturgical Materials (SLM)

Music Ministry Featuring Professional Organist

Christian Formation/Education Serving Year-Round and Seasonal Members Through Use of In Person and Zoom Offerings

Active Lay Leader Participation in Church and Community

Congregation Cares for Each Other as if Family

Outward Looking to Community as Church

Collaborative Community Outreach with Other Borrego Churches

Congregation/Church take leading roles in Community

Beautiful Spanish Mission Style Church/Parish Hall with nearby Rectory

Financially Stable

Financial Standing

For a small church St. Barnabas is blessed to have a significant endowment. Historically St Barnabas has been able to meet Normal Annual Operating Expenses through a combination of pledges, donations and investment income without being required to reduce principal endowment or incur indebtedness. St Barnabas has historically been debt free and currently has zero debt.

History of St Barnabas

St Barnabas began in 1966 as a Preaching Station in Borrego Springs of the Diocese of Los Angeles. It was later abandoned but reestablished by the Diocese of San Diego in 1974 when a retired priest, Rev. Robert E. Lenhard, known as the “Desert Priest”, took up residence in Borrego Springs. Initially services were held in private homes of the small congregation but in 1975 the first service in a church, Eucharist, celebrated on St. Barnabas’ Day, was held as guests at the Methodist Community Church.

St. Barnabas become a Mission in the Diocese of San Diego in 1976 and services moved to St. Richard’s Catholic Church In the following years By-Laws and budgets were adopted, the Women of St. Barnabas was formed, outreach programs were started. and then thoughts began to build a church on

By the end of 1984 St Barnabas broke ground on its own church on land donated to St. Barnabas by the Methodist Church and DiGiorgio-Burnand-Kuhrts holdings. The church and Parish Hall were completed in June 1986. Uniquely the church was fully paid for as of the date construction was completed. The church office was added at a later date. The first service held in the new church was held in September 1986 and the consecration was held January 4, 1987.



During the following years services were conducted by visiting priests in the Diocese and from Canada (including Lt Col . Rev. Canon William H. (Horace) McClelland and Rt Rev (Ret) Ronald Francis) For much of this time St Barnabas could be considered a “Snowbird” church operating primarily during the Borrego “season”. For several years the doors of the church were literally locked against the oppressive heat of the summer months from June through September. Although St Barnabas is now a “year round” church there is still a substantial seasonal fluctuation in attendance with summer attendance being noticeably smaller than during other times of the year.

Around the year 2000 the Vestry concluded that St. Barnabas should have a full time priest. The Reverend Alex Nagy became our first full time Priest in 2002 and later that same year we became a Parish. In 2008, Alex+ and his wife decided to move to Vancouver. The Vestry formed a Calling Committee and by 2010 the Reverend Laura Brecht became our Rector where she continued until her retirement in 2021.

About Borrego Springs

Borrego Springs is defined by its relationship with the Anza-Borrego Desert. The 900 square mile Anza-Borrego Desert State Park completely encircles Borrego Springs and is the crown jewel of the region while the Borrego Springs community is the heart of the Park.

Like many aspects of the desert, there's more to the Borrego Springs community than meets the eye. In the crevices of the valley's rocky floor, wildflowers blossom in exuberant hope. In the shade of the Palo Verde trees, Coyote Creek babbles through the sandy slopes with perseverance.

Although Borrego Springs can be seen as an oasis in the desert, Borregans must always be aware that they are – in fact – in the desert. The secret of life in the Anza Borrego desert is the availability and responsible stewardship of water. Creation Care is not simply an aspirational concept to St Barnabas and all Borregans; it is a way of life.

In many ways Borrego Springs can evoke a sense of nostalgia and a sense of community from a simpler era. Almost like someone picked up Mayberry, dropped it in the middle of the desert, and stopped the calendar pages from turning. There are no stoplights, no streetlights (Borrego is one of only two certified International Dark Sky Park and Communities in the world), If you go less than a mile from the central Christmas Circle you will even find dinosaurs in the desert. Relax they are only metal sculptures placed by a local artist.



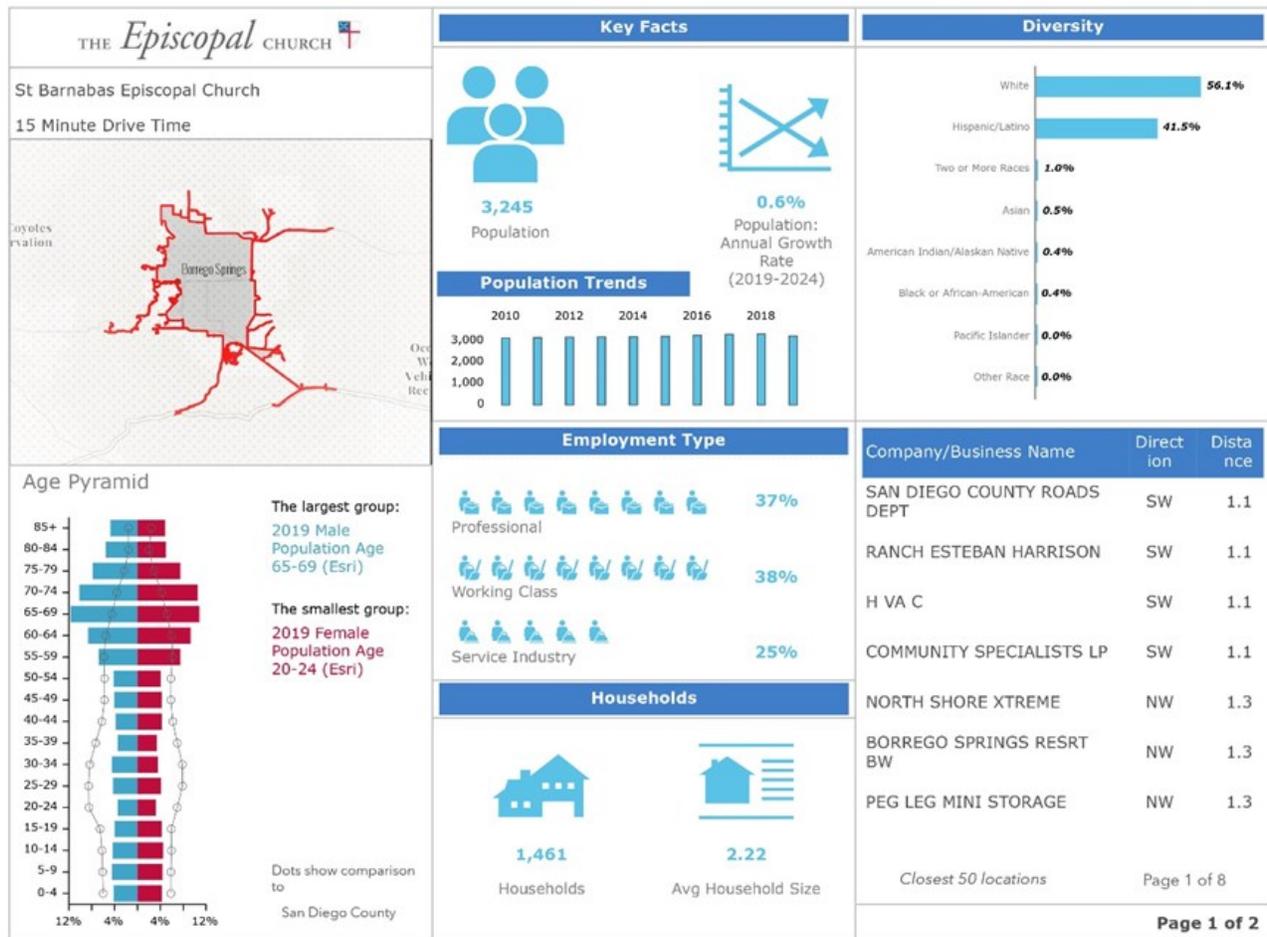
Richard Becera Sculptures at Galeta Meadows

There is a central town square (well circle anyways) where many community gatherings occur and around which can be found restaurants, the Borrego Natural Desert History Foundation and the Borrego Art Institute. There is a thriving arts community with the Borrego Art Institute, The Borrego Performing Arts Center, the Borrego Film Festival, and others. All of these organizations have St Barnabans in leadership roles.

The Population of Borrego Springs varies by season – with the winter season being the more populous while many seasonal residents go to cooler climes during the summer months. For over 50 years the beginning of the traditional season is celebrated by the annual “Borrego Days” festival held at the end of October. Borrego Days is emblematic of the importance of tourism and the long history of Borrego Springs as a resort community – including as a less glitzy (or crowded) getaway for the rich and famous during the Hollywood glory days

Park staff, volunteers, and local businesses band together each spring to support the rush of visitors from far and wide coming to witness the desert wildflower bloom. The “season” runs roughly through the end of the wildflower bloom usually around May. From June through September many of the “Snowbirds” return to cooler climes.

AS of the 2010 census the full time population of Borrego Springs was 3,429, approximately evenly split between male and female. The median resident age was 63.8 years. Estimated median income was \$52,711. The March 2019 cost of living index for Borrego Springs was 114.8 compared to a United States baseline of 100. The percentage of residents living in poverty was 10.9%.



Source: This infographic contains data provided by American Community Survey (ACS), Esri, Esri and GfK MRI. The vintage of the data is 2013-2017, 2019, 2024.

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December 4, 2021

The white population of Borrego Springs was 66.7%. The next most populous group was Hispanic at 27.3% followed by Black at 5.2%. No other ethnic group was reported above 2%.

The Borrego Springs population is highly seasonal, as much as doubling in the mild winter months when part time “Snowbird” residents flock to the desert. The Borrego Valley Stewardship Council (BVSC) has described Borrego as a two-tier resort community: those who have the means to travel, spending their time and money in Borrego Springs; and those who support the service and tourism industry the others rely on.



The Borrego Art Institute at Christmas Circle

According to the BVSC report hardships exist beneath the veneer of the Borrego Springs resort-style retirement community. BVSC reports that a wide income disparity exists between weekenders and seasonal residents who have second homes and the year round residents. BVSC reports that over half of Borrego residents earn less than \$36,000 per year despite a reported average income of \$65,000 per year.

Ninety Two percent of the Borrego Unified School Districts 400 students qualify for income based Federal free and reduced lunch programs. California considers Borrego Springs to be a “Severely Disadvantaged Community” and an “Economically Distressed Area”.

Despite this income disparity and classification the BVSC reports that **“Borrego Springs does not feel disadvantaged or distressed;** it is a friendly, generous, and caring community. People in Borrego Springs look out for one another. Neighbors help neighbors, and businesses help the community. . . . The town has no Family Resource Center so local families turn to Food Banks, the **Borrego Ministers Association**, and other independent groups for assistance. The town is amazingly supportive and philanthropic in its contributions to its people. They are a model for giving and support.” St Barnabas – both alone and in partnership with other organizations such as the Borrego Ministers Association is an important part of this community support.

Some of Borrego Springs’ greatest charms also contribute to its most difficult challenges. As a remote, desert town surrounded by mountains and only accessible by long, winding two-lane roads or private planes, it’s difficult to get into and out of.

Community Involvement

St Barnabas exists as a part of the larger community of Borrego Springs. We are NOT apart FROM the Community.

The people of St. Barnabas have their hands in almost everything that goes on in the valley—hosting and supporting a monthly food bank, volunteering in the schools in science and the arts, teaching English as a Second Language, mentoring students on their way to college, and participating in the performing arts center productions. Members are deeply involved with the Performing Arts Center, music and theater productions, art exhibitions and support for the artistic community, as well as the yearly film festival. Still others are on town committees interacting with the county supervisors for the area and with local health care providers. All of this is done simply as being a part of the greater community.

"St. B provides the impetus for each of us to reach out to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the community."

Survey Response

FOOD BANK

St Barnabas partners with Jacob & Cushman Food Bank San Diego to provide supplemental food supplies for those in the community in need. Food Bank is held monthly at St Barnabas and is coordinated with other locations around Borrego so that there is always a Food Bank accessible to the community

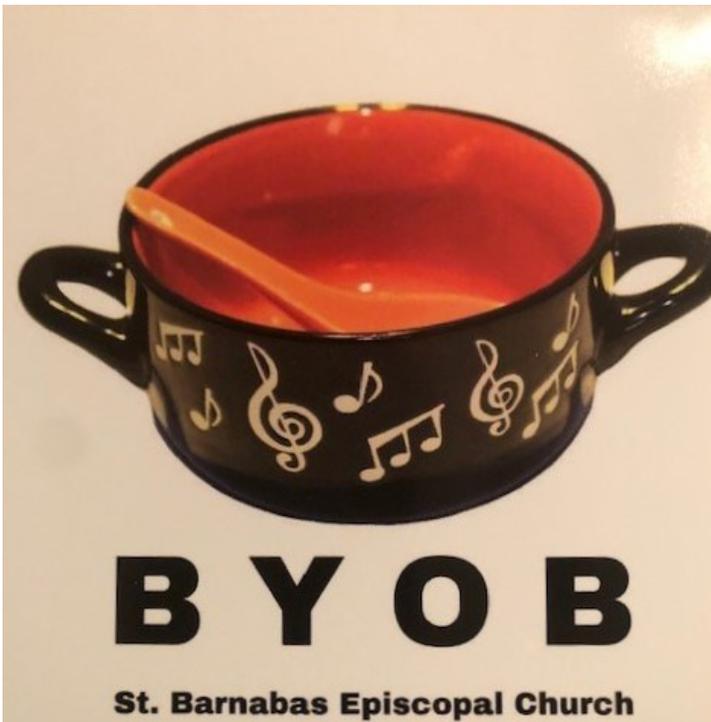


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During 2021 the Monthly Food Bank at St Barnabas - in partnership with the Jacobs and Cushman San Diego Food Bank and numerous volunteers in Borrego and nearby - distributed 136,773 pounds of food valued at \$160,469. On average the Food Bank served 226 families monthly representing an estimated 700 people making a major impact on food insecurity in the Borrego Valley.

"the little church that could !"

Food Bank Project
coordinator



BYOB

BYOB (stands for Bring Your Own Bowl) is a lunchtime concert series sponsored and hosted by St Barnabas and open to the community. The idea is to enjoy fellowship and a little music along with a bit of lunch. The series is very popular and was greatly missed during 2021 when it had to be suspended due to the pandemic. But the good news is BYOB was back with a full schedule in February and March 2022. The series was very well received with some fabulous musicians and delicious soups afterwards. It was an opportunity for fellowship both for Barnabans and the greater Borregan community. events.

Brain Change Care Partners Program

Borrego is a small village that is a retirement community with a significant number of elderly. A 2019 census estimate showed the median age in the U.S. is 38.1 years while in Borrego the estimated median age is 62.7 years. Knowing residents with memory loss issues and knowing that cognitive impairment tends to be age-related, it appeared to St Barnabas that a program to help people better understand the effects of brain changes on a person with these issues, as well as those persons who love and care for them would be a needed thing in the community. Thus St Barnabas is developing a program – with the assistance of a financial grant from the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego - that will provide training and support to help alleviate some of these effects. The focus of the program will be to provide training, assistance and support for caregivers living with individuals impacted by dementia.

Habitat for Humanity Care-A-Vanners

Habitat for Humanity Care-A-Vanner Program is a special program of Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to the ideal that all people deserve a simple, decent place to live, on terms they can afford.

Habitat for Humanity's core values include demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ, focusing on shelter, advocating for affordable housing, promoting dignity and hope and supporting sustainable and transformational development. Habitat for Humanity offers a hand up, not a hand out.

Barnabas Rick and Paula Huls have been working with Habitat for Humanity for 16 and 14 years respectively. They have helped build dozens of homes through the Care-A-Vanner Program.

“The responsibility to serve the church and the great community where we live are intertwined for me. The opportunity to serve doesn't stop at the closing of the church doors once the Mass is over. Jesus taught us to go out into the community and be examples of His love for his people. When we serve the whole community, we are doing His bidding.”

Survey Response

Pet Project

St Barnabas cares for all of God's creatures and also recognizes the emotional bond between pet owners and their pets. Our pets can provide emotional support for many of us.

St Barnabas provides support for Borregan pet owners by hosting Animal Action League for Low Cost Spay/Neuter Service and vaccinations twice a year. St. Barnabas also helps to defray or waive the cost of vaccinations for those residents who can not afford them.

In addition, St Barnabas is providing support for a local cat rescue by providing much needed food and supplies and other assistance. Ultimately, we are hoping to grow these efforts into a Pet Food Bank which will be able to distribute pet food to needy pet owners similar to our Food Bank.



Community Partnerships

Partnership Between St Barnabas and the Borrego Springs Community

Although – or perhaps because – St Barnabas is a small congregation – many survey respondents highlighted the partnerships between St Barnabas and other religious and secular organizations in the Borrego Valley Community. We find that by working together we can spread the good work Jesus is calling on us to perform more widely and have a much greater positive impact on the community as a whole.

The most important of these partnerships is with the Borrego Ministers Association – an ecumenical group involving almost every church in the Borrego Valley community.

The Borrego Ministers Association has been described as "Borrego's Human Safety Net". That was never more true than when Borrego was impacted by the Covid 19



"...we can have more impact when we realize we don't need to do everything ourselves."

Survey Response

Pandemic. BMA addressed food insecurity through assisting with the food banks at St. Barnabas, St Richards (Catholic Church) and the Community Resource Center, distributing over \$47,500 in food certificates, provided rental assistance paid directly to landlords, utilities such as SDG&E and the Borrego Water District, banks, and some to local gas stations to set up accounts for people that have extraordinary numbers of medi-

cal appointments out of town. In all the BMA has been responsible for distributing over \$300,000 in assistance directly to community members in need since the pandemic started.

Many Barnabans, including co-chairs Diane Johnson and Michael Plekon, and Shirley Vialpando are crucial to the BMA efforts to serve the community.

"I am amazed at the community leadership and volunteerism I see coming from the members of St. Barnabas. Our members are active in so many vital community groups. It will be through these relationships that we will see future growth."

Survey Response

Worship at St Barnabas



Worship at St Barnabas is rooted in the Episcopal/Anglican traditions. Our weekly Eucharist (every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.) generally follows Rite 2 from the Book of Common Prayer as supplemented by the Supplemental Liturgical Materials (SLM). We celebrate this in the sanctuary every Sunday and certain Holy Day from September/October through Early June. From October through June we are privileged to have an inspired organist to lead our musical celebration.

Normally, the Eucharist is held in the church but we have been experimenting with having the service in the Parish Hall in the summer with the thought of reducing electrical usage by not having to air condition the church. The summer service is informal, piano instead of organ, but hearty singing from the participants, and we use one of the alternative liturgies authorized by the Church. The small service in the Parish Hall has a more intimate feeling than Sunday Eucharist takes on a different character akin to a "Dinner Church." Sunday Service is always followed by a communal coffee/snack hour which is either in the courtyard or in the Parish Hall depending on the heat.

We are blessed to have two gifted retired priests as members of our Congregation: Father George Keith (year round) and Father Michael Plekon (November through May). Together they have over 70 years experience as parish priests. Both Fr. George and Fr. Michael assist us by conducting services and/or preaching on any given Sunday. Often one will be the principal celebrant and the other will assist and preach the sermon. Their presence and assistance has been invaluable to us during the time of transition. They have generously volunteered to assist in any way they can with worship and pastoral care during the transition period and beyond. They are both desirous and willing to continue to assist our new rector in the conduct of our worship service as may be requested thus providing invaluable backup and relief not often available in a parish of our size.

We are most grateful.



We also enjoy having special services including Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, a procession from the palapa to the church on Palm Sunday, and, during Holy Week, we have the traditional services culminating in the Easter Vigil. On Easter Day, there is a widely attended ecumenical Easter Sunrise service on the hill behind the Methodist Church after which we have a simple communion service at our church as well as the regular 9:30 service.

The Sunday service is also available by Zoom for those who are unable to join us in person for whatever reason, from being away for the season to physical inability to make it to church or simple choice.

This virtual service is particularly important to St Barnabas as we seek to keep our seasonal parishioners connected to St Barnabas during their time away from Borrego. Fellowship follows each Sunday service with refreshments provided by parishioners. This is an opportunity to get to know some of the members of St. Barnabas and to welcome visitors. We take great pride in trying to make newcomers feel welcome.



Assistant Usher at our Pet Friendly Services

Special Services



Ashes to Go
at Christmas Circle

Weddings



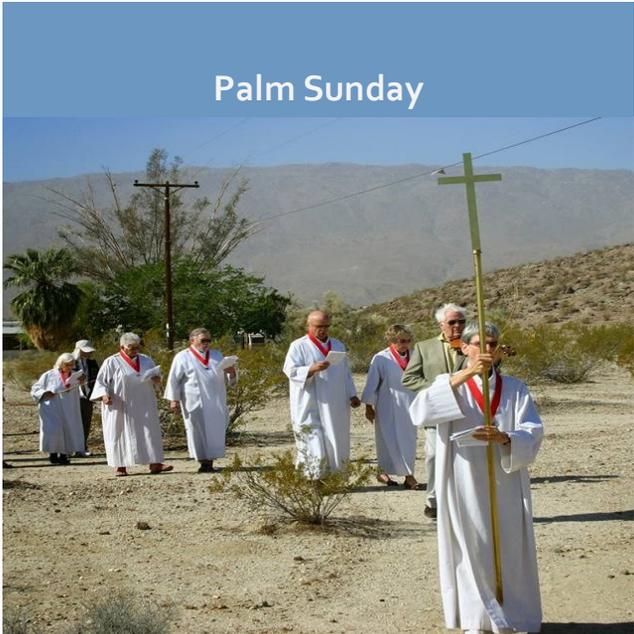
**DO YOU LIKE TO SING
CHRISTMAS CAROLS?**



**Join us at St. Barnabas
for
Lessons and Carols
on Christmas Eve**

December 24th at 7 pm
St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
2680 Country Club Rd.

Snacks served afterward.



Palm Sunday



Blessing of the Animals

Music

During "the season," while we celebrate the Eucharist weekly in the sanctuary, we are blessed to enjoy organ music from the very talented Dr. Charles F. von Gunten, CAGO.

Dr. von Gunten achieved the Colleague of the American Guild of Organists status in 2021. He carefully selects our worship musical selections.

Providing inspiration to break from what some have called the Episcopal tradition of arriving just in the nick of time for the opening processional and departing immediately after service, Dr. von Gunten thrills us with themed Preludes and Postludes which are must listens.



MUSIC LIST

CHARLES F. VON GUNTEN, CAGO
ORGANIST
ST. BARNABAS CHURCH
BORREGO SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022 PENTECOST XVII

PRELUDE: 1st MOVEMENT, SONATA I IN E-FLAT MAJOR J.S. BACH (1685-1750)
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 11 AWAKE, MY SOUL MORNING HYMN
GRADUAL HYMN: 659 O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH THEE DE TAR
RECESSIONAL HYMN: 551 RISE UP, YE SAINTS OF GOD! FESTAL SONG
POSTLUDE: PROCESSIONAL WILLIAM MATHIAS (1934-1992)

NOTES

The music today represents the breadth and depth of music for the organ as a way to mark the first day I serve as your organist. The sonatas for organ by Johann Sebastian Bach are part of the training of organists because they require the organist to "rub the stomach while patting the head." These parts each going their own way. I learned the first movement of his first Sonata in high school. It is still a challenge to play. I will play the concluding third movement next week. The gradual hymn tune was written by Calvin Hampton (1938-1984), organist at Calvary Episcopal Church, New York City before his untimely death from AIDS. The tune was named for Vernon de Tar, longtime organist at Church of the Ascension in New York City. William Mathias is a Welsh composer most famous for composing the anthem, *Let the people praise Thee, O God*, written for the July 1981 royal wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana. I visited patients with Princess Diana when she visited the hospice unit I directed in Chicago in 1997, a year before her death.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022 PENTECOST XVIII

PRELUDE: ALLEGRO, SONATA I IN E-FLAT MAJOR J.S. BACH (1685-1750)
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 411 O BLESS THE LORD, MY SOUL! ST. THOMAS (WILLIAMS)
GRADUAL HYMN: 396 NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD NUN DANKET
RECESSIONAL HYMN: 493 O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING AZMON
POSTLUDE: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT S. KARG-ELERT (1877-1933)

NOTES

Accompanying hymns for congregational singing is the core skill for a church organist. Doing more than just playing the hymn through for an introduction and all the verses in the same way is a challenge. I have always enjoyed the singing experience when the organist is able to capture my imagination through inventive accompaniments and flourishes. In recent years, the Hymn Festival as a participatory organ concert in many Lutheran churches has featured this. John Ferguson, longtime head of organ music at St. Olaf's College, led a hymn festival at Augustana Lutheran Church where I served as organist during the 1980s. I was smitten. More recently, I attended a workshop he led on creative hymn improvisation. I have chosen his arrangements for the gradual and recessional hymn knowing that some of the congregation attended St. Olaf's and remember him well. My goal is to improve my own ability to create this kind of excitement and interest for all the hymns at St. Barnabas. Monday, October 10, is Canadian Thanksgiving—the day to close the summer cottage with a big turkey dinner. Nun Danket indeed.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16 PENTECOST XIX

PRELUDE: FUGUE IN G MAJOR J.S. BACH (1685-1750)
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 337 AND NOW, O FATHER, UNDA ET MEMORES
GRADUAL HYMN: 711 SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD SEEK YE FIRST
RECESSIONAL HYMN: 535 YE SERVANTS OF GOD PAERBORN
POSTLUDE: CARILLON DE LONGPONT LOUIS VIERNE (1870-1937)

NOTES

Most organists say their favorite church music is either from the Baroque period of the 18th century (e.g. JS Bach), or from the romantic French period in the 19th century. The fugue is an archetypal organ piece from the Baroque, where the composer introduces a theme in each of the 4 voices and weaves them all together in a clever and technically precise way. In contrast, the French romantic tradition has many features that are akin to the impressionist painting movement—breaking the rules and focussing on emotion rather than precise detail. Louis Vierne was the organist of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris. Famously, he was giving a concert and suddenly pitched forward and died—fulfilling his oft-stated lifelong dream to die at the console of the great organ of Notre Dame. In the postlude, in addition to listening for the tune played by the carillon, see if you can "see" the swinging of the bells at the conclusion of the piece.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 PENTECOST XX

PRELUDE: FUGUE IN G MAJOR "Jig" J.S. BACH (1685-1750)
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 398 I SING THE ALMIGHTY POWER OF GOD FOREST GREEN
GRADUAL HYMN: 686 COME THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING NETTLETON
RECESSIONAL HYMN: 636 HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION FOUNDATION
POSTLUDE: RIGAUDON ANDRE CAMPRA (1660-1744)

NOTES

Surely, the 'jig' fugue by J.S. Bach is one of the most bubbly, bouncy works he ever wrote for the organ. So often he is associated with highly cerebral, "deep" music. I think many play it too fast as a demonstration of their dexterity, but lose the feeling of the dance in the process. Andre Campra was a French composer of the Baroque era. A rigaudon is a lively dance for couples originating in the Provence region of France. This was arranged by E. Power Biggs, an English organist recruited to Christ Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was influential in popularizing classical pipe organ music and the resurgence of interest in pre-romantic composers. He also promoted the return to classic organ construction (in contrast to the romantic symphonic instruments that characterized most American churches in the early 20th century). In short, a "tracker backer." I took lessons from one of his students. I distinctly remember hearing a recording of his playing this piece on the organs of Cologne Cathedral on a vinyl record when I was in high school. I just had to learn to play it.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30 PENTECOST XXI

PRELUDE: MINUET, SUITE GOTHIQUE LEON BOELLMANN (1862-1897)
PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 337 AND NOW, O FATHER, MINDFUL OF THE LOVE UNDA ET MEMORES
GRADUAL HYMN: 510 COME, HOLY SPIRIT, HEAVENLY DOVE ST. AGNES
RECESSIONAL HYMN: 410 PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN LAUDA ANIMA
POSTLUDE: TOCCATA, SUITE GOTHIQUE LEON BOELLMANN (1862-1897)

NOTES

Although All Saints Day falls on November 1, St. Barnabas will celebrate it on November 6. All Hallows Day is another name for All Saints Day—and the night before is All Hallows' Eve (or Halloween). The Toccata from Leon Boellmann's Suite Gothique is the most ghoulishly evocative piece of "spooky" organ music I know—I learned it in high school for that reason! Leon Boellmann, who died when he was only 35, is best known for the Suite Gothique and its concluding Toccata. The Toccata (which means "touch piece"), which concludes the suite, is a work of moderate difficulty but brilliant effect with a dramatic minor theme and a rhythmic emphasis that made it popular even in Boellmann's day. The Minuet is the second movement of the work.

Education and Christian Formation

Centering Prayer

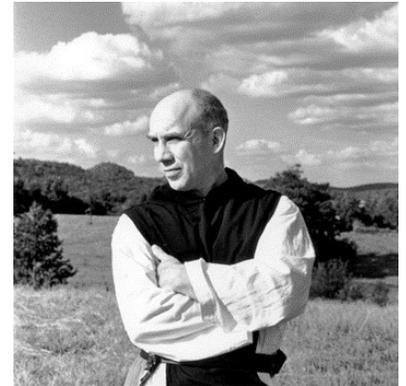
Centering Prayer is a Christian form of silent prayer, time set aside to pray in silence often in community. At St. Barnabas we begin this worship time together with a short reading followed by 20 minutes of silent prayer. We conclude with The Lord's Prayer. We hold Centering Prayer via Zoom on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.

This ancient form of Christian Prayer practiced by the early Desert Mothers and Fathers has the effect of deepening our relationship with the Divine Presence strengthening our natural ability to lead a Spirit-led life – a life of increasing calm, equanimity and compassion.

Lunch with Michael (Plekton)

Michael Plekon is a priest, professor, author, sociologist and theologian. He has published more than a dozen books, as well as hundreds of journal papers, book chapters and reviews on faith and holiness. He is also a member of St Barnabas.

We are fortunate that Michael chooses to offer his time to provide weekly educational opportunities via Zoom in a series we have unimaginatively titled "Lunch with Michael". Each week Michael brings a unique perspective as both clergy and sociologist/professor well versed in both Western and Eastern Orthodox Christian tradition. An always interesting discussion followed by interactive question and answer period topics range from early Christian - and even pre-Christian holy figures to more contemporary examples of holy lives. Recent topics have included such chronologically diverse individuals as John the Baptist, Mother Maria Skobtsova, and Thomas Merton.



Psalm Study

Drawing from both Anglican Lectio Divina Worship and Study practices and Quaker Small Group Listening and worship sharing practice, each week we will share our 21st century experiences with these ancient Prayers using a Psalm chosen from the 150 Ancient Hebrew Psalms found in The Old Testament and Book of Common. The idea is to experience at a deep level how our wisdom sharing with one another can bring to life healing and wholeness in today's tender and transforming times. Together, as we travel together, we hope to find threads which bind our human stories with divine possibilities.

All are welcome!!

Other Recent Educational/Spiritual Opportunities

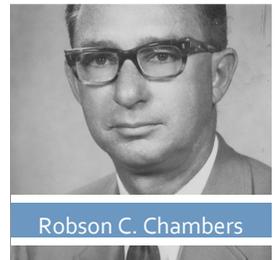
Other recent religious education and spiritual growth opportunities have included book club, bible study and various discussion groups. The Congregational Survey responses revealed a desire from the congregation for more such opportunities both in person and on zoom.

Buildings and Grounds



Church and Parish Hall

Our church was designed and constructed on land donated to St. Barnabas by the Methodist Church and DiGiorgio-Burnand-Kuhrts holdings. Architectural services were donated by Robson C. Chambers—a noted architect, parishioner and member of the Vestry. The design, construction and furnishing of the church paid painstaking detail to the Spanish Mission Style which fits harmoniously with the environment and area. Ground was broken in 1984, construction began January 6, 1986 and was completed on June 21, 1986. The last window—the great window behind the altar which looks out to God’s creation with a stunning mountain desert landscape was installed on September 20, 1986.



The timing was propitious because the first service in the new church was held the following day (September 21, 1986). The 100 person capacity church was overflowing with a congregation of 126 people. The formal dedication occurred on January 4, 1987, with Rt. Rev. Charles Brinkley Morton, Bishop of the Diocese of San Diego presiding.

During construction of the church itself the Vestry unanimously agreed that it was very important to add a Parish Room with a kitchen and a small office room. This was also designed by Robson Chambers and fits seamlessly with the design of the church itself. The Parish Room is attached to the church in an L-shaped configuration which forms a perfect courtyard used for multiple events throughout the year. Later it was determined to expand the Parish Hall to add a separate office—also designed to fit seamlessly with the church and existing parish hall.

During the hot summer months the Parish Hall now serves as the site for a more intimate celebration of the Eucharist each week. This is done both to save on cooling costs during the desert summer and also because it provides for a more informal intimate celebration of the Eucharist during the summer months when attendance seasonally decreases. During the “season” the Parish Hall serves as the site for “Holy Coffee Hour”, Parish Meetings and other events.



Labyrinth



Our labyrinth is patterned after one at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. They are the 11 circuit type like the one built in the Chartres Cathedral in France during the Middle Ages.

The Labyrinth is a spiritual tool whose ultimate purpose remains what it always has been - a way to encounter the Holy. It transcends all religions and dogmas and outdistances all cultures and ideologies.

The labyrinth is a popular spot for visitors to our church as noted in the Guest Book maintained near the entrance to the labyrinth.

Rectory



The St. Barnabas Rectory is a 1,923 square foot single family home located on a ½ acre lot in Borrego Springs. The Rectory is an attractive 2 bedroom/2 bath home on .37 acres. Features large living/dining area with wood burning fireplace. The kitchen includes all appliances, new laminate flooring throughout, master bedroom with seating area, master bath, guest room and guest bath. There is a large family room/office with tile floor and separate laundry room with washer and dryer. A new furnace and AC were installed this last summer as well as a solar energy system. The home also has an evaporative cooler for use when the humidity is low (less than 25%).

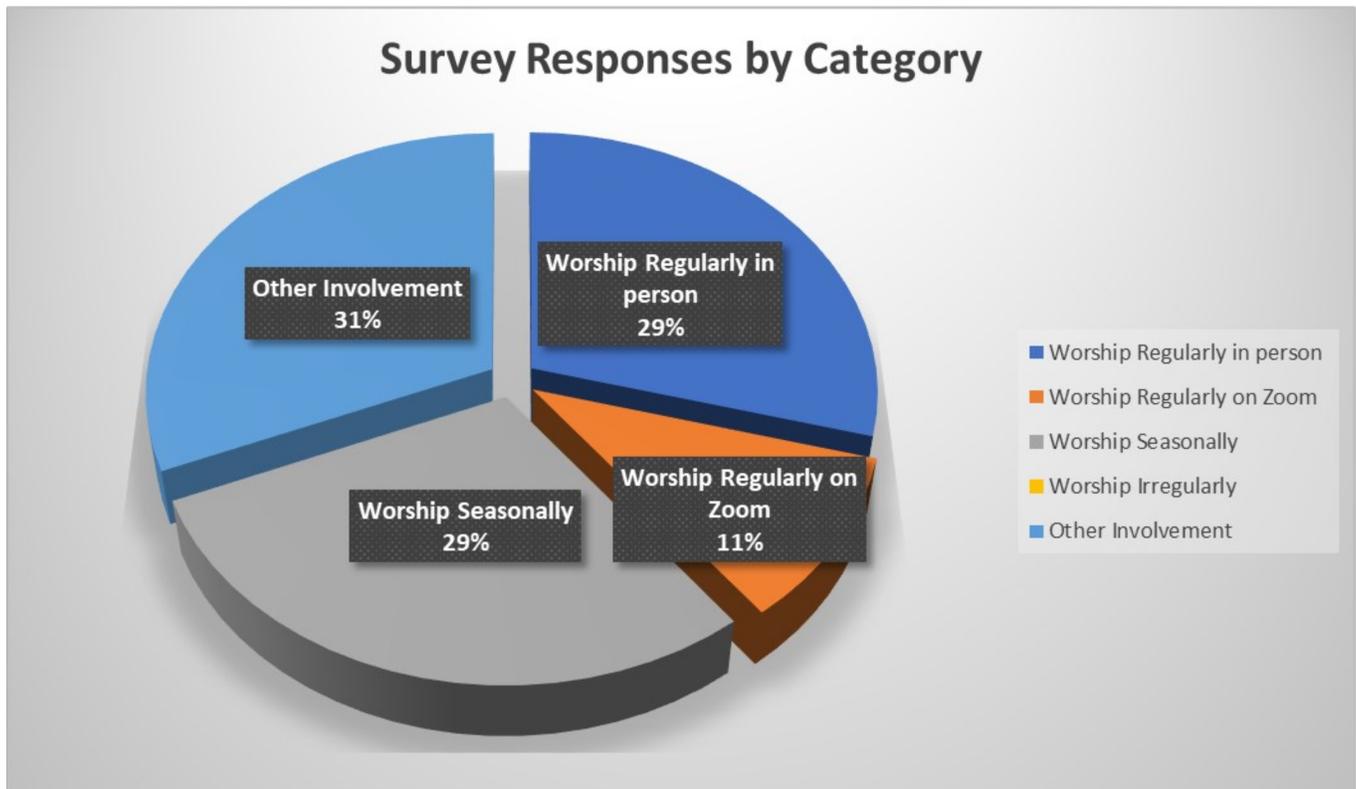
Front gated entry to a front courtyard and the front door with access to the one car garage and large storage area. Two patios to enjoy star gazing in the evenings. Mature landscaping with irrigation system. Gardener included.

The Rectory is approximately a five-minute drive from the church.

Congregational Survey Results

In preparation for issuing a call for candidates to fill the vacant rector position at St. Barnabas, the Calling Committee began the initial step: to characterize the congregation as a whole by identifying issues of importance, concerns, and aspirations from individuals in the parish and in the surrounding community. This collection of “personality characteristics” began in February 2022 with a congregational story-telling session, in which worshipers and others brought up matters on their minds from the past, present, and future during a moderated gathering. Results of the story-telling process contributed an initial set of topics of importance to glean from a subsequent survey designed to delve more deeply on the individual level.

An assessment survey was developed to populate a crucial piece of the St. Barnabas Parish Profile and the community that would provide a portrait of the Parish to assist a potential new rector to assess whether St. Barnabas might be a good fit and a place where God is calling him/her to serve. The Calling Committee generated several drafts of a short set of questions inviting both parishioners and community members to reflect on what St. Barnabas is here to do, and how it can follow its own call in the community of Borrego Springs. The goal of the assessment was to promote a good match between the parish and the future clergy.



An English-language questionnaire was translated into Spanish and simplified. Questionnaires were distributed to worshipers immediately following the storytelling session in February 2022. Questionnaires were also available online and were promoted using social media and at the March 2022 food bank. A deliberate effort was made to solicit responses not only from current members of the congregation, but also from other members of the community who interact in multiple ways with St. Barnabas. Many worshipers spread copies to friends, partners, ex-parishioners, and other community members.

Eight questions were designed to get at what was uppermost in respondents' minds about St. Barnabas and its relationship to the larger community – that is, there were no right or wrong answers. One final question on the demographics of involvement with the church was included. Respondents had several weeks to complete and return questionnaires.

Themes were tallied, and the top topics of interest to respondents were then revisited to find smaller categories within each one. These subcategories illustrate linkages to other themes that add specifics to the final result – a description of what makes this parish community unique.



Elaboration on top four themes

“Community focus” included mentions of service projects, spreading the Word, and *ayuda* (help). Linkage to **partnership** showed up repeatedly with this theme, especially in terms of involvement with the Borrego Ministers Association. One idea emerged from the Spanish-language responses: that there should be “unity” among efforts to help those who are in need. Many mentions were made of teaming up with other non-profits.

Trust of people outside one’s family is of utmost concern in the Latino community. This is a barrier to being truly helpful in any bicultural community, or any community with “haves and have-nots.” Many efforts in Borrego Springs have misunderstood the amount of effort and time needed to bridge this gap, with several exceptions (the Borrego Covid Response team and the BMA). This topic requires substantive work and study on the part of our parish.

“Love in Action” included “... seeking to grow to meet challenges of living out the faith...challenges that stretch us and make us a community that is witness to the teachings of Christ.” (027) We need to step back and let the Spirit call us to get God’s plan for us, given the multiple needs facing our community. Serving God’s purpose and trusting in the Spirit means better quality of life for the whole community; drawing inspiration from the desert which is a place that fosters meditative practice, transformation, and spiritual awakening, and has been for thousands of years. Identifying with Jesus is not difficult here. Much motivation for coming and staying comes from the sense of place experienced by those inside and outside of the congregation.

The “desire to serve God in the community” (046) is the basis for our emulation of Christ’s example. There were many mentions of going “out” – outside the church walls, out into the needy community, out beyond our region on the virtual world – with acts of love. We also want to find and invite caring people to join us. “God’s challenge [is] to care for our brothers and sisters in need.”

The Good News is transformed into helpful and practical solutions for any and all of God’s people, as the opportunities arise. Being part of God’s team as a group widens the effects of the good works that we already do as individuals. “We are small, but we serve ourselves and our community.”

COMMUNITY FOCUS	LOVE IN ACTION	WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE	WORSHIP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping those in need with food Helping Schools (tutoring music) Helping with non-food needs Community Partnerships Caring for Borregans Holistic focus on needs of particular families Engagement on broader community issues Neighborliness (esp as to Latino families) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faith in the Spirit Inspiration from the Place Being examples of Jesus Taking the Word and acting on it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality on first visit Warm Greetings Invitation to return Spirit of Giving and Openness Active and Welcoming Friendliness Atmosphere of Trust, Respect and Welcome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sunday Services Special Worship opportunities Episcopal Tradition Active Participation Atmosphere during worship Virtual Presence option for seasonal/shut ins

Most respondents thought that the welcoming atmosphere was a strong point. This theme included mentions of inclusivity/exclusivity, encouragement, invitation, flexibility, and references to reserved, chilly manners of Northern Hemisphere populations.

Of the top four themes, Worship had the most scattered counts of subcategories and the most extreme opinions. Quality homilies were mentioned frequently. Although some responses mentioned the rigidity of the traditional service, most were appreciative.

Our New Rector

The desert is a unique environment which offers peace, serenity and opportunity for meditation not available everywhere. To paraphrase Frank Herbert in DUNE, God created the desert “to test the faithful” and to provide unique opportunity for spiritual life and leadership.

We are looking for our own modern day Desert Father or Mother. A Priest who will draw inspiration from the peace, serenity and spirituality of the desert. A Priest who in turn will inspire us to be better servants of God and Community: to grow in our relationship and love with Jesus and to grow in our relationship and evangelism within our community.

As one survey respondent put it – a Priest who will be a “good fit” but not necessarily “in our own image and likeness.” A Priest who can provide leadership as we strive to fulfill our Vision Statement to “build a harmonious, fully inclusive, group of loving Christians who are engaged, passionate and spiritually healthy. Jesus himself set an example of service, which St. Barnabas will use as the basis for making a compassionate impact in the community and the world.” As our own Fr. George described it at the Reception of our own Fr. Michael as a Priest in the Episcopal Church; a Priest who can bring God to the People, and the People to God.”.

We seek a collaborative leader, spiritually grounded, empathetic, open minded, tenacious, morally courageous, resilient, and community focused while also caring for the needs of the congregation; a priest who inspires by both preaching and living the Gospel to enable us to better serve God, each other and the community.

Because we are a small Parish the Priest we seek will—initially—be a part time (approximately 2/3 time). The time flexibility will enable our new Priest to achieve and maintain a healthy balance between service to the Congregation/Community and his/her own physical, spiritual and mental health and provide opportunity to pursue his/her own personal projects, hobbies, activities, or other interests.

What We Offer

St. Barnabas is a small, somewhat geographically isolated, parish completely surrounded by the Anza-Borrego Desert. Far from being oppressed or limited by the Desert Environment ST Barnabas thrives like the wildflowers which arise each year to beautify our environment. We draw our inspiration from our surroundings. We offer . . .

- † Lay leadership that is committed to work collaboratively with our rector for the greater good of God, the Parish and the Community
- † Financial stability backed by a substantial endowment for a Church of our size
- † Zero debt
- † Existing Community and Ecumenical Partnerships which enable us to provide greater service to the community than we would be able to accomplish alone
- † Flexible part time schedule to achieve proper work/personal balance and provide time to pursue your personal desires
- † Opportunity to grow into full time position along with potential Parish growth
- † Retired clergy as members of the congregation with over 70 years collective service as Parish Priests who stand ready, willing and able to provide support to our new Rector in whatever manner may be most helpful
- † Competitive Salary
- † Participation in TEC Pension Plan
- † Health Insurance Supplement in alignment with EDSD policies
- † Vacation
- † Sabbatical
- † Professional Education allowance
- † Rectory—including all utilities and gardener (\$0.00 housing expense to you)

Next Steps

If you feel this might be the right opportunity for you to continue your ministry please submit a cover letter, a completed OTM Portfolio, references and a Curriculum Vitae to the Rev. Canon Gwynn Lynch, EDSO Canon to the Ordinary at glynch@edsd.org.

Thank you for your interest in St Barnabas.

The St Barnabas Vestry and Calling Committee

