



St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Newsletter



2018

2201 SW Vermont St. Portland, OR 97219 503-246-1949

**A Believe
Outloud Parish**

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www.facebook.com/StBarnabasPDX**

Fr. Sean....

In response to a question from a parishioner, in a recent sermon, I explored questions around the inclusion of politics in church. I affirmed that, from my first interview at St. Barnabas, I have been committed to maintaining a “big tent.” In other words, I believe that overtly political topics in communal worship are detrimental to the health of the congregation. For an hour (okay, sometimes an hour and fifteen minutes) on Sunday morning, people of all political understandings should be able to come together for worship, prayer, and song without being subject to potentially divisive political discourse.

St. Barnabas has parishioners located all over the political spectrum and everyone deserves the right to commune with God on a Sunday morning without feeling like they are being drawn into the hate and discontent so prevalent in our current civil discourse. For this reason, I will continue to lead St. Barnabas down the political middle. After all, the *via media* (the middle way) is a core concept of Anglicanism and it permits people with different political and theological perspectives to worship without fear of being attacked for not thinking the “right way.”

However, this does not mean that all of you want your religious experience to be apolitical. Some of you believe that your faith calls you to activism. You might even enjoy some marching and protesting. Yet, there are others among us who wonder what all the marching and protesting is about. In this lack of agreement, there is an opportunity for the congregation to explore different political perspectives in search of common ground. Therefore, I am committed to offering people of all political viewpoints a vehicle for exploring and expressing their faith through a political lens - just not in the context of Sunday worship.

To that end, we will occasionally offer forums and classes that highlight issues of the day. The timing and selection of subjects will depend on the passions of individuals or groups of the congregation who wish to explore particular topics. Of course, I hope that a broad range of people will participate in these forums, but everyone will have the freedom to attend as they desire. My hope is that we can offer our politically active members an outlet for expressing their faith in a political context without diminishing the sacred nature of worship for the people who wish to check their politics at the church door.

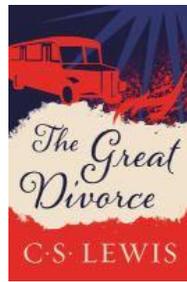
I am also open to the development of affinity groups if people of like mind would like to join together to explore questions of politics and faith. If you have interest in such a group, please let me know.

More than anything, however, I want to foster the concept of the big tent. There is room for all of us in here! Come on in!



May 4TH and 5TH - Open 9 to 5

Our annual Women of St. Barnabas rummage sale will be in full swing when the newsletter goes out. There will still be plenty of room for helpers at the sale both Friday and Saturday. Strong backs are needed towards the end of the sale Saturday to box the unsold items and get them to Goodwill. Please consider helping us get the leftovers ready to be donated and out the door. Leslie Coefield and others put their heart and soul into this and the success of the sale helps us support many outreach projects.



It's Been 18 Months!

...since we had a discussion group on C.S. Lewis! Jack is rolling over in his grave! To avoid further damage to the Holy Trinity churchyard in Oxford, let's do a discussion group on *The Great Divorce* in May!

The title refers to the separation between heaven and hell. The book tells the story of a man who dreams that he goes to hell, but then boards a bus with other denizens of "the bad place" to visit heaven—and possibly stay!

The book talks about various ways in which people constantly but unknowingly choose hell by stubbornly sticking to unholy thoughts, ideas, and concepts. But it also shows that heaven is a choice we can make every day.

"We will be meeting on the **Thursdays of May 10, 17, and 24 at 6:30 in the Narthex**. Feel free to bring your supper!" There will be a sign-up sheet in Grafe Hall in April. Books are \$14.00, and if you buy one through the church they will be distributed at the first meeting. It's a fast-moving, easy read (146 pages). I hope you'll join me!

Jean Masonek



ANNUAL PENTECOST TONGUES OF FIRE CHILI COOK-OFF SUNDAY MAY 20TH

In keeping with a long tradition here at St. Barnabas the WoSB and Parish Life are hosting our annual Pentecost Tongues of Fire Chili Cook-Off, Sunday May 20th following the 10:00 service. We will be featuring 4 chilis with meat and 4 vegetarian chilis. Voting for your favorite in each category will take place after you all have had a chance to sample them. Cornbread will be offered as well. Prizes will be awarded to the top two chili makers.

We need your help - please consider an entry from your family. The sign-up sheet is on the WoSB bulletin board in Grafe Hall.

Remember to show your **Pentecostal spirit** by wearing orange, red, or yellow (fire colors) to church and stay for chili samples and voting at coffee hour. This is a fun competition so don't miss it!

Questions - please see our chair heads Vicki Church, Donnie Blodgett, and Kris Lunda.

YOUTH MINISTRY AND EVENTS

We are happy to announce this summer's Vacation Bible Experience



Our theme this year is Star Wars! It's happening June 25th to 29th (Monday through Friday) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. for ages 5 to 11. Please register by May 30th. The registration fee is \$15 (waivers available) and adult volunteers are needed. Contact Aubin at ymstbarnabas@gmail.com for more information.

High School Group – we will meet Wednesday, May 9th, at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck in Grafe Hall.

Don't forget... **Episcopal Week 2018 at Suttle Lake Camp** will be July 23-28. This is for children and youth currently in grades 1-12. Registration is now open. **There is an Early Bird Discount for registrations made before May 5.** There are a couple possibilities to keep in mind while considering Suttle Lake: Campers who have completed grades 3-12 can sign up for a full week of camp, now called Summer Camp Week 2. Campers who have completed 1-4 grades can sign up for a few days of camp (July 23-26), now called Intro Summer Camp Week 2. Camp scholarships are available for up to \$200 per camper. (Please note: If your kid simply can't get enough camping, the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Oregon also has a camping ministry throughout summer at the Ascension Camp & Conference Center in Cove, Oregon.) For more information please see Aubin. You can email him at ymstbarnabas@gmail.com or call him at 414-326-4451.



Graduation Sunday will be June 3rd.

Kids, parents, and anyone interested are invited to participate in our youth-led Graduation Sunday service on June 3rd, please contact Fr. Sean for more information. If you have a student graduating please contact Cathie in the church office. We would like to honor all our graduates at a special coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service. Sign up to help in Grafe hall.

**Calling all Graduates & their families: If you have a student graduating please contact Cathie in the church office. 503-246-1949 or stbarnabas@hotmail.com
We would like to honor all our graduates at a special coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service.**

Reminder: Please do not bring latex balloons to St. Barnabas, due to severe allergies!

- Latex balloons: The symptoms are swelling in eyes, trouble breathing, wheezing, hives and then continues to anaphylaxis where you have severe allergic reaction and need epinephrine. The difficulty is the worst issue always occurs with balloons as they leech latex into the environment continually and thus constantly excrete latex into the air. This causes most of those affected to severely react.



Christmas in June is coming!

During the month of June, the Women of St. Barnabas will be collecting cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items for the women and children at West Women's and Children's Shelter. Christmas in June is our bi-annual collection drive to help support the shelter and their needs. These items can be placed in the decorated Christmas box in the narthex of the church. The shelter is always in need of new supplies and always very grateful for St. Barnabas's contributions. The list below of suggested donation items, are items to help the shelter and their daily operations as well as things to be given to the women and families at the shelter.

- Hygiene products such as – deodorant, body wash, shampoo & conditioner and razors
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Cleaning products & supplies
- Basic office supplies
- Twin Bedding (sheets, blankets & comforters) & pillows
- Toilet paper, paper towels, & plastic silverware
- Baby wipes and diapers
- New children's underwear & socks (all sizes 2t-18)
- Gift cards to Fred Meyer and Target
- Adult bus tickets
- Umbrellas, flashlights and batteries

Christian Formation and Outings, Dates and Times

YOUTH GROUP

High schoolers (and any kids 13+) are invited to our Youth Group meeting on Wednesday, **May 9th**, at **6:30pm** in Grafe Hall. There will be pizza, but everyone is encouraged to bring snacks to share with others, potluck-style. We'll play a game, discuss scripture, and afterwards close with evening prayer in the chapel.

DINNER MEET-UP

Everyone in their 20s, 30s, 40s, and anyone anywhere *remotely* near those years is heartily invited to meet up for dinner at Casa Colima here in Hillsdale on Wednesday, **May 16th**, at **6:30pm**. "20s-30s Group" was what this was called last time. Let's tentatively rename this our 1949 Group. Not only does this range of ages – from 19 to 49 – make room for more, but St. Barnabas was, after all, founded in 1949! Parents, please consider dropping your children off at the St. Barnabas nursery, where childcare will be provided from 6-9pm. If you'd prefer to bring your children with you, that works, too!

PORTLAND RESCUE MISSION

Members of St. Barnabas will be heading out to Portland Rescue Mission's shelter for women and children, Shepherd's Door, on **May 30th**. Some will be arriving at 3:30pm to prepare food there, others will be arriving later (**before 5pm**) to serve the meal and eat along with the families. Parents and high schoolers are encouraged to come. Please write your name and contact info on the sign-up sheet in Grafe Hall, or you can contact Aubin at ymstbarnabas@gmail.com or 414-326-4451.

MOVIE NIGHT

Reverent and Serious Movies about Theology and Suffering (RaSMaTaS, pronounced "razmatazz") – our new adult Christian formation movie series and discussion group – continues! On Thursday, **May 31st**, at **6:30pm**, we'll be following up the last two Biblical epics with a goofy (and yet still thoughtful) fictional account of the making of a Biblical epic during the Cold War: *Hail, Caesar!* (2016), starring George Clooney and Josh Brolin, directed by the Coen Brothers.

When to Call the St. Barnabas Church Office

- + When a member of your family is in the hospital.
- + When you learn of a death in the church family.
- + When your class, group or committee plans to meet.
(All meetings MUST be on the calendar)
- + When your address, phone number, or email address has changed, or to use your "Away" address for mailings of the Newsletter.
- + When you would like more information or a mailing.
- + When you learn of someone who may be interested in church membership.
- + When you would like Holy Communion brought to you in your home.
- + When you feel we can assist you in any way.

503-246-1949



Stump the Priest

Stump the Priest:

Q: When Jesus was baptized, it wasn't "in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." What did baptism mean back then? Was it the same as any ritual used by modern Jews? What was John the Baptist doing out there?

A: John the Baptist was paving the way for Jesus. "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God" (Isaiah 40:3). Regarding baptism specifically, in the Gospel of Matthew (3:11), John explains what he was up to: "I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." John's baptism was a physical cleansing that reflected mikveh, the Jewish immersion ritual for purity. In metaphorically cleansing the people from sin, John asked the baptized to repent – to turn away from their sinful nature and reprioritize the role of God in their lives.

Today, according to Wikipedia, Orthodox Jews, and some of their Reform and Reconstructionist counterparts, still practice mikveh for reasons including, but not limited to: Women - following menstruation, prior to resuming marital relations; following childbirth, prior to resuming marital relations; a bride, before her wedding. Men - by a bridegroom, on the day of his wedding; before a Jewish holiday, according to the custom of some communities, weekly before Shabbat, under Hasidic and Haredi customs, every day, under Hasidic customs. Either gender - as part of a conversion to Judaism, immersion of utensils acquired from a gentile.

As for Jesus, his baptism was unique. Clearly, he was not in need of repentance. However, by participating in John's baptism he completely redefined the notion of baptism itself. While Jesus was not baptized "in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit," all three persons of the Holy Trinity were present. Of course, Jesus was there, and the Gospel of Luke (3:21-22) assures us that both the Holy Spirit and God the Father were present also: "when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Christians are baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and all three persons of the Trinity show up at the party. According to the Book of Common Prayer Catechism (p. 858), baptism offers us "union with **Christ** in his death and resurrection, birth into **God's** family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and New life in the **Holy Spirit**. All of this because John was standing in the Jordan offering a baptism of repentance.

You may submit questions for Fr. Sean to answer in the Stump the Priest section of our Newsletters! Questions may be emailed to rectorstbarnabas@gmail.com or stbarnabas@hotmail.com, or just drop him a written note.

St. Barnabas Vocation Statement: As followers of Jesus Christ, the people of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church are called to learn, serve, welcome, and celebrate.

Believe Out Loud Welcoming Statement: At St. Barnabas Episcopal Church we believe there is a place for everyone around God's table. With love and respect, we welcome all people into our community. Whatever your beliefs or background, your sexual orientation or gender identity, your race or ethnicity, your age or family structure, abilities or disabilities; wherever you are on life's journey, your presence is a blessing. We cherish the diversity you bring to us.

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

WoSB Rummage Sale, May 4th and 5th. Rummage Sale OPEN hours are Friday, May 4, 9am-5pm & Saturday, May 5, 9am-5pm

Free Community Dinner, May 12th 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Volunteers always welcome, the cooking starts at 2:00 p.m. Signup sheet is on the bulletin board in Grafe Hall.

Monday Night Knitters, May 7th & 21st, June 11th & 25th, at 7:00 p.m. Join us for a night of knitting in Room 1. We currently are working on preemie hats, prayer shawls and more. Beginners and crocheter's are always welcome. Contact Cathie in the church office or Sandy Hunnicutt at shunni@q.com

20-30's Dinner Meet Up at Casa Colima, May 16th at 6:30 p.m.

Mothers' Day with Breakfast between the services, May 13th at 9:00 a.m. is hosted by the Men of St. Barnabas. See Keith Enos or David Piacente for more information. If you would like to help prepare and serve breakfast, please arrive in Grafe Hall at 8:45.

Pentecost Chili Cook-Off, May 20th at coffee hour.

Vestry Meeting, Wednesday, May 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Rector's Office. Guests are welcome.

Women of St. Barnabas the next meeting is TBA.

Second Sunday Singers meet on the Second Sunday of each month! No experience is required, just show up at 9:15 a.m. and join the Second Sunday singers. You'll learn and perform a song that day.

Choir Practices are every Tuesday at 6:45 pm. See Glenn Bjorkquist for more information. We welcome new voices.

Join us for The Bible Challenge / Adult Bible Study each Sunday in 2018 Between the 8 and 10 a.m. services

Newsletter Deadlines: each 3rd Sunday/Monday. Send articles to Sandy Hunnicutt at shunni@q.com. (May 20th & June 18th)

Church Office Hours

Parish Administrator, Cathie Dainton Piacente's hours, Mon-Thurs, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Rector, Father Sean's Office Hours: Mon-Thurs 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or by appointment. Father Sean is available by phone for emergencies

Director of Christian Education, Aubin Spice: Mon-Thurs 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. or by appointment. **Please note:** It is always good to call ahead to be sure that the individual you want to see is in the office, 503-246-1949.

Contact Information

Fr. Sean Wall rectorstbarnabas@gmail.com 503-679-0634
Aubin Spice ymstbarnabas@gmail.com 414-326-4451
Cathie Dainton Piacente stbarnabas@hotmail.com 503-246-1949

The St. Barnabas' Vestry members are Leslie Coefield, Anita Galloway, Dorrie MacGregor, Liz Martin, Cathie Price, Justin Reel, and Betty Woerner.

If you have questions, issues, or comments, all of us are willing to talk. Vestry meetings occur the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm. Meetings are held in Fr. Sean's office. Visitors are always welcome.

Our phone numbers are listed in each newsletter and in every bulletin. Emails are in the church directory and at the church office.

Senior Warden Betty Woerner 503-244-1593
Junior Warden, Buildings & Grounds: Dorrie McGregor 503-794-3993

Christian Education: Anita Galloway 503-807-8047
Outreach: Pastoral Care: Cathie Price 503-598-9363
Parish Life: Elizabeth Martin 503-756-9295
Pastoral Care: Leslie Coefield 503-244-6195
Finance/Stewardship: Justin Reel 503-201-2281
Incoming Treasurer: Vicki Church (non-voting position) 503-841-6444

Other group's contacts:

Altar Guild President: Jackie Alexander 503-332-3242
Organist: Lewis Needham 503-628-2430
Music Director: Glenn Bjorkquist 503-245-9024
Men's Group: Keith Enos 503-244-6195
Women of St. Barnabas (WoSB): Lisa Begley 503-245-2378
Children's Fellowship Coordinator: Robbie Jessen 503-246-4035

Newsletter Submissions: Sandy Hunnicutt shunni@q.com

Do you use Facebook? Our page: St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Portland, OR

Do you OECN? Oregon Episcopal Church News is available online. Keep up with Diocesan events and issues, at <http://www.diocese-oregon.org/subscribe-to-oecn-weekly-email-update/>

About this newsletter: Got news? Submit items (electronically is best, but we also accept paper or even phone calls) to Cathie in the church office by the last Monday of the month for inclusion in the next month's Newsletter. Or send them directly to Sandy Hunnicutt at shunni@q.com