

ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NEW JERSEY

**Parish Profile**  
**2010 - 2011**

# St. Barnabas Episcopal Church Parish Profile

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## Our Prayer

*Lord, look with favor upon our church as we strive to know Your will, experience Your love, and do Your work in this world. We humbly ask you to guide our next rector to us; and grant us the wisdom and guidance to discern that person's calling. We ask this in faith, confidently believing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord,*

*Amen*



Our original stained glass window

## Mission Statement and Goals

### Mission Statement

The purpose of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church is to bring people together in Jesus Christ, to know Him personally, and to strengthen the love of God and people – as taught by Christ and written in the Scriptures- within our family, parish, community and to all people everywhere; or more simply stated, “to learn about and to know Christ and to share him with others.”

### Goals

As we prepare to call a new rector, we have identified or reaffirmed the following parish goals which enable us to live our Baptismal Vows to grow in the knowledge and love of God:

- To nurture a sense of community, purpose and love in the name of Jesus Christ to all who come through the doors of St. Barnabas
- To enrich, grow and strengthen the spiritual lives of both children and adults
- To develop a working model that helps laity to discern and answer call to lay ministry raising up new leaders
- To respond to and reflect God's love by reaching out to those in our communities and the world who need our help

## History of St. Barnabas

St. Barnabas has had a colorful history with lots of ups and downs. At the 1873 Diocesan Convention, Bishop William H. Odenheimer said: "At Sand Hills, near Princeton, a successful work has been inaugurated... with the formation of a small but interesting congregation, thoroughly instructed, and in earnest in the worship of God, and erection of a simple and commodious church. When the original circumstances are considered, the present vigorous manifestation of church energy is like life from dead!" That description of St. Barnabas' origins is apt, as our congregation has "risen from the dead" not once, but several times.



Original church

On June 11, 1872, St. Barnabas Day, the cornerstone of the original St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, (about 1/4 mile from Highway US-1, on Major Road, near the cemetery) was laid and the chapel opened in 1873. The first few years showed a spectacular level of activity (given the population of South Brunswick – about 2,500) under the leadership of Rev. William B. Bolmer, Missionary, from 1874-1880. From the 1880's through the 1950's, St. Barnabas received monthly visits by priests who also served Rocky Hill, Hightstown and later, St. Paul's in Monmouth Junction. Assisting the clergy were lay ministers of the St. Paul's Society of Princeton College and other lay readers. A stained glass window was installed 1892 in memory of Mrs. Sarah Conover, a devoted friend and patron of the church.

The church was closed from 1935-1939, because of a lack of interest. The church was reopened in May 1939. It was reopened so that it could offer a "welcome to the motorist, an inspiring service and the opportunity for rest and relaxation." The services were at 3:30 pm every Sunday afternoon (perfect for Sunday drives), held by a young person's group and a choir, with a short sermon by a visiting minister. The church closed its doors again from January 1 - November 20, 1949, but was not destined for extinction because of The Holy Spirit and the determination of local residents, the Diocesan mission strategy and commitment, and cooperation from other churches.

During the late 1950's and early 1960's, the Kendall Park community was developed, and the church grew dramatically. The first full-time priest for St. Barnabas was appointed by the Bishop in 1963. The old church was closed in 1965 due to age, structural problems and lack of space to grow. The congregation met for 4 ½ years at a local elementary school until a new location was found and a new church was built. Christmas Eve services in 1969 were held in the shell of the new building and regular services began on Palm Sunday, March 22, 1970. The old church subsequently burned down;



Communion at the altar

our stained glass window was salvaged from it and installed behind the altar.

For the first time, St. Barnabas became a full, independent Parish of the Diocese in 1975. Unfortunately, membership declined again and in 1984, parish status was lost. In the 1990's, membership grew once more. We achieved parish status again in 1999 as congregants were called to financially support the church during a period of growth and stability. Our vision had become deeper and broader and our congregation had become more diverse. We had the happy situation of needing to build a bigger worship space because we had outgrown our existing worship space.

In 2002, a new church building was completed thanks to generous donations of time and money from parishioners. The former

sanctuary was renovated into three new classrooms with soundproof walls, so that noise would no longer be a problem during Sunday School. We also refurbished the offices occupied by our rector and the parish office manager.



Our new church completed in 2002

The breadth and depth of participation within the entire parish was truly impressive. Some of the work was contracted to commercial vendors, but much of the planning and construction of the upstairs classrooms was done by the parishioners.

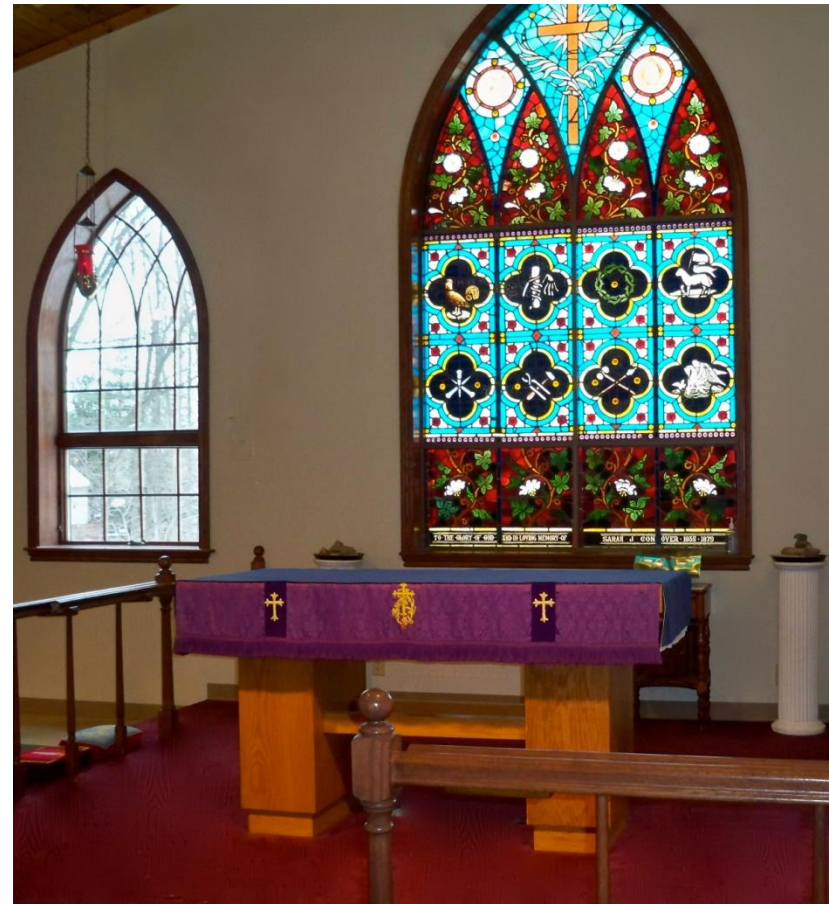


Flags representing our countries of origin

Today, as the church celebrates its 138th Birthday in 2010 we are grateful to be an Episcopal parish within the Diocese of New Jersey. We look forward to welcoming new members (we have room now!) and reaching out to the community and beyond while maintaining the warmth and friendliness that has always characterized our church.

We cherish an understanding and acceptance of different races and cultures and the value of all of God's children through a variety of programs and ministries: International Sunday celebrations; racial diversity education and tolerance; local and international outreach; youth sermons and other recognitions of diversity.

Those who visit our church feel the warmth, see the range of ministries and are impressed by the genuine caring and friendship of its members.



Altar in our current Worship Space

## Our Church Life

### Worship

St. Barnabas' two Sunday worship services are Rite II with a style that would be considered as "Broad Church", because we enjoy a range of worship styles.

During the school year we have an active Sunday school during the 10:30 service with the children joining the worship service before the offertory, to receive communion together with their families. We are blessed with an active cadre of acolytes to assist during the service. Our acolyte program is inclusive and the children are gently nurtured to serve Christ as they play an integral part in our church services. St. Barnabas' acolyte program has grown into one of the largest in the diocese and has a well-developed training regimen where younger trainees are mentored by the older youth. In this way, our acolytes serve regularly from grade school until college.

During the summer months, when there is no Sunday School, our 10:30 service is shorter and we have interactive kid-friendly sermons specifically planned to include children.

St. Barnabas has a small and dedicated choir led by a wonderfully skilled and talented Minister of Music.

We primarily use the 1982 hymnal and "Lift Every Voice and Sing" (LEVAS) II hymnal, but the choir sings anthems from many sources. Keyboard instruments such as the piano and electronic organ are customary accompaniments to the choir. Our music is sometimes supplemented with the tone chime choir, and the talents of children and adults who play string and wind instruments. This is an area



The choir & accompanists



Recessional led by acolytes

that we want to grow, develop and conduct succession planning for skilled leadership.

All parishioners are invited to pray in the sanctuary after the 10:30 service to give thanks to God for our blessings and to offer petitions to meet the needs of individuals and the church. Over twenty parishioners on the prayer chain also pray daily for special requests for individuals.

Additions to our worship might take the form of children's choir, praise music, adult education, and healing services (which we have done in the past). We are active participants in our community's interfaith worship services.

### **Parish Ministries**

In the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers, our congregation maintains a variety of programs in our fervent desire to be Christ's ambassadors. We are open to change and growth and want to be prepared to meet needs as they occur both locally and globally.

We have a devoted group of leaders who continually strive to involve all members to share in the joy of service to others. We openly invite newer members to serve in leadership roles.

Fellowship is essential to the fabric of St. Barnabas. We have enjoyed serving as acolytes, lectors, greeter, usher, choir members, and Sunday School teachers. We are blessed with an active youth group. Recent youth group activities have included a canoe trip, movies, Halloween party and roller-skating. The youth also get

together to serve the community and beyond. Youth play a vital role here at St. Barnabas because we believe the youth are an important part of our ministry.



**Annual Rally Day Parish Picnic on church patio**

St. Barnabas enjoys its diversity and celebrates it. We are diverse in a variety of ways: economically, racially, and generationally. However, we all find common ground in Christ and truly enjoy each other's company and learning from each other. We have an active Ministry of Racial Diversity team which strives toward racial awareness and frank discussions. We organize events such as International Sunday, when folks are invited to bring food from their culture during coffee hour and discuss some of the traditions in their cultures. We enjoy many fellowship activities together like progressive dinners, summer barbecues, Shrove Tuesday pancake suppers, Maundy Thursday agape dinners, spaghetti dinners, Rally Day picnics in September, and St. Nicholas Day. Whatever the activity in the future, we have a strong desire to spend time together as Jesus leads us.



International Sunday Celebration

## Christian Education

Knowing and understanding the teachings of the Bible is our



Vacation Bible School

approach to Christian education. Our Sunday School is staffed with dedicated teachers, and is in effect from September through June of each year for children from pre-school age through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is an annual event during August, which is highly anticipated and is operated in conjunction with nearby Christ the King Lutheran church. Kids attend VBS for one week and are instructed in Bible lessons, songs, games and crafts.

Weekly book readings and discussions are held for adults to develop a rich and deeply committed community and to grow in Christ together.

Our Lenten spiritual enrichment programs have been well received and we want to do more in this area. At least once a year, we offer a women's spiritual retreat for study and reflection. There has been a growing interest in developing more adult education; and we really long for input and guidance in following the scripture.

### **Outreach Ministries**

Outreach at St. Barnabas is our strongest ministry. This faith-filled congregation seeks to comfort those in need through long-term, sustainable programs of our own as well as through partnerships with other local aid organizations. Many of the programs were started by individuals who saw an opportunity to help the community and beyond.

In 2010, the youth held a bake sale and talent show to benefit youths in Haiti, and picked apples and baked apple pies to sell and donated the proceeds to an orphanage in Kenya. Several children and their families felt spiritually called to prepare dinner for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House in New Brunswick on a regularly scheduled basis. In June, 2010, nine youth and two adult leaders participated in our first youth mission trip to Mahanoy City,

Pennsylvania, under the auspices of the Youthworks national program. The parish was very supportive of their efforts as were many non-parishioners from the community.

The youth really enjoyed the mission trip, and more importantly were able to contribute and help in a very meaningful way. Planning is already well under way for next year. Our youth also have participated in the Diocesan youth mission trips: last year two teenagers participated in the Diocese of New Jersey trip to the Mississippi Coast to aid Hurricane Katrina rebuilding and this year one teen participated in the Diocesan Ecuador mission trip.

In addition to our global focus on countries in need like Haiti, a team of adult members has been going to Kenya for the past five years to assist those suffering due to HIV/AIDS. This outreach program is organized by the Global Outreach for Addiction Leadership & Learning (G.O.A.L) project. Their mission is to educate clergy, teachers, and healthcare workers about the link between addiction and the spread of the virus. To help fund the Kenya Mission Trip by our members, we have held the annual African Dinner where traditional African food is prepared and served by our own parishioners. Original African art is displayed and auctioned off during the course of the evening.



Youth Mission Trip



Mitten Tree



Apple Pie Baking



Crop Walk for Hunger

On the local level, St. Barnabas has a strong presence in the community with numerous activities that are generated from the energy and commitment of our members:

- Each December, we put up a “Mitten” Christmas tree and Parishioners decorate the tree with hats and gloves as “ornaments”. These are then donated to those in need.
- We assist Women Aware in the resettlement of clients who are victims of domestic violence. In 2009, we helped resettle nine of their clients with furniture, bedding and household goods.
- We participate in Elijah's Promise program where parishioners volunteer at a soup kitchen in New Brunswick once per month.
- We support the "Ozanam Inn" where parishioners help staff the overflow of men's homeless shelter for two weeks each winter.
- Each year, during VBS week, we collect Back to School supplies for the children in the Ozanam Family Shelter.
- Each October, parishioners participate in a CROP Walk for hunger.
- We support two local food banks by donating food items.
- A recent outreach activity called Hope's Chest was very successful. Over 500 "lightly used" prom dresses were collected and then donated free of charge to families who lacked funds for new prom dresses.
- We make our church available for Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meetings, accommodating four per week, and one Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meeting per week.

These projects are significant in bringing Jesus into the lives of both the participants and recipients as they reflect the love of Jesus Christ.

"And the King shall answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40



Youth Mission Team

## Our Parish Demographics

The parishioners of St. Barnabas church are a diverse group with respect to race, age, nationality, ethnicity, previous religious affiliation and sexual orientation. The current congregational make-up is about 136 families. We hail from five different continents and over 25 different countries, either through birth or heritage. The racial make-up is very diverse with Whites, Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and others ethnic backgrounds.

Many of our parishioners live in the South Brunswick Township area. However, members come from other nearby towns within a twelve mile radius, such as Hillsborough, Highland Park, Edison, Princeton, Monroe, North Brunswick and Franklin.

Below is a demographic snapshot of St. Barnabas' Parishioners:

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- Number of members: 321
  - Number of Communicants: 249
  - Number of families: 136
  - Number under age 16: 75
  - Average Sunday Attendance: 121
  - Sunday School Children: 20
  - Number of Pledge Units: 79
  - Number of identified Givers: 10

The age range is from newborns to over 80 years old. Some of our long time parishioners have been attending St. Barnabas since the 1950's. They serve as a very direct connection to the St. Barnabas of the past six decades. The religious backgrounds of our members are varied, coming from at least eight different denominations including Baptists, Catholics, Episcopalians/Anglicans, Jewish and Pentecostals.



International Sunday Celebration

## Our Community

St. Barnabas is located in Monmouth Junction, which is one of five villages comprising the Township of South Brunswick in Middlesex County, New Jersey, where it meets the borders of Somerset and Mercer Counties.

St. Barnabas traditionally draws parishioners from all three counties above and, as such, we are both a destination church and a local church.

In addition, St. Barnabas is near Princeton Theological Seminary (Presbyterian Church USA) and New Brunswick Theological Seminary (Reformed Church of America) and General Theological Seminary in New York. In the past 10 years, we have been privileged to enjoy the services of four seminarians from these institutions and would like to continue to have students in the future.

If you would like a more comprehensive prospectus on South Brunswick Township and the region, please refer to the following web addresses:

**South Brunswick Township, New Jersey:** <http://www.twp.south-brunswick.nj.us/>

**Middlesex County, New Jersey:** <http://www.co.middlesex.nj.us/>

**The State of New Jersey:** <http://www.state.nj.us/>

**Middlesex County Regional Chamber of Commerce:**  
<http://www.mcrc.org/>

**New York City, New York:**  
[http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/?front\\_door=true](http://www.nyc.gov/portal/site/nycgov/?front_door=true)

**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:** <http://www.phila.gov/>

## Stewardship

### Finances

Funding for St. Barnabas' operation comes primarily from pledges and regular givers. As part of our revenue stream, we rent parts of our space to another church on Sunday afternoon (Grace Community Chapel), and during the week four Alcoholics Anonymous groups and one Narcotics Anonymous group. In addition to regular giving by members, we raise funds for special projects and initiatives.

We are challenged to find opportunities for fundraising through flea markets, art auctions, and time, talent, and treasure auctions. Many of these also serve as fellowship events. We are exploring new ways to cultivate a broader income base and will be seeking the new rector's input.

From 2008 to 2010, we have experienced an approximately 17% drop in pledges and 19% less in income due to the convergence of several factors, including:

- Retirements and relocation of members
- Typical declines during interim period between permanent rectors
- The effects of the recession

During 2008, we received a special offer from an anonymous donor to retire our Brunswick Bank & Trust mortgage which was used for our new sanctuary. The donor made an offer to match dollar for dollar the contributions received from our members to retire the mortgage. We were able to raise \$27,829 from our members during the beginning of the current recession and retired our Brunswick Bank & Trust mortgage in January 2009. We have an outstanding mortgage with the Diocese of New Jersey that is due on 12/31/2026 for the building expansion and renovations. As of 12/31/2009, our remaining principal was \$243,411.

**St. Barnabas Episcopal Church - Summary Statement of Revenues and Expenses:**

Note - The Annual Reports for years 2008 and 2009 are available on request.

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
	Actual	Actual	Budget
# Pledges	95	91	79
Pledge Dollar Amount	164,337	147,598	133,592
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>			
Pledge & Envelopes	168,296	156,536	144,930
Plate & Other Donations	19,496	16,085	16,477
Fund Raising Income	19,925	13,370	9,916
Rental Income	15,037	15,408	15,408
Interest Income	1,841	1,524	1,524
Program Income	1,511	1,552	1,552
Other Income	3,318	16,078	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>229,424</b>	<b>220,553</b>	<b>189,807</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
Personnel	126,171	113,847	121,574
Administration	9,707	8,042	8,042
Worship	2,951	2,556	2,556
Programs	7,292	6,222	6,222
Property	39,725	44,721	41,216
Mortgages	28,476	23,226	19,908
Outreach & Diocesan Pledge	15,182	5,801	6,427
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>229,504</b>	<b>204,415</b>	<b>205,945</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(80)</b>	<b>16,138</b>	<b>(16,138)</b>
<b><u>Mortgages:</u></b>			
Diocesan	16,590	23,226	19,908
# Months Paid	10	14	12
Brunswick Bank & Trust	11,886	-	-
# Months Paid	12		

Source: St. Barnabas 2008 and 2009 Annual Reports

## Building and Facilities

St. Barnabas Church sits on four acres on Sand Hill Road in Monmouth Junction, New Jersey. Our facilities include the following:

- A modern worship space built in 2001, capable of accommodating 275 worshippers
- The Bolmer Room for small meetings—which also serves as a “quiet room” adjacent to the sanctuary space
- Hubbard Hall, where coffee hour and parish meetings are held, that accommodates 160 people
- Three large classrooms, one with a small space dedicated to spiritual renewal and reading
- Two separate offices to accommodate the rector and the office manager

We maintain our primary mechanical and fire suppression systems with professional contractors, and we have just gone through a professional building inspection with only minor findings. Overall, the facilities are in good health. The building and grounds are maintained primarily by parishioners. They help with repairs and general maintenance (like changing light bulbs and mowing the lawn), and assist in spring and fall property cleanup days. A professional cleaning service is employed on a weekly basis.

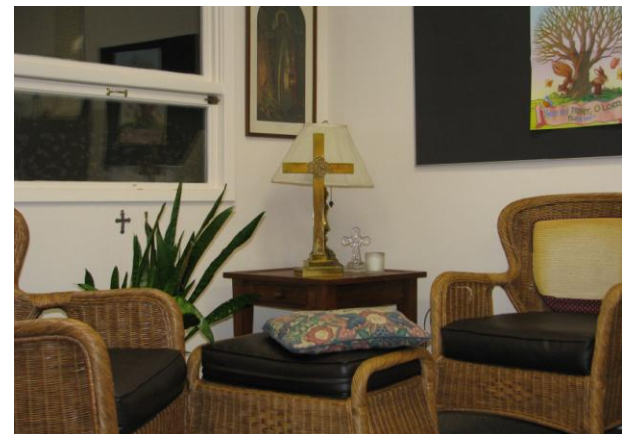
Our worship space is handicapped-accessible in recognition of God's will that we welcome all through the doors of St.

Barnabas. Directly in front of our main entrance, we have designated parking for visitors, senior citizens, families with small children and the handicapped.

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## Challenges

- We want to develop a stronger spiritual life with the aid of our pastor
- We want to improve the balance between in-reach and out-reach in our church
- We want to take steps to prevent volunteer "burnout"
- We need to find more ways in which faith families can grow and contribute to the larger community of faith
- We want to reduce our mortgage debt, fulfill Diocesan fair share giving and maximize pledge giving
- In common with main-line churches, we acknowledge a recent pattern of membership decline that we must better understand and address



Spiritual Corner of Classroom

## Parish Staff and Vestry Members

At present, the staff of St. Barnabas consists of the Interim Rector, a Deacon, Minister of Music, and Office Manager. There are two Wardens, nine Vestry Members and Treasurer to guide and support the overall mission of the church. In addition, a retired Priest Associate assists with services throughout the year as needed.



St. Barnabas Vestry and Interim Rector

## Our New Rector

St. Barnabas was blessed with a long-time rector who enthusiastically and competently served our congregation for nearly a quarter century. During his tenure the congregation tripled in size, increasing Average Sunday Attendance from about 50 to 150.

As a Pastoral Care Church we value and strive to share leadership between rector and laity. In fact, our parish survey indicated that we do not want to be rector-centered. Thus, our new rector must be willing and able to delegate effectively to staff and lay leaders in all aspects of our parish life. In addition, our new rector should be a motivator and trainer of leaders.

Our New Rector should be a spiritual leader grounded in prayer who makes this known through word and example. Importantly, Our New Rector should be a teacher with the ability to give inspiring sermons, relating the Bible to current day events and activities. He or she should be comfortable in relating to adults as well as teens and young ones.

As a result of our congregational survey, for which we had a return rate of 45%, these highlights emerged:

- Responders listed eight former denominations
- 94% rated Spiritual Guidance as an aspect of church life very important or important
- 93% revealed that ministry with youth as an aspect of church life is very important or important
- 94% characterized Pastoral Care from a New Rector as very important or important



Easter Pageant



Parishioners hugging our church at the 138 year birthday celebration

The survey also showed some areas for improvements. These included an acknowledgement that we need to drop ministries that are no longer effective; strive toward obtaining a professional youth minister to assist in giving our children a stronger sense of Jesus Christ in their lives; and place more emphasis on adult Christian Education.

Our parish and outreach ministries need to be supported and nurtured. We are open to new ideas for our ministries. Hospitality and welcoming to all members of our community is an important part of St. Barnabas and we do not want to lose our warm, friendly atmosphere. At the same time, we also see the need to increase the size of our parish and to encourage more of our members to be actively involved. These areas will be an important focus for our future Rector.

Members of the church communicate with one another through a variety of traditional methods and many of the latest mass media tools.

We seek in our pastor a priest and teacher who will provide counseling during life's challenges. Our hopes for success will lie with a person who is comfortable embracing diversity, and one who will lead us toward our goals with a sense of humor, humility and compassion.

## Closing Prayer for our Rector Search

The Book of Common Prayer - Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this congregation, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

## To Apply

It is with gratitude to God that we offer this portrait of the life and ministry of the St. Barnabas Episcopal Church.

*We hope you will prayerfully consider our calling while discerning these questions:*

- Does our history and heritage resonate with you?
- Do you share our mission and vision?
- Do you believe your gifts, skills, and calling to be the next Rector of our wonderful parish are compatible with our expressed goals?

**If you wish to be considered for the rector's position, please provide us with answers to these five questions:**

1. Why in this point in your ministry do you seek a change?
2. What opportunities and challenges have you experienced that prepares you for a parish like St. Barnabas?
3. If we were to call one of your colleagues, what would that person likely say about you?
4. Describe your leadership style, and give example(s)

5. After reviewing St. Barnabas' Profile, what would be the core message of your homily on Pentecost Sunday?

*Additionally, your application must include:*

- A cover letter indicating the best and most confidential ways to contact you
- Your resume or Curriculum Vitae
- Your updated Church Deployment Office (CDO) Profile

**You may submit your information in private to:**

Monica Devanas, Discernment Committee Chair  
at either of these special addresses:

**Email:** [new-rector@stbarnabas-sbnj.org](mailto:new-rector@stbarnabas-sbnj.org)

Or by mail:

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church  
c/o Monica Devanas, Discernment Committee Chair  
142 Sand Hill Road  
Monmouth Junction, New Jersey 08852

## Appendices

Available on line at [www.stbarnabas-sbnj.org](http://www.stbarnabas-sbnj.org)

- Parishioner Feedback Summary
  - Survey Results
  - Discussion Meeting Results