

WELCOME

Thank you for visiting St. Barnabas Episcopal Church. We hope that you enjoyed your visit and we cordially invite you to come again.

Our congregation is a diverse community of people committed to working together to try to live out what Jesus calls the two greatest commandments: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength,” and “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Mark 12:30, 31 (New Revised Standard Version) and Christ's Great Commission: “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:19-20a)

St. Barnabas Episcopal Church is a caring congregation of people who unite together in worship, in opportunities for fellowship, mutual care and community, spiritual growth and mission as we follow Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

The Rev. Francis A. Hubbard - Rector

OUR PURPOSE

“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 Man.” God offers forgiveness, guidance, healing, strength and new life through Jesus Christ here and now as well as hope for heaven, and calls people to turn to God in faith and join in Christian communities for worship, spiritual growth, pastoral care and mission to serve the world which God made and which “God so loved that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

Every person is priceless and made in the image of God. In our world we experience the brokenness of sin (individually and as a world), which warps our relationship with God, with each other and with all creation. “Redemption is the act of God which sets us free from the power of evil, sin and death” (Page 849 in The Book of Common Prayer). Christian life is one of thanksgiving for God's liberating love through worship and service as we are being made new and participate in God's plan for the transformation of the world, and comes to ultimate fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.

ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Episcopal Church is a “bridge church” which seeks to bring together the best of the Catholic and Protestant traditions in Christianity. Our only creeds are the historic creeds formulated by Christians over 1,600 years ago, the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Episcopal Church is part of the world-wide Anglican Communion, a fellowship of self-governing Churches related to each other and to the Church of England. The Episcopal Church preserves the historic orders of ordained ministry (bishops, priests and deacons), and emphasizes the sacraments while also emphasizing the Bible, leadership and empowerment for lay people, full opportunities for ministry for women and the formation of individual conscience and responsibility. St. Barnabas was founded in 1872 and is a parish of the Diocese of New Jersey. The current building was started in 1969, greatly expanded in 2001-2 and renovated in 2005-6.

St. Barnabas is an inclusive, diverse and welcoming community which includes people of different races, ethnicities, nationalities, ages, sexual orientations, occupations, abilities and educational backgrounds. We include people who were born in over 20 countries around the world. We celebrate our unity in the midst of diversity with an annual International Sunday liturgy. We also celebrate our ideological diversity and learn from each others' perspectives, as we do not have to agree on every issue as we seek to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord and God's will for each and all of us.

WORSHIP

Worship is at the heart of who we are. We celebrate the Holy Eucharist (also known as communion or Mass) every Sunday with services at 8:30 and 10:30 am. The earlier one is without music and lasts about 45 minutes. The later one includes hymns, lasts about 1¼ hours, and is followed by an opportunity for fellowship and refreshments for all ages. On the First Sunday of each month, we also offer an informal service at 5:30 pm. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion. A “Quiet Room” is available next to the sanctuary for any small children and parents as needed. The building is wheelchair-accessible. Individual, confidential prayers for healing are available after any service.

During the school year, Sunday School for Pre-School-6th Grade begins at 10:15 am; children and teachers join the rest of the congregation in worship at the offertory. Older youth are invited to serve in a variety of Sunday ministries. During the summer, all ages are invited to participate for all of the 10:30 service, which includes an “interactive sermon” with the children.

Musical opportunities, led by our Minister of Music, include our all-volunteer choir, which rehearses on Thursdays at 7:30 pm during the school year and is open to adults, and to Middle and High School youth; the intergenerational Tone Chime Choir and the African Praise Worship Chorus (each of which plays or sings for special services and rehearses as needed).

There are special services at Christmas, during Holy Week and Easter weekend and on some other days as announced, such as the Blessing of the Animals for St. Francis Day on the first Sunday in October.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Learning and growing in Christ is life-long! Sunday School is offered for Pre-School through 6th Grade during the school year and Youth Group offers both friendship and spiritual growth activities for those in Grades 7 through 12 usually twice a month during the school year. The Men's Spiritual Growth Group and the Women's Link offer periodic meetings and retreats for spiritual growth, Bible Study is offered bi-weekly, and Book Studies are available through Lent and monthly the rest of the year.

Vacation Bible School is a one week mid-summer experience which nurtures adults, teens and kids alike. The Rector offers the following special classes:

- * Communion Class (for early Primary School students);
- * Youth Confirmation Class (for those in Grades 8-12);
- * Adult Inquirers Class (for those who wish to learn more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church in particular); and
- * Tutorials for those who wish to be baptized.

Our Priest Associate and our Deacon also teach periodically. St. Barnabas is a teaching church which often has a seminarian or parish intern on staff.

OUTREACH

“Loving our neighbors as ourselves” challenges us to reach out to others near and far with the love of Christ. Our “four mission priorities” are the struggles against addiction, domestic violence, hunger and homelessness and racism.

We work in a variety of ways, including:

- * Volunteering at a soup kitchen and a shelter;
- * Helping residents of shelters for survivors of domestic violence to be sustained with gifts, empowered with education and to be resettled into new homes;
- * Hosting AA meetings and celebrating “Recovery Sunday”
- * Sponsoring workshops and activities to build deeper mutual understanding; and
- * A special annual Healing Mission Trip to Kenya. In that East African country, St. Barnabas has been vital in creating and equipping an ongoing effort to respond to the tragedies of alcoholism, drug addiction and HIV/AIDS by education and empowerment of people through self-help groups as well as support of an orphanage.

By our financial pledge to the Diocese of New Jersey, we support many ministries across the state, nation and world, and by our personal gifts of time and talents we help to oversee and empower mission churches in our diocese.