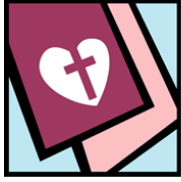


THE ENCOURAGER – JANUARY 2012

“There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means ‘son of encouragement’).” Acts 4:36



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012
12 NOON



FROM THE RECTOR

In 2012, St. Barnabas will celebrate the 140th Anniversary of when the cornerstone was laid at the original church. The church has had its ups and downs since that time, but it has prevailed and continued its ministry of sharing the Good News with the people of South Brunswick. We will continue to do share the Good News this year as well and I hope you will be a part of it.

As I look forward to my first full year with this wonderful community, I continue to reflect on how we, as a church, can offer the opportunities for **Worship, Formation (Education), Fellowship, and Mission** to all our members and supporters of all ages. We will need to be creative and open to different possibilities, while retaining the parts of our culture and tradition that makes St. Barnabas the Spirit-filled, welcoming place that it is.

For this year, I invite you to consider your role at St. Barnabas in light of the 4 areas mentioned above. How are you involved in each of those? Would you like to do something or participate in an activity that you do not currently do? Do you need a break from something (that is a very legitimate need as well, and allows others the opportunity to offer their gifts and talents)? Is there something you need in your spiritual journey, but need help discerning what that is? How can we be more involved with our community? As we ask and answer these questions, we can discern the best ways to grow in our relationship with Christ.

I will suggest one resolution for all of us in 2012. I invite you to pray for our church and community EVERY DAY. It does not have to be a long prayer. We do, however, need to ask the Holy Spirit to invigorate us and then use us for God's will. And we must be prepared for an answer! The power of prayer is real, and if

we dedicate ourselves to inviting the Holy Spirit to be in our midst, it will come!

This should make for a very exciting year. I hope you are willing to be a part of it!

In Christ,

Rev. Valerie+

With my term as warden winding down, I want to thank St. Barnabas for the opportunity



to serve in this position for the last two years, which are an important part of our parish history. I am honored to have played a small part in this bit of history, and feel blessed to have witnessed the Holy Spirit at work throughout our search process. Please know that I served to the best of my ability, and wish to ask forgiveness if I have offended anyone during this time.

I look forward to continuing to serve our parish as coffee co-coordinator (with Lillian Ashie) and as a chalice, and to help grow the ministries and missions of St. Barnabas under Reverend Valerie's leadership and guidance.

ALTAR FLOWERS: the new Altar Flowers chart is in the sacristy. Parishioners are invited to sign up for whichever special date(s) in 2012 they would like to designate flowers. Speak with an altar guild member after any service.

OUTREACH: The insurance premium for all storage units at Lackland increased in 2011, but the Manager graciously kept our premium at \$8/month. This is the only cost to us for the privilege of having storage space needed to assist with resettlements for clients of *Women Aware* who are victims of domestic violence. All donations toward this monthly expense will be greatly appreciated. Your check should be noted "LSU" for proper credit toward "Other Giving".

CONFIRMATION

If you or someone you know wants to be confirmed (i.e. take on personal responsibility for their baptismal covenant), that individual needs to write a letter to Rev. Valerie explaining why she or he wants to be confirmed. This letter should include a personal understanding of who Jesus is in his or her life, why she or he feels called to be confirmed at this point in her or his life, and what he or she would like to learn during the preparation classes. The letter should be received by Rev. Valerie by Sunday, February 12th. After she receives the letter, Rev. Valerie will review it and decide if the person is ready to participate in the Confirmation program.

Confirmation classes will begin during Lent and meet through May. Once the class is formed, the participants will work with Rev. Valerie to find convenient times to meet. There will be 10 sessions, with a retreat component on Good Friday into Holy Saturday (April 6 & 7, 2012). Participants may have 1 excused absence.

The Confirmation ceremony will be in June, either at Rahway or at the Cathedral in Trenton. Details for the specific time and place will be given as soon as they are established.

If you have any questions about this process, please talk with Rev. Valerie.

FOOD HANDLERS COURSE: The South Brunswick Health Department will present Basic Food Handlers Courses at the South Brunswick Municipal Complex for food handlers (all who help out with food in the StB kitchen) who have not previously attended *or who have not attended within the past 5 years*. The courses will be held from 2:30 – 5pm on the following dates: 1/3/12, 4/30/12 and 10/29/12. Please speak with Kitty to sign up.



THE FIRST FRIDAY BOOK CLUB

We meet at 7:30 PM in the Bolmer Room each month. Participants usually gather at “Confectionately Yours” at 5:30 PM for dinner and fellowship beforehand. All are most welcome to join us. Please contact Monica Devanas or Carolyn Hales with any questions. Here is what the Book Group has planned for the next few months:



1/6/12: *Elizabeth and Hazel: Two Women of Little Rock* by David Margolick

2/3/12: *90 Minutes in Heaven: A True Story of Death and Life* by Don Piper

3/2/12: *The Dovekeepers: A Novel* by Alice Hoffman

YOUTH GROUP: We had a fun and interesting set of Youth Group activities this fall, and are looking forward to more fun and spiritual growth at Youth Group this winter/spring. Thanks to Rev. Valerie and all of the youth, parents, and volunteers who participated in the fall activities. The January 2012 Youth Group meetings will be on January 8 and January 22. A more detailed schedule will be published in a few weeks.

-- Donna, Gerry, Steve, Tony, William





BLESSINGS ON YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

BIRTHDAYS:

Karen Thompson	1/3
Charles Bowers	1/4
Bruce Cenicola	1/4
Deborah Epting	1/4
Matthew Nurse	1/6
Maxwell Nurse	1/6
Fran Sneyers	1/6
Jonathan Pitt, II	1/7
Marissa Botsch	1/8
Chisom Ilogu	1/8
Daniel Alfano	1/9
Karen Carey	1/9
Richard Goselin	1/10
Emma Appiah	1/11
Eileen Luterzo	1/11
JoAnn Palmer	1/11
Jerry Skillicorn	1/11
Carol Eby	1/12
Jill Hague	1/12
Obiajulu Ilogu	1/12
Melissa Murawski	1/12
Jason Osborne	1/12
Brandon Wildemuth	1/12
Kianna Tierney	1/13
Ellen Alauskas	1/14
Alicia Daley	1/14
The Rev. William Breedlove	1/15
Jacquie Louison	1/15
Benjamin Sanfilippo	1/16
Rose VonHerbert	1/24
Isaiah Hudson	1/26
Angel Lee	1/26
Julie Royce	1/27
Melisande Skillicorn	1/27
Nicholas Joseph	1/28
Junior Devonish	1/29
Connor Eby	1/29

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:

Roland Laird	1/1
Erin Martinez	1/1
Christopher Moore	1/1
Paul Pospiech	1/1
Ellen Alauskas	1/8
Nancy Armstrong	1/9
Skylar Keith	1/9
Trevor Keith-Hartzell	1/9
Lily Soriano	1/9
Jennifer Beauregard	1/10
Brian Moore, Jr.	1/10
Michael Moreno	1/10
Ava McLeod	1/11
Kimberly Chapman	1/12
Madilyn Dombrowski	1/12
Susan LeDonne	1/13
Obiajulu Ilogu	1/15
John Gosner	1/16
Jennifer Pitt	1/20
June Barksdale	1/21
Victoria Royce	1/28
Jerry Skillicorn	1/28
Eileen Luterzo	1/29

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Donald & Rose VonHerbert	1/22
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If your special day is missing from this list please email Kitty at kitty@stbarnabas-sbnj.org or call the church office at 732-297-4607.