

THE CHIMES of St. Barnabas, Arroyo Grande, CA

February 2010

Rector's Letter

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. 1 Corinthians 12.4-6

In the Purpose Driven Life Rick Warren writes that we are shaped to serve God. He describes each one of us as having a unique set of capabilities:

- **Spiritual gifts** – God inspired abilities for serving others
- **Heart** – source of your motivations, what you love to do and what you care about most
- **Abilities** – natural talents that you were born with
- **Personality** – ministry consistent with your personality leads to fulfillment, satisfaction and fruitfulness
- **Experience** – all your life experiences, painful and pleasant, can be used by God to help others

We are all called by God to use our gifts, or talents, to serve God's people. I invite you to take some time to seriously consider what God may be calling you to. This might be a process over several days or even weeks, and you may want to do it in dialogue with a spouse or friend, for often our friends see us more clearly than we see ourselves. List your gifts and abilities. Just write them all down without thinking about whether they are important or not. For example you may have a gift for making people feel welcome, or the ability to build with wood. Reflect on things that you may have done at a different phase in your life, like childhood or adolescences.

Next, write down the activities that feed your heart, that give you great pleasure. Perhaps it is listening to music or hiking in the mountains. Once again reflect throughout your life about the activities that have given you deep satisfaction. Then jot down the basics of your personality. Are you an extrovert or do prefer to be alone. Are you very active or fairly quiet?

Finally write down major life experiences, such as surviving cancer, raising children, work responsibilities or living overseas.

Once you have completed these lists, although you can always add more later, put a plus next to each item that you currently are using to serve God in some type of ministry, either in the church or in another capacity. For example, if you have a gift for making people feel welcome, enjoy cooking and are an extravert. put pluses by them if you are involved in providing hospitality during coffee hour. Think about all that you are involved in at church, such as choir or thrift shop or volunteering at the office, and see which items on your list are being used. Then think of other volunteer/service involvements in the community and how they reflect your SHAPE.

Now, look at your list. Are their items without pluses? Are there gifts, abilities, and experiences that you are not using to serve God and other people? Is there something that brings great joy to your heart that you are not engaged in? Now, prayerfully ask God to guide you in how to best use your SHAPE to serve. Then listen, listen to that still small voice within, listen to the gentle yearning within you, listen to your spiritual friends, listen to scripture, listen during worship and see if God may be calling you to a new or different ministry.

You are always welcome to come and speak with me about what God may be whispering to you and together we can see what ministries may best fit your SHAPE.

In Christ's Love and Service,
Rev. Valerie+

Directory

The Rev. Valerie Valle, Rector
The Rev. Sandra Barnard, Associate,
Mission & Education
The Rev. Jeremy Bond, Retired
Sandy Matson, Parish Administrator
Chris A. Bowman, Minister of Music
Brian Petersen, Treasurer

Shelley Boehning, Pledge Secretary
Mary Ann Hjalmarson, Sunday School Director
Lee Whipple, Assistant Treasurer
Twila Erlewine, Thrift Shop General Manager
Stacey Cox, People's Kitchen Team Leader
Sherry Loomis, Web Master
Carol Wilcock, Prayer Chain Coordinator

Vestry

Alison Fesler, Senior Warden
Mike Britton, Junior Warden

Cathy Gildea	Ann Mathias
Mary Ann Hjalmarson	Brian Petersen
Pam Jones	Lee Whipple
Sigrid Long	Fred Wolf

Rev. Valerie Valle, Rector
Jane Delgadillo, Clerk to the Vestry

Delegates to Convention

Shelley Boehning
David Ottesen
Tricia Ottesen
Pamela Pano
Pamela Jones, Alternate
Mike Marren, Alternate
John Steffan, Alternate

BIRTHDAYS

4	Leda Fields	17	Rebecca Pence
5	Doug Parish	19	Rev. Valerie Valle
12	Katie Boehning	21	Boots Taylor
13	Roger Barnard	26	Marilyn Dwight
	Sally Hendricks	27	Ed McLean

ANNIVERSARIES

20	Randy & Tracy Scovil
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Note: If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office(489-2990) so that we don't miss it again.

Thanks,
Sandy

Clergy Conference

Rev. Valerie will be at the diocesan clergy conference from the evening of Monday, February 8 through Wednesday, February 10.

Being the Light of the World

A deanery evening of renewal
With Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves
Tuesday, February 2, 2010
At St. Barnabas Episcopal Church
Beginning at 6:00pm with a potluck dinner

During the season of Epiphany we reflect upon how the birth of Christ brought spiritual light to all people. On Tuesday, February 2, the entire deanery will gather with our bishop for food, music, fellowship and inspiration.



Note: this meeting was rescheduled from January 20 due to the weather.

SHROVE TUESDAY

The St. Barnabas Chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew plans to produce its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 16. Come and enjoy this bountiful repast, served from 5:30 to 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall. No meal fee, but the Brotherhood will gladly accept free will offerings for the meal.



Ash Wednesday Services



February 17 – 10:00 am and 6:00 pm

Start your Lenten journey with the deeply moving Ash Wednesday service where we are reminded of our own mortality with the imposition of ashes as well as the reassurance that we are loved and forgiven in the Litany of Penitence.

Journey to Jerusalem

Lenten Bible Study – Led by Rev. Valerie
Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm
February 24 through March 31

In the middle of Luke's Gospel (9.51) we read, "When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." By repeatedly reminding us that Jesus is on a journey to his crucifixion, Luke provides a sense of what it means to follow Christ. During the season of Lent we are on a journey that leads to Holy Week and Easter. In this class we will journey with Christ and explore how that journey can deepen our everyday walk with Christ. No homework is required for the course, but participants are encouraged to read the Gospel of Luke and to have read up through the ninth chapter before the course begins.

Easter Baptisms



In the early church the Easter Vigil was considered the ideal time for baptisms and other reaffirmations of faith. If you or a member of your family is interested in baptism, first communion, reaffirming baptismal vows or learning more about the Christian faith as understood by Episcopalians, please contact Rev. Valerie so we can schedule a discipleship class during Lent.

Robin Denney at St. Barnabas

Sunday, February 21

Preaching at 8:00 and 10:00 as well as visiting during coffee hour

Robin Denney is an Episcopal missionary working as the Agricultural Consultant for the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Robin comes from and is supported by the Episcopal Churches of San Luis Obispo County. She has completed her first year in Sudan and during her well earned vacation is visiting the churches that have been supporting her as she prepares for her second year in Sudan. Come meet and be inspired by a person who is truly making a difference in the world. Check out her blog at <http://robin-mission.blogspot.com>



Adult Forum

The Forum will meet each Sunday in February at 9:15. All adults are welcome. The first couple of sessions we will finish our study of church seasons and then focus on our Lenten journeys.

Stations of the Cross Services

Come and worship at this unique service each Wednesday in Lent (except Ash Wednesday and the Wednesday in Holy Week). At this 6:30 pm liturgy, we follow Jesus' steps to his death on the cross by offering prayer and response in front of each of the fourteen stations that adorn St. Barnabas' walls. A unique opportunity to get in stride with the season of Lent. Again, the dates: February 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24.



Thank You

Thank you for the abundant gift of \$555 from St. Barnabas for scholarships in the Diocese of Western Tanganyika!

Your sponsorship means that many students will be able to go on to Secondary School. Without the help of the people at St. Barnabas, these students would not be able to afford schooling – education in Western Tanganyika is not free, and many of the children are AIDS orphans.

Your love provided hope, and a better future, to many!

With deep thanks!

OWT Scholarship Committee



Thrift Shop News

REMARKABLE—This month begins the 36th year of church & community service. We’re operating with a bare minimum staff of volunteers: 32 scheduled, 3 part-time, 8 on-call & an off-site treasurer. Even so, in 2009 we provided \$26,400 to church budget, \$10,508 to outreach program, \$2,407 for McHugh Hall tables.

We passed on: blankets to the Homeless Shelter; hygiene items; bag fabrics to church homeless kits; 26 “prom” gowns for girls at two local high schools; layette items to Five Cities Christian Women and warm clothing to Peoples Kitchen for distribution; bags of clothes to Santa Maria Vocational Center; \$30 worth of apparel to needy persons, via Rev. Valerie; Easter & Christmas gifts to Arroyo Grande Care Center patients; new, stuffed holiday animals to “Toys for Tots”; 2 bags of clothes to Nicaragua’s needy children.

We were open 255 ½ days, with an average monthly GROSS sales of \$4,462.

We gained two volunteers, and lost one. Two others had to cut back to part-time. Surgeries meant “time out” for three volunteers, who, thankfully, are well & back on duty.

TODAY’S THOUGHT—What’s better than knowing that the Carpenter from Nazareth has built mansions for us in heaven?

OUTREACH—November’s recipient was Women’s Shelter, December’s recipient was Caring Callers and January’s recipient was Hotline.

EXCEPTIONAL HELP—our great neighbors, **Bruce & Johnny** (Eagle Body Shop) donated their labor to help eliminate flooding of our “garage” room. They installed gutters & downspout and cut a small trench in our driveway, all of which will carry rainfall into their property’s drain. Our appreciation is never ending!!

HAPPY NEW YEAR—Let’s choose to look for joy in every step of this new year and share it with others. If we do, we’ll be blessed with happiness no matter what our circumstances are.

Twila Erlewine
General Manager

Farewell from the 2009 Senior (ita) Warden...

Wow – how time flies!! I can't believe that it was a year ago that I wrote my first Sr. Warden's article. It is such an interesting feeling to know that I'm writing the last. Somewhere along the way, this article turned from witty commentary to my opportunity to thank people for the things they do at St. Barnabas.

I'd like to continue that theme in my final article...

Sandy, Chris, Esperanza – thanks for your hard work for St. Barnabas. We are so lucky to have a church that has a set of employees that can turn their areas into a ministry. Thank you each so much for taking such good care of the program and people that you work with. It is very much appreciated.

Kim MacMillan – A force to be reckoned with. Thank you so much for continuing to do the Chimes this year, as well as providing the gut check and a kick in the butt, as needed. I value you and your contributions so much. Really, thank you so much.

Shelley – Fabulous! A valued member of the Vestry, someone who has been through many years of Vestry, and I think seen it all. Your presence is felt when you are there, and missed when you are not. You maintain the confidentiality of our members and yet give us the information we need to know, and always have insight into the issues that come up. Thank you for your many years of service!

Brian – Wowzers – what a trooper! Long time treasurer, Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, Vestry Member – you are a master of your craft. You are skilled at seeing what's coming and setting us up for financial success. During the most challenging times, you're able to find a silver lining – and for that I am grateful. I will miss being able to judge how the meeting's going... is it a one-gum or two-gum meeting... hopefully not a three-gum one. Thanks for everything you do!

Jane – ahh, what to say. You do a fabulous job as the Clerk, keeping the Sr. Warden on track, sending out everything we need, coordinating the snack sheet – and on and on. It's been very fun to have you to my left this year, but truthfully I'm glad we can go back to just being Mom and Alison, instead of Jane and Sr. Warden. Thank you so much for everything you do at St. Barnabas.

Ruth Monroe, Shea Scheuer, Jerri and Kevin Pence, the Boltermans, and Art Delgadillo – thank for your on-going focus and commitment to the Memorial Garden. The new deck, new handrail, new seating, and gorilla hair, make such a difference, and are a beautiful way to honor those that have gone before. Shea and Ruth – what a fabulous addition you've made to the lower half of the garden. It's an amazing tribute to those you've lost. Thank you for sharing it with all of us.

All the vestry members that have been around the table this year, and in the past years. Thank you so much for your dedication and service to St. Barnabas. You have made the last three years a very powerful experience for me, and for that I am grateful.

Rev. Valerie – thank you. You are so skilled at finding the meaning and keeping us spiritually on track. Your passion for worship, and preaching, and pastoral care have been a blessing. We are so lucky to have a priest that cares about us as individuals and a parish. Thank you.

And finally thank you so much to those that were so supportive of me personally in the last year. I couldn't have done it without you. There are so many that even when there were hard questions to ask, or hard topics to bring up, were supportive of St. Barnabas and the process, and for that I am so thankful. Your on-going support and prayers were felt and appreciated.

It's hard to believe the year is up – it feels like it just began yesterday. 2010 will be a challenge –but I know we'll make it through. Through the many conversations we've had about what makes St. Barnabas special, the thing we keep coming back to is not our beautiful site, and not our location but the fabulous people that we have in attendance. Each one of you brings something special to the table, and 2010 I encourage each and every one of you to continue your work here, if you need help figuring out where to go – Rev. Valerie can help you through that discernment process.

Again, thank you so much for your support this year, and all the things each and everyone one of you did. We couldn't do it without you.

In Christ,
Alison

