



The Encourager

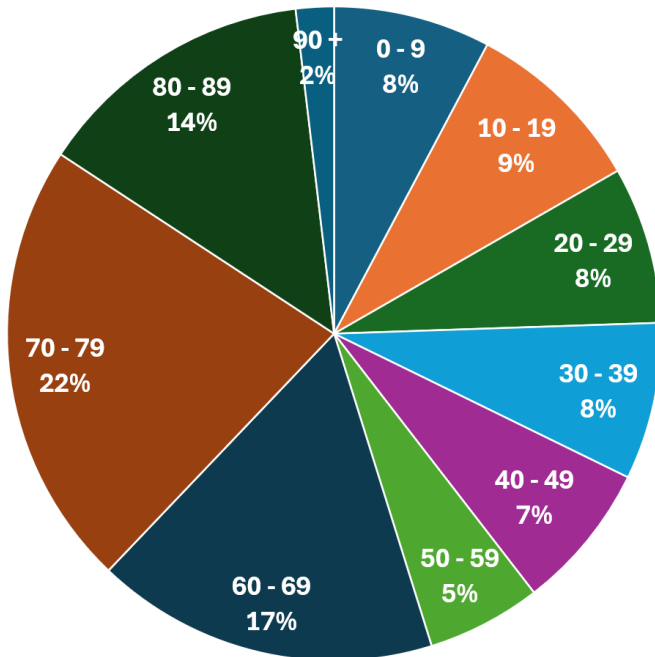
ST. BARNABAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MAY 2024

Reflections from Father Jeff

Greetings,

Looking around St. Barnabas on an average Sunday, it sure seems like St. Barnabas is growing and changing. Wanting to put some numbers to my hunch, I asked JD to do a breakdown of the congregation by age.



A note about the breakdown: We have over 600 people on our role but only 435 have listed their birth year. New arrivals who have not yet shared their information are also missing.

No matter how you slice it, this chart paints a picture of the generational breadth of our community and tells me that St. Barnabas has become a true multi-generational church.

And looking at our church attendance figures, unlike many churches, St. Barnabas has rebounded robustly from the Covid years with higher attendance now than before the pandemic. Amid reports of decline in the larger churches, we are indeed blessed to find ourselves in a place of strength.

But in the end, these are but numbers. What matters most is how we navigate this growth and change.

With this in mind, the Vestry and I are discussing ways to get people of all ages together. This year we've scheduled four all-church Sunday feasts. And plans are underway for inter-generational activities this summer and at Christmas.

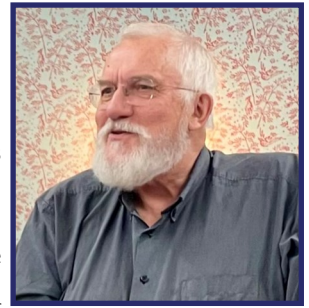
St. Barnabas did not become the welcoming place it is in a vacuum. We who participate in the current incarnation of St. Barnabas must never forget that we are standing on the shoulders of giants.

In gratitude and hope, may we then be willing to plant trees that we will not see grow into their fulness.

In Christ, *Fr. Jeff*

Imagining Freedom

A Review by Emily Bowyer



Marsh Moyle

Candlelight flickered on ten round tables as over 35 people huddled in small groups discussing this question:

“What would this town be like if everyone, everywhere, kept the word spoken in the law to ‘not steal’? What would the impact be economically, psychologically, and socially, if we honored this law, and then all of the other commandments as well?”

Locks and keys? Passwords and PIN codes? Security cameras and surveillance equipment? Prisons and law enforcement? To what extent would we need these things? Wouldn't our relationships become stronger if we knew we could trust one another? Wouldn't our stress and anxiety decrease significantly? How would our schools change? Our families? Our businesses? The impact of this one principle is so far-reaching it is difficult to imagine.



The Invitation

This was one of many conversations that featured in our time with visiting speaker Marsh Moyle on April 16th and 17th. Guests also viewed and responded to a short film about a sculpture entitled, “The Invitation,” created by Romanian artist Liviu Mocan. This sculpture prompted a deep response to the idea of the Decalogue (literally, the “ten words”) quite different from our usual reaction to the Ten Commandments found in Exodus 20. Marsh helped us to meditate on how the Psalmist describes the law as “sweeter than honey,” “more precious than gold,” “rejoicing the heart.”

As Marsh writes in his book, “Rumours of a Better Country,” the Decalogue, given to Moses on a mountain in the desert, was a guide to keep the people from future slavery. The preamble to the Decalogue is a declaration of freedom: ‘I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.’ In other words, ‘I want you to be free!’ Perhaps freedom is one of the principles by which we may know if we have interpreted the Decalogue well; if we are not [more free] after our reflection on it, then we have probably misunderstood it” (Rumours, p. 42).

Speaking for myself, I left the lecture series experiencing a sense of hope and freedom that comes from a glimpse of truth, discovered in the light of community. I look forward to more speakers in the future.

Women's Retreat a Big Success!



Rev. Kate Walker

On April 20, an enthusiastic group of women gathered in the Parish Hall to hear The Rev. Kate Walker speak on all the ways our faith impacts and is impacted by our relationship with food. With her topic of “Food and Faith,” Rev. Walker began by asking about our personal issues with food and ended with the way political decisions and agribusiness have resulted in more and more heavily processed food products available to us. Other topics included hospitality, fasting, and feasting. The day concluded with worship and Holy Eucharist.



A grateful audience applauded the Retreat Committee, comprised of (l to r) Debbie Agnew, Pris Williams, Bette Jacob, Jacquie Himes, Kate Walker, and Juli Bahlinger, the Committee Chair.

The time is now

To enroll in EfM

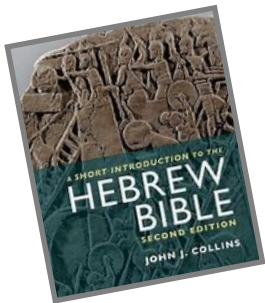


WHAT IS EfM?

Education for Ministry is a four-year study, similar to a seminary course, for adults who want to engage deeply in scripture, Church history, and theology. The St. Barnabas EfM group meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 9 pm, beginning August 27 through the end of May, with holidays at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

IS EfM FOR ME?

EfM is for open-minded people who welcome new insights into their faith. If you enjoy learning and engaging with other well-informed individuals in a supportive and non-judgmental setting, you will enjoy EfM. The program provides opportunities for intellectual and spiritual growth that many participants find transforming.



EfM integrates critical biblical scholarship, Church history, and theology, while providing skills in reflecting theologically and insights into each person's Christian ministry. The four-year study uses published texts by top scholars as well as the Bible in its curriculum. Year One focuses on the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament); Year Two, on the New Testament; Year Three, on Christian Church history; Year Four, on theology, ethics, and interfaith encounters. Representatives of each year meet together and discuss their studies from the previous week. Meetings begin and end with prayer and may include videos and practicing the skill of theological reflection. One or two mentors guide the meetings.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP.

Enrollment for the 2024-2025 class is for Year One students. Participants will commit for one year at a time. Each prospective participant will meet with the mentor, to ensure that there is an appropriate fit between the person's expectations and the Education for Ministry program. Contact Tom Carnes at tcarnes@thomascarnes.com for more information.



**EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE**
of West Texas

Bishop Suffragan Election

On October 24, clergy and lay delegates in the Diocese of West Texas will gather in Corpus Christi to elect a Bishop Suffragan. The Bishop Suffragan is an assistant to the Bishop - an essential figure in a diocese as large as West Texas. Bishop Read described the ideal candidate as a person of deep faith and prayer, an excellent leader, a good pastor, and a good shepherd. He/she will serve as co-pilot to Bishop Read and will need an abundance of energy.

The Bishop Nominating Committee, under the leadership of the Rev. Carrie Guerra, consists of ten members, five clergy and five lay. They will soon publish a Diocesan Profile to be used by those who may be discerning if God is calling them. They have asked all of us to join them in prayer for guidance in perceiving God's will for this important decision.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CHILDREN

Almighty God, heavenly Father, you have blessed us with the joy and care of children: Give us calm strength and patient wisdom as we bring them up, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

GODLY PLAY FOR PRE-K THROUGH 5TH GRADE CHILDREN

GODLY PLAY supports the spiritual growth of children through Bible stories, liturgical action, parables and silence, leaving lots of room for wonder and the work of the Holy Spirit. The classes will continue on the theme of “Knowing Jesus in a New Way.”

The **SPROUTS CLASS** is for children in Pre-K through 1st grade.

The **ROOTS CLASS** is for children in 2nd through 5th grade.

GODLY PLAY HELPERS ARE NEEDED!

If you are interested in serving as a storyteller, door keeper, shepherd, or feast provider, or have questions about the program, please contact Emily Bowyer at emily@stbarnabasfbg.org.

YOUTH SUNDAY IS MAY 5

Join us for the 11 am service on May 5 to honor our St. Barnabas high school graduates Elizabeth Dobbins and Eleanor Loggie (Class of '24). Our youth Sunday School members will serve as acolytes, ushers, lectors, and intercessors for that service. Call or text Chris Acton at (512) 970-3903 to get involved!

Also . . . We're looking for a couple of co-teachers to join Chris Acton in the Youth Sunday School class. Both men and women are needed, but especially at least one woman. Co-teachers may serve weekly or be part of a rotation. Please contact Chris at chris@stbarnabasfbg.org or text him at the number above if this ministry appeals to you.

NURSERY

The Nursery is open on Sundays from 8:45 am to 12:15 pm for children ages newborn to three years old.

OUR LITTLE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Mother's Morning Off children are enjoying the new playground equipment.

They have named the houses their
“little neighborhood.”



ST. BARNABAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Stay in the know!

- Follow @stbarnabasfbg on Instagram & Facebook
- Web updates at <https://www.stbarnabasfbg.org/youth>
- Contact Emily Bowyer, Coordinator of Children's Ministries
(830) 997-5762 and emily@stbarnabasfbg.org

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES MEET FROM 10 TO 11 AM ON SUNDAY.

BIBLE STUDY

The BIBLE STUDY class gathers in the Christian Education Building (CEB). They are studying the book of James. Contact the Cyndie Williams for more information at cyndiewilliams@mac.com. All are welcome!

ADULTING—A CLASS FOR YOUNGSTERS UNDER 50

The ADULTING class meets in the parlor of the CEB. Marsh Moyle's book, "Rumours of a Better Country" is the subject of their current study. Moyle ask us to imagine a world in which everyone obeys the Ten Commandments.

OTHER VOICES

The OTHER VOICES class is watching a series of lectures by modern-day mystic and Episcopal priest Cynthia Bourgeault. She discusses and demonstrates contemplative prayer practices. They meet in the EfM room in the CEB. All are welcome.

LOST AND FOUND

The LOST AND FOUND class welcomes all St. Barnabas women to join them in the library. Members of the class take turns facilitating their discussion. On May 5, they will begin to study, "Practicing the Way—Be with Jesus; Become like Him; Do as He did," by John Mark Comer. In this book, we are called to be "apprentices" to Jesus.

Enrollment is Open for Camp Barnabas

June 2024!

Camp Barnabas, a four-week summer program for children one year through Kindergarten (just completed), will run from June 3 through June 26, on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9 am to 3 pm. The children will enjoy Bible Discovery, Music Makers, Imagination Station (art crafts, Bible story activities), Game Makers, Snack Factory, and outdoor play time, all led by our experienced teachers. Enrollment forms are available on-line or in our office.

The registration/supply fee is \$60 per family and tuition is \$275 per child. Please contact MMO director Nancy Lopez at (830) 997-5762. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Pre-registration for Mothers' Morning Off, school year 2024-2025, is now open. Contact Nancy Lopez at (830) 997-5762 or nancy@stbarnabasfbg.org for information and application forms.



Almighty God, You have called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants and animals who share this planet with us and whose lives make possible our own. Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life and join with us in giving you praise.

FROM THE VESTRY

Submitted by Jenny Wieser, Senior Warden



After careful consideration and reflection on information provided by the diocese regarding emergency preparedness, the Vestry has decided to hire a security firm for our Sunday services. Since April 14, we've had a security guard from Unlimited Security present at each of our Sunday services.

I want to express my gratitude to the Administration Committee of the Vestry for their diligent work in vetting local security companies. One of the reasons we selected Unlimited Security is their ability to provide consistent personnel, which will soon make them familiar faces at our worship services.

I understand that not everyone will be thrilled at this news and I want you to know that as a vestry we were certainly not excited to undertake thinking about the necessity of this move. However, we felt that we would not be acting in the best interest of the congregation if we did not step up to the plate and tackle this issue, as many of our fellow churches in this community have done.

Please welcome the security people who are here to serve us each Sunday.

Thanks very much, *Jenny*

◀ ST. BARNABAS VESTRY

Jenny Weiser, Sr. Warden

Joe Simmons
Chris Valentine
John Wells

Cindy Scroggins, Treasurer

Sheila Dubois
Kris Riojas
Ben Edgerton

Katharine Brundrett, Secretary

Teresa Gabriel
Tim Kirchner



BROTHERS AND SISTERS
A MINISTRY OF SAINT BARNABAS

The DWTX Plaza de Paz Respite Center has invited the members of the St. Barnabas Brothers and Sisters to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Event of their choice, either lunch on May 7 or breakfast on May 13. Each will be hosted at the Bishop Jones Center Chapel in San Antonio by Melanie Jakubisin, Volunteer Coordinator.

The St. Barnabas group is one of the most active in the diocese in supporting the Respite Center. Nancy Walker commented, "We are honored to be invited."

If you would like to support our diocese's respite center for legal immigrants in San Antonio, please visit <https://www.dwtx.org/what-we-do/ministries/immigration-refugee-ministries>.

MAY 12 IS FOOD SUNDAY



Thank you for your support of our Food Box. You are providing much needed food for those in need in our community. Please continue to bring nutritious shelf-stable food. Make sure items are not past their "best by" date. Leave food items in the Narthex or the Office Lobby.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

WE PRAY FOR:

Dorothy Gorden; Mike Taylor; Carolyn Atkins; John Dull; Pam Warren; Ellen Hill; Ron Lewis; Samuel; Rosanna; Mary Priestley; Jo Hallmark; Bob Gates; Marti Davis; Cheryl Knode; John Boudreau; Tom Warmbrodt; Kathy Ray; Cathy; Clair Pasahow; Sheri Bates Matthews; Anna Kessler; Angela Grannan, George Edmonston; Randy & family; John Lehotsky; Kevin Colvin; Pat McCarthy; The Ukrainian Conflict; The Rev. Annie Finn; Will Rothrock; Janet Townsend; Brandon & Kirsten; Howard Crosby; Greta Tuttle Gehring; Susan Ondich; Pete Golman; Cay Meadows; Scot & JeriLynne Clifford; Tadeo; Susie Hever; Grant; Walt Biddle; Mike Massengale; The People of Israel and Palestine; Lynn Meadows; Karin Melville; Bill Beakly; Ken Shaeffer; Cael Matthews; Helen H; Conflict in Myanmar (Burma); Pat Tuttle; Eden LeMay; August Detering; Jo Manning; Donna Money; Karen Brumley.

WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Max Brown

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

13th Mary Lee & Thomas Marschall	28th Robert & Nan Mosley
17th Lola & Ron Roseberry	29th Beverly & Ross Taylor
20th Pam & Wayne Seipp	30th Patsy & Alan Minter
24th Charlsie & Henry Haynes	

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1st Beth Davis	11th Dick Elwood	Tess Brundrett
2nd Carol Gordon	11th Ken Schaefer	22nd Harlan Hill
3rd Chuck Alvarez	12th Hope Drury	Pat Tuttle
Wendy Bush	Catharine Vinson	24th Pace Kirchner
4th Graham Hammond	13th Beverly Chapman	25th Pinky Pace
Annelise Kirchner	Eden York	26th Clayton Drescher
Ray Rodgers	14th Gus Mullen	27th Tom Bowyer
Ron Roseberry	Genevieve Washburne	Gabe Cross
5th Mary Lou Morey	16th Allison Drury	Katie Taylor
7th Barbara Dickson	Sonya Skorobogatova	28th Hale Briscoe
8th Ed Cowsar	17th Kate Schaefer	Charli Mullen
Elizabeth Schroller	18th Mike Scroggins	Taylor Tatsch
8th Natasha Skorobogatova	19th Dorothy Smith	29th John Washburne
9th Cindy Edmonston	Robert Walch	31st Randy Harding
10th Elizabeth Seibert	20th Maureen Augustine	Lanette Smith



ST. BARNABAS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

601 West Creek Street, Fredericksburg Texas 78624

CHURCH CLERGY AND STAFF:

Rector: The Rev. Jeff Hammond

Lay Pastoral Minister: Morey Weldon

Liturgical Ministry Coordinator: Molly Martin

Parish Administrator: JD Detterman

Office Assistant: Carol Schreider

Children's Ministries Coordinator: Emily Bowyer

Youth Minister: Chris Acton

Director of Music: Hazel Hanson

MMO Director: Nancy Lopez-Taylor

Day Family Scholarship

St Barnabas member Dan Day has established the Day Family Scholarship in memory of his wife, Katie Gibbons Day. Katie was a member of our church family and an elementary school teacher who loved the native plants and ecosystems of the Texas Hill Country.



The \$2,500 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who shares



Katie's love of the natural world, and plans to major in ecology, conservation, land stewardship, or a similar field. This scholarship will be administered by the Fredericksburg Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Application information is available from high school guidance counselors. An application form, high school transcript, college acceptance letter, letter of recommendation, and an essay are required.

Applicants will write a 500-word essay about the ecosystems of Texas and their desire to study and work in this field. All application materials should be submitted by the May 15, 2024 deadline to npsotfredpres@gmail.com and dbday8241@yahoo.com.

The recipient will be notified of the award by June 15, 2024.

WHAT A WONDERFUL TRIBUTE TO KATIE!