



News from St. Barnabas

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A Note From Emilie

Beloved friends.

I wonder every day, every week, how are you all doing? Have you managed to find good things in these strange days; in the cracks and openings can the light shine through? I wonder during these days have you found some way to experience the love of God? For yourself? For others? For the earth?

How strange it is, not to be able to gather, as we always have, all of us together, to share one another's' stories, to hear about God's deep and abiding love, and to share the symbols of that unbreakable love with one another. But despite the challenges it *has* been good to meet, one week on, one week off -- it was the best way we could figure out how to see one another.

These are indeed hard days. That is undeniable. This pandemic has been going on for almost half a year now. I think in the beginning I was kind of like, okay, we can make these adjustments, for a while, and then get back to normal. But as the days and weeks and months move on, there seems to be a kind of weariness -- when can we gather as many as we like in church? When can we sing? When can we break bread? Will there ever be a normal?

Here at St. Barnabas, and in the diocese, we are every day and every week, examining, re-examining, praying, listening, discussing. We are moving in a constant dance between: what do we need to do to keep one another safe? And, what do we need to do to nourish and sustain our faith?



And there are bigger issues coming up for us, not only here at St. Barnabas, but in the world. Here in British Columbia we are blessed with wise health care leaders, and we are blessed that for the most part, we are listening to them, and following their guidelines. Whether it is that, or sheer luck, or Canadian privilege, we seem to have escaped the worst of the pandemic, for now. But because we are global people, how many cultures and histories and traditions are here in church on every given Sunday, we can't ignore what is happening south of us, and further afield.

And even here, though few have been sick, or lost loved ones -- some have, and all of us have, or will, face instability economically, and socially. For many, loneliness, isolation, and money concerns mark our days, our worries, our nights.

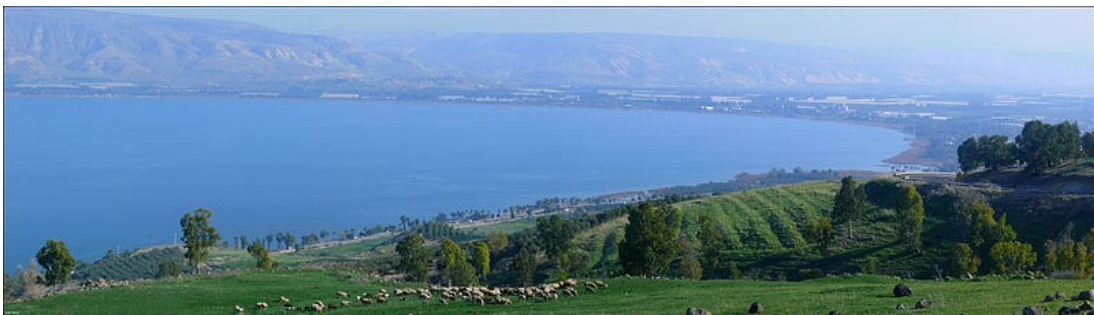
So what does the church have to say for itself. What words of solace, or encouragement -- or of instigation -- can we stir up with one another? What does God have to say, what do God's people have to say about times of trouble?

This Sunday, August 9th, we are reading the story of the disciples in a boat on the Sea of Galilee, in stormy weather, when Jesus comes to them, walking on the water. This is probably one of the most memorable images from our Gospel stories. Peter -- as usual getting things confused -- tries to walk to Jesus, and sinks, and despairs, "Lord save me!"

Words for all of us in our times of trial, in our crises, or loss of faith, or worries that come into every human life. Of course, Jesus saves, he saves Peter, he saves us. He pulls us into his safety, and from his embrace there is no fear, no hurt, no suffering.

So in these strange days, beloved friends, gird yourselves up with that promise, that assurance that has been the source of comfort for every generation.

We will not be left alone. Not during this pandemic. Not in our own times of trial and trouble. Let us, at St. Barnabas, continue to be signs of God's ever-lasting love.



Music That Makes Community International Workshop

A New Song in a Strange Time!

Summer is generally a time of renewal and re-creation, a time to refresh and try something new. For me, I attended a retreat put on by Music Makes Community, on Zoom. Singing new songs, sharing new ideas, being together over 3 days.

Drawing ourselves together over Zoom, it worked!! Rather than sitting in a chair in a conference room we shared by opening ourselves each day with a glimpse into our lives,

Covid hair and all. The day starting with Morning Prayer then learning sessions with the day ending with Evening Prayer; a rhythm set by sharing songs by the leaders; Patti, Caitlin and Emilie among them.

I like retreats, singing, learning new songs and ideas, but go with trepidation, signing in, nerves of what to encounter. So Music Makes Community is a movement of community singing and I like that. Songs are sung in a call and response to start then open to the community.... I like to find where songs come from and sing together, hearing and letting the words sink in. At the retreat I attended the core session of the day, singing and absorbing, finding community, and connected to MMC and St. Barnabas; both rooted in the Church and fresh in worship and song. Worship and serving the neighbourhood are marks of who we are here! Worship drew me in, the newness, being different yet the same, new music, hymns... I am talking about when I joined way back when, yet I am talking about today.

"Sing a new song" I found out appears a lot in the Bible... so if you know a new or old song...

"Worship in the beauty of holiness" even though on Zoom, Facebook, on your Sunday or at Sacred Singing Circle.

Bruce Alexander



Redevelopment update

The Redevelopment Committee, together with our St. Barnabas Church Committee, will meet soon to discuss redevelopment options presented by our consultants Catalyst. The feasibility process has been interesting and informing. Under consideration have been issues such as the number of homes we would like to create, the level of affordability for those homes, the relative distances between buildings on our property, the possibility of phases, the future of the daycare and reimagining the future needs of worship. Any future decisions will only be made at a full parish meeting. Stay tuned!

We're restarting the Eucharist at our Sunday Services with a Parish Picnic ~ August 30th

We are excited to be able to restart or **Celebration of the Eucharist** at our Sunday service, **August 23rd**, and what better way than to have an outdoor service and picnic in our beautiful courtyard. Here are the details:

- The service will begin at our regular time, 10:00 am
- Bring your own chair
- Chairs will be placed 6 feet apart
- Masks are suggested (unless you're eating of course)
- Bring Your Own Lunch & Refreshment ~ our picnic will take place following the service at 11:00 am
- Patti Powell will be leading us in some outdoor singing!

EVERYONE is welcome to attend church this date; groups A and B together!

Please plan to join us.



Thrift Shop reopens September 2nd

Our fabulous Thrift Shop is set to re-open Wednesday, September 2nd. This will be great news for many of our parishioners and neighbours. The shop will be open **Wednesday, Friday & Saturday**, from **11:00 am to 4:00 pm**. Masks, social distancing & hand sanitizing will be required. There will be a limit of 6 customers, plus 2 staff, allowed inside the shop at any one time. Donations will be accepted Wednesday & Saturday only. Many thanks to our manager Donna and her team of volunteers who have kept the shop in good repair while closed.