

The BANNER

Saint Barnabas's Journal of Connection



HOPE IS THE POWER TO MAKE IT SO

I recently stumbled on a *NY Times* series called, “Believing” by Lauren Jackson. Clearly, the *NY Times* and Lauren sense the mood of the nation. This particular day, her series focused on the rise of cynicism, and the need for hope. And one line struck me: while optimism is the belief that the future will be better, hope is the belief “that we have the power to make it so”.

This issue of the Banner is a representation of just that. Through the words and actions that you will read about, our parish is not only re-imagining the future of Saint Barnabas’s (take your time to read some of those dreams in our BHAG article), but in the here and now, so many of us are doing whatever we can to keep hope and humanity alive.

You’ll read David Rider’s thoughts about the world around us, you’ll be introduced to a young couple who are slowly becoming more involved with StB’s, you’ll share in the reflections of some who were involved in last year’s Sacred Ground series, and you’ll learn more about A Place at the Table through a conversation that I had with Rhaenel Stone. And finally, Paul Gentile, on behalf of the Archives team, will provide a peek into the soon-to-be unveiled exhibit at Highfield Hall about StB’s true beginnings.

Yes, it’s tempting to feel cynical, but I hope that once you read this issue of The Banner, you’ll feel hope as you are reminded of all the good we are doing, individually and collectively, both within and outside the walls and grounds of Saint Barnabas’s.

I’d also like to give my personal thanks to Tom Moore III, Katheryn Chassé, Kathy Mulligan and David Forsberg for signing on as part of The Banner team. Their help and contributions will only make the Banner better!

Beth Bullock-McGrail, Editor

Excerpt from Lauren Jackson’s *NY Times* Series, “Believing”

... Cynicism is vastly on the rise ... experts say it's reversible if people cultivate hope that another future is possible ... while optimism is the belief that the future will be better, hope is the belief “that we have the power to make it so”

Believing

A weekly newsletter about how people live religion and spirituality now, with Lauren Jackson.





SPEAK GOD'S HOPE

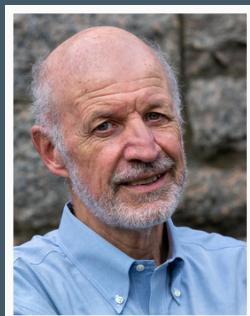
By Reverend David Rider, Interim Priest

Happy (or Uncharted) New Year. We love the hope of new starts and possibilities, and yet our larger society feels anything but happy. Many parishioners have confessed feeling like we have entered uncharted waters as we live into 2026.

As I said in a recent sermon, ever since Jesus dried himself off from his baptism in the River Jordan, our faith journey takes place not in some spiritual cocoon but, rather, amid the demons, pagan excesses, joys and stresses of daily life. Here we are. On the Upper Cape. in 2026. Serving a culture with increasingly frayed social fabric. How do we care for one another while speaking God's hope to a hurting world?

As we look to Lent in a few weeks, we'll explore new models of centering prayer that help us stay calm while tapping into the Holy Spirit that surrounds us. Concurrently, we'll select readings that address the uptick of white Christian nationalism that seemingly has lost its way in connecting to God's love that casts out fear. Abraham Lincoln stated in his Second Inaugural Address that both the North and South "read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other," speaking to the tragic irony that both sides sought divine favor for opposing causes. What has changed, and how do we promote reconciliation in today's divided world?

We may well be in uncharted water, but that's not a first for Christian witness over many centuries. In the coming weeks, let's delve into these mysteries in a careful and compassionate way as the people of Saint Barnabas's.



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Annual Parish Meeting Notice

OUR HOPES AND DREAMS FOR STB'S



The StB's Community has been busy rethinking, re-imagining what we want and hope for StB's.

You may have heard Reverend Rider talk about our "BHAGs" for StB's.

Today we share some with you. But, question? What is *your* BHAG for StB's?

RE-IMAGINING

BHAGS FROM
PARISHIONERS

Help! What is a 'BHAG'?

A BHAG (pronounced "BEE-hag") stands for Big Hairy Audacious Goal. It is a powerful business concept representing a clear, compelling, and long-term objective that typically takes 10 to 30 years to achieve. BHAG's should be; Visionary & Bold (they should feel a bit daunting), Unifying as a focal point that aligns our diverse ministry teams toward a single, shared purpose.

DAVID FORSBERG'S BHAG: AN EDUCATION CENTER AND COMMUNITY FORUM

My father wanted to be a teacher, but the Depression and World War II stole that dream. I should have been a teacher, but politics and government sidetracked me. I finally got to teach in quasi-retirement, and I have never felt more alive than in a classroom interacting with bright, inquisitive students. Happily, both my sons became educators. Drew is an English teacher, and Dana is a baseball coach. Trust me, coaching is teaching.

So when David Rider challenged our Wednesday Study Group to come up with a BHAG, a “Big, Hairy, Audacious Goal” for StB’s, my thoughts immediately turned to education. Why not turn our beautiful campus into a premier Education Center and Community Forum where people can gather for study, discussion, and fellowship?

Just when I was about to award myself a star for BHAG originality, I realized it was not my BHAG after all. Paul Gentile had beaten me to the punch. As early as 2005, recognizing the potential of the campus and seeing an opportunity for transformative ministry, Paul proposed establishing, in partnership with the Diocese, a Spiritual and Education Center at StB’s. A BHAG indeed.

Unfortunately, because the very nature of BHAGs makes them a bit scary, the idea never took root. I think it is time to plant a new tree and act on Paul’s vision. The timing could not be better. StB’s is in a period of transition, searching for identity, and exploring pathways forward. Faith-forming education strikes me as a pretty strong linchpin.



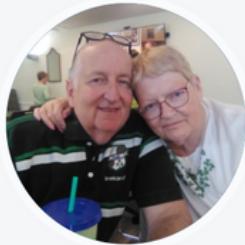
Here is my take on why we should, and can, get this done.

We have the talent. David Rider is a gifted teacher and will be with us for almost two years. A passion for education should be part of our next Rector’s profile. The parish includes a number of teachers and education administrators, retired and active, who would answer the call if we chose to significantly expand our adult education program. The Sunday Forum and Wednesday Discussion Group provide a solid foundation, which could be augmented with evening offerings, guest speakers, panel discussions, and visiting theology students.

We have the credibility. StB’s is respected in the community, and the community should be invited into this process. A passion for community engagement should also be a key part of our next Rector’s profile. Our education agenda should include opportunities to discuss the issues and challenges facing our town and the role the faith community can play in addressing them. We should invite government, nonprofit, and church leaders to speak at regular forums.

We have the infrastructure. The Parish House, a reimagined Christ Chapel, and the tent are terrific venues for a wide range of educational experiences. The Chapel, in particular, lends itself to incorporating the arts. Perhaps we could take a page from “Lobster on the Lawn” and design a “Learning on the Lawn” program to attract adults who want to combine education with recreation while summering on Cape Cod, or to reinvigorate interest in a Summer Bible Camp for kids. As the program matures, we should revisit Paul Gentile’s vision of converting the Great Hall into a state-of-the-art Spiritual Center to serve a regional audience. It is ambitious, but BHAGs are supposed to be.

Martin Luther once said, “If you are going to sin, sin boldly.” I am not suggesting we sin, but I am suggesting we be bold. Let’s take on a BHAG together. If not this one, then another, although I think we could do worse than putting our eggs in the education basket. It will be hard work, but worth the effort. There will be setbacks, but if we persist, we will succeed, and the parish, the community, and the region will all be better for it.



BILL SULLIVAN'S BHAG: SUPPORT FOR THE SICK, THE CAREGIVERS AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

We love the people of Saint Barnabas's! You have embraced Cathy and me from the very beginning. We as a couple have been passionately following Jesus years before our marriage in 1979. Through the years we have been through many challenges involving our physical health. Through it all we have become convinced that God's allowing us to experience hardships has led us to develop unshakable faith and immeasurable joy!

Our dreams for StB's is to use the Pastoral Care Ministries to support, strengthen, encourage and educate the sick, their caregivers and healthcare providers using the scriptures that have been our foundation. The goals are to create a comprehensive curriculum to provide a template can be developed as far as God chooses. It is in the outward focus on loving each other with the compassion of Jesus. Love and peace in Christ.



SUSAN SCHMIDT'S BHAG: CONNECT TO OUR PURPOSE AS GIVEN BY GOD

My dream for Saint Barnabas's is for us to connect to our purpose as given by our God. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves and to live into our baptismal covenant in which we respect the dignity of every human being. have done a wonderful job with feeding our neighbors with a Place at the Table. There is always more need for support of this ministry so our Christmas and Easter offerings have gone to support their efforts.

There is a group of parishioners who completed Sacred Ground in our first series who are meeting regularly to work towards Social Justice in our church and local area.

Our dreams within this ministry are to provide for the needs of those who are most vulnerable in our society: the immigrants, the orphans and the widows, the disinherited, the poor, in short, everyone.

Finally, my dream is to grow our church to a comfortable size with enough members to fully staff our ministries and fundraisers while increasing our stewardship to do good where we are and being who we are. Invite those who are missing to join us.

One of the major challenges we face in this twenty-first century is an epidemic of loneliness. People seek connection; we are wired for it. People need to believe that they belong where they come, include people the way Jesus did. We need to show our love for our Savior by our gestures in our community by genuine and radical hospitality and hope and peace.

HELEN SCOTT MALINA'S BHAG: A CONTINUATION OF WHAT IS PRECIOUS



As StB's evolves into the second half of this decade hopes for continuation of what is precious, such as A Place at the Table (APATT), the expansion and adaptation of what is useful to parishioners, such as new and modified uses of the Chapel and the potential addition of what may bring new faith experiences to both the parish faithful and possible community members who value our sacred grounds, such as a program for ongoing centering prayer.

Continuation of A Place at the Table: this precious partnership with so many vital Falmouth community resources must continue. As referenced in the January 9th Enterprise, these weekly meals give nutrition, a period of safety and an additional centralized location where staff of multiple agencies can meet with the homeless and housing vulnerable, enjoy a warm meal, local musicians and a safe warm setting. This time and space is indeed precious to so many in our community. I urgently pray we keep it that way. We are now in a time of national fear, violence and disbelief. So many of our local homeless population are, like the rest of us, far older than the national average. We must do everything in our parish power to keep this gift safe and strong. We cannot let fear stand in the way of love.

Possible changes to our beloved stable Chapel: Multiple productive discussions amongst us concern potential new uses for our chapel including programs and services for children and youth, exhibition of art with spiritual themes as well as activities such as meditative yoga that other community members might share with us.

There has been conversation about adaptations such as an added bathroom, a movable altar to provide location for diverse types of services, and the possibility or removal or relocation of the pews. Many welcome these ideas and at the same time dread the loss of our pews. Perhaps our thinking can be a creative hybrid? Our national cathedral has lovely pews, but they can disappear and resurface depending upon spiritual event needs. There is actually a lovely indoor labyrinth beneath them that my daughter and I danced upon just after 9/11 at a national women's gathering for prayers for peace. In addition, they vanish for the annual blessing of the animals as the residents of the national zoo parade through, elephants, giraffes and all.

A new trial chapter of Centering Prayer, Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) and Meditation to come forth on our campus: This project is dear to my heart and has been a significant portion of my faith journey in several previous parishes. I have an extensive library of works of the many Benedictine leaders such as Cynthia Bourgeault, and Joan Chittister, to Richard Rohr and our own Episcopal priest, Elizabeth Canham, which I am glad to share. There are many styles and settings which can be used. I am eager to participate in this process, and to give ongoing time to assure its vitality, as long as interest remains.

I believe we are entering into one of our parishes most vital and needed chapters and am so grateful that StB's is my spiritual home. God bless us everyone!



A SAINT FRANCIS POEM

O DEAR FRANCIS, WE HAVE STRAYED FROM YOUR LESSONS
HELP US, FRANCIS, TO MEND OUR WAYS
YOU BLESSED ALL CREATURES AND HELPED THE POOR

WE HAVE POLLUTED WATER, WASTED RESOURCES AND
DESTROYED THE BEAUTY OF DAYS
WE IGNORE THOSE WHO MOST NEED HELP IN QUEST OF MORE

MORE WEALTH, MORE LAND, MORE NONSENSE
WE ARE NOT WORTHY STEWARDS OF THE LAND.

STOP OUR WARRING WAYS BY SHARING THE WISDOM
OF OUR INDIGENOUS NEIGHBORS AND ANCESTORS
AND HOLDING NATURE IN A CRADLE TO TREAT WITH LOVING CARE.

PEACE IS MY QUEST, TO CHANNEL IT INTO THE WORLD
TO LEND AN EAR TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TO BE HEARD
GOD'S WORD, A BALM TO THOSE WHO WEEP OR MOURN.

MORE LOVE, MORE JOY, MORE GRACE
TO HEAL OUR SACRED SPACE

MAY OUR DAYS FULFILL YOUR DREAMS AND
OUR NIGHTS CAN SILENCE THE CRIES OF ALL WHO
SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF HUMAN GREED.

PLEASE SAINT FRANCIS, PRAY FOR US.

-Submitted by Susan Schmidt

NEWCOMER SPOTLIGHT OLIVIA ZSCHIRNT AND SHANE DUFFY

BY KATHERYN CHASSÉ

Tom and I walked into Saint Barnabas's one Sunday morning, and saw a lovely young couple sitting on the inside end of the pew. In the service announcements, David asked if there were any new people at the service. They raised their hands and were given the "welcome" water bottle. At the end of the service, we introduced ourselves and welcomed them to StB's. Others in the congregation did the same. As the weeks went on, we continued to notice their presence both in the church and gathering in the parish hall for coffee and delicious morning snacks.



Let me introduce you to Olivia Zschirnt and Shane Duffy! Olivia grew up in West Dover, Vermont, where she enjoyed the ski culture and hospitality venues across the valley. Coming from a Catholic and Protestant background, she attended church with her family, and related that Sundays were family time and downtime in Vermont for the entire community in West Dover. After high school, she went to Lasell University in Newton, MA and graduated with a degree in fashion design. Presently, Olivia is working in the hospitality business, living here in Falmouth. Shane grew up in Northboro, MA and graduated in Montana with a bio-technician degree. Presently, he is working in Cambridge, MA.

As a runner, Olivia often passed the Saint Barnabas's campus on her route. She was awed by its expansive structure and beauty, and felt an inner pull to explore and attend a service with Shane. She felt an immediate welcome to the parish. Now, as a new member, "I love coming to church, gazing at the beautiful altar flowers, seeing everyone wave at us, and talking with people at the gatherings." They especially love the water bottle welcome gift and announcements. Primarily, they feel that David's homilies call to them and are relatable to everyday living. "He breaks down the passages, relates it to our life, is funny, talks to you not *at* you, and generates a continued conversation between us after the service and throughout the week. We love the community that StB's represents, feeling that it is a Lost Art in people's hurried, complex lives." Often, Olivia advocates for StB's, continually inviting her colleagues and friends to the service. "It's just getting them here. Once they come, they will stay like us. It's a beautiful church with welcoming people and a coffee hour. How can you beat that?"

Both Olivia and Shane have demanding schedules, but would "jump in", if they had enough time to plan collaboratively. Olivia is a history buff and finds the history of the liturgy interesting, acknowledging that StB's is open to questioning, rather than years ago when she was growing up.

In this Epiphany season, Jesus is revealed as the Light of the world, shining for all people, not just one group. What a "light" Olivia and Shane are for everyone, including all of us at StB's. Welcome, Shane and Olivia!

SAINT BARNABAS'S IN FALMOUTH, MA, WELCOMES VISITORS WITH AN "ALL ARE WELCOME" ETHOS, EMBRACING DIVERSITY AND OFFERING A "HOME AWAY FROM HOME" THROUGH INCLUSIVE MINISTRIES (LIKE INVITE WELCOME CONNECT), COMMUNITY GATHERINGS (POST-SERVICE REFRESHMENTS, EVENTS LIKE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL), A SERENE CAMPUS WITH GARDENS AND A PLAYGROUND, AND SPIRITUAL RESOURCES FOR ALL BACKGROUNDS, FROM LIFELONG CHRISTIANS TO THOSE NEW TO FAITH, INCLUDING LGBTQ+ INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

GAVIN MULLIGAN HIGH SCHOOL VESTRY MEMBER

Gavin Mulligan, a member of Saint Barnabas's, is a 17-year-old Junior at Sturgis West Charter School in Hyannis. He just finished a year-long term as the High School Representative on the Saint Barnabas's Vestry.

Here's what Gavin had to say about his experience on the Vestry.

"I joined the Vestry almost a year ago. More than anything it's been a big learning experience. It was good to learn what it's like to be part of a leadership committee. It was interesting to see Robert's Rules of Order in action and learn how budgets are developed and passed. I got a new perspective on the many different things that need to come into consideration in running the church - topics and issues pertaining to finances and property. There's so much intent and so much thought that goes behind decisions that you wouldn't even think of. There's so much care put into everything. I learned more about the Creighton House mission. I learned more about A Place at the Table and the warming center that our church offers for people to come in out of the cold. The people I met on the Vestry were all very kind and friendly. They made me feel very comfortable. They all care very much and take their roles on the Vestry seriously.

The experience was just really eye-opening and it led me to a greater appreciation of how much effort is put into running StB's. Saint Barnabas's does so much for its members and for the wider community as well."



THANKS TO GAVIN FOR HIS SERVICE
FROM THE STB'S VESTRY AND PARISHIONERS

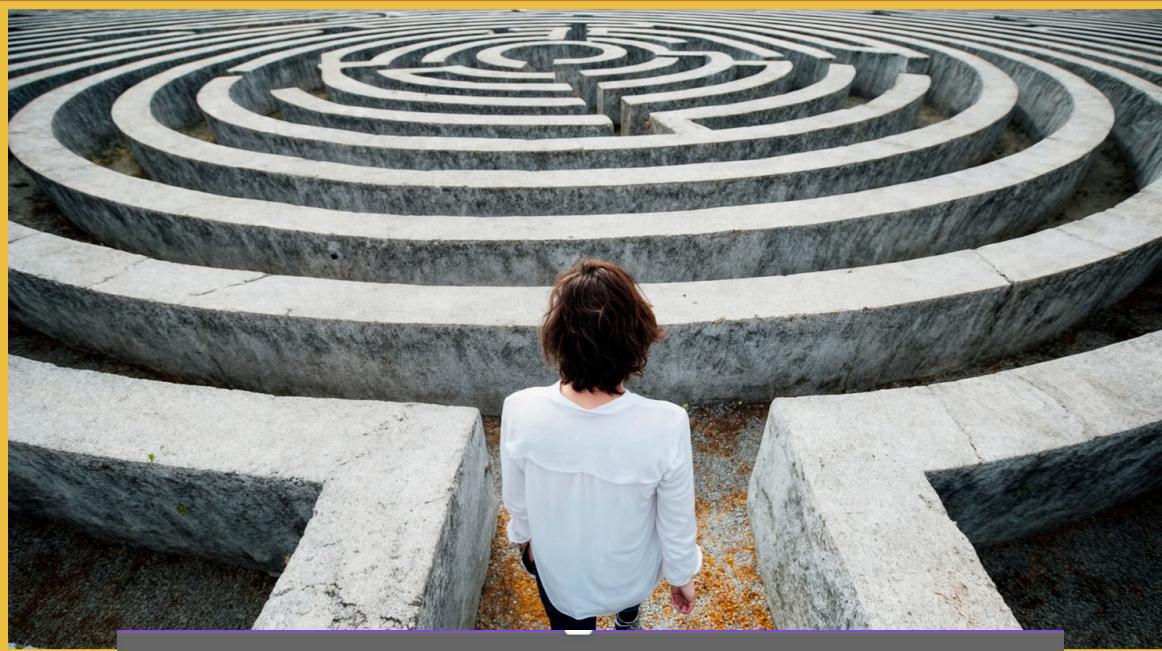
THE SACRED GROUND SERIES

Sacred Ground is a film-based dialogue series on Race and Faith.

Participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and dividers of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

We asked participants from last year's Sacred Ground series to share how it impacted them.

We look forward to hearing from this year's participants at the close of the series.



SACRED GROUND ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

CYNTHIA PINA

As I experienced the (Sacred Ground) series, I found that my emotions were all over the place. As the only person of color in my group, I revisited and was reminded of some issues that happened in my lifetime that I thought had been resolved or at least forgotten. Talking about these things in today's political climate was painful and hard to express to my white counterparts. Nonetheless, I felt over time the ability to look at my own biases and try to address them. Tough work to be sure!



KIRSTIN MEYER - KAISER

I feel that I learned a lot about American history during Sacred Ground, including experiences of marginalized groups that I never understood. The main take-away for me was an increased sense of empathy.



GEORGE LILES (ONE OF THE 2025 FACILITATORS)

The Sacred Ground series consists of a remarkable collections of articles and videos that show how European settlers constructed a race-based economic system that worked (and continues to work) to the benefit of some groups at the expense of others. The Sacred Ground curriculum changed the way I think about present day social, political, and economic issues in the United States.

SACRED GROUND ALUMNI REFLECTIONS



LUCY YOUNG

For 250 years Southerners condoned slavery, my ancestors among them in Virginia. As a nation we have an untreated wound. If history is an indictment of our forbears, how to reckon with this? Why did Asian Americans overcome racism between 1940 and 1970, climbing the socioeconomic ladder, and African Americans were left behind? Can integration truly solve the deeper issues of economic inequality? These are examples of discussions and article topics from Sacred Ground.



LORE LOFTFIELD DEBOWER

I would sign up for the Sacred Ground series again and again; I know that I would learn and grow with each repetition. The series, curated through the St Barnabas's office, provides a safe space to share our cultures and develop our understanding of where we come from and how we got to where we are, through a carefully scaffolded curriculum. Register to wrestle with implicit bias, manifest destiny, or the doctrine of discovery in the company of thoughtful, responsible, civil neighbors, friends, and family. It's not easy, but it is worth it.



LINDA JEFFRIES-SUMMERS

We have gained a shared knowledge of the true tribal, racial, Hispanic, Sino and Nipponese heritage of our country through our readings and discussion, and we want to share our findings with the congregation, and apologize for the lack of equity in our nation's history, and redress their wrongs



IRENE LEDWITH

I received more from the Sacred Ground dialogue series than I ever imagined I could. Knowing that the curriculum focused on Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories in America, and America's history of race and racism, I felt I was already well read in these areas. Not so, I found. I did and still do have so much to learn. But in addition to the knowledge, being able to talk in a safe space created by our Church about racial history and the pain caused to people of color, with other parishioners, was gratifying and eye opening.

TELLING THE STB'S STORY: THE HIGHFIELD HALL EXHIBIT

PAUL GENTILE & THE STB'S ARCHIVAL MINISTRY

Mark your calendars for March 5th, 2026. Under the leadership of Paul Gentile, and the support of the Archival Ministry, a fascinating story surrounding the Beebe family and the creation of the church we call home, will be unveiled to visitors of Highfield Hall. Working in partnership with the Director of Interpretation and Exhibitions, Linda Ingersoll, this exhibit will tell the story of how the Beebe families' vision for an English style parish on the green in Falmouth came to life. The story will be told through historical documents and correspondence involving the Massachusetts Diocesan Bishop, the Church of the Messiah, The Town of Falmouth, members of the Beebe family, and the designers and landscapers.

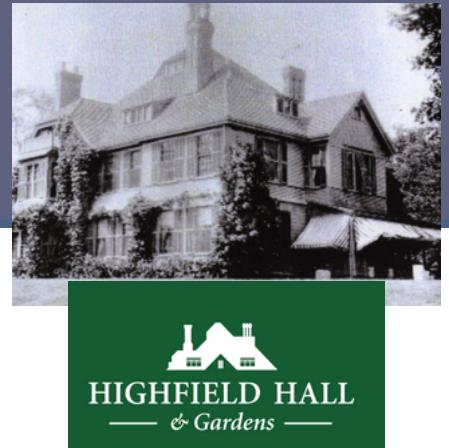
I asked Paul Gentile, the leader of our Archives Ministry, to tell us more about this new Highfield Hall Exhibit.

Founded in 1888 by E. Pierson Beebe and his siblings in memory of their parents, James M. and Esther E. Beebe, Saint Barnabas's Episcopal Church in Falmouth, Massachusetts, has had a significant impact on the local community, fostering spiritual, social, and cultural inclusivity.

The Beebe family's vision and resources were pivotal, creating a landmark that remains central to Falmouth's identity. Over time, these early efforts evolved into a broader mission of community service and openness, cementing Saint Barnabas's Church as a vital part of Falmouth's spiritual and social fabric.

The church's early efforts to serve local Episcopalians laid the foundation for its modern role as a vibrant community hub, hosting events like the Strawberry Festival, Lobster on the Lawn, and the Christmas Fair, which draw hundreds of locals and tourists. Its welcoming stance today, embracing diverse groups, builds on the early vision of creating a spiritual home.

This exhibit will focus on the early personalities and conversations leading to the building of the church, the architectural significance of the church campus and the many ways Saint Barnabas's Church has impacted Falmouth and the upper Cape Cod communities.



GENE M. MARCHAND/ENTERPRISE
The records archiving committee at St. Barnabas, from left, are Ann German, church financial administrator; Richard Stone, team member; Paul Gentile, chair of the records archiving committee; the Reverend Will Mebane; and Becky Vaus, parish administrator. Not available for the photo is team member Sally Colacicco.



**THE EXHIBIT WILL BE A MULTI-MEDIA, MULTI-ROOM PRESENTATION
AND IS SCHEDULED FROM MARCH 5, 2026 TO JUNE 7, 2026
AT HIGHFIELD HALL & GARDENS, FALMOUTH.**

A PLACE AT THE TABLE

A CONVERSATION WITH RHAENEL STONE, VOLUNTEER

Tell me about how you started with A Place at the Table (APATT) and what it means to you?

My interest was immediate: when it started about 3 to 4 years ago, I knew I wanted to be a part of it. I had always been interested in helping with food insecurity programs and had worked in other programs that helped in this way, in other places I had lived.

How have you seen this program change and grow since you started?

A Place at the Table, under the leadership and vision of Sandra Good, started small, serving just 10-12 people. It was hosted in the Parish House at that time, where we prepared a simple meal brought out on trays to our guests. But as our community grew and we became known as a safe and welcoming place, we moved to the Great Hall which not only gave us more space, but a wonderful kitchen to work in. With that change, we also realized that serving buffet style benefitted our guests by allowing them to take only what they want, cutting down on food waste and more importantly, benefitted us as well. We are now face to face, which strengthens our connections and grows community.

Tell me about those who come to volunteer and what they do to help to build this community.

This program really has changed in scope since I started. It's not just about providing meals, the Duffy Health Center Van comes each week and can help connect guests to a doctor, to substance use services, and there's even shower facilities in the van. Housing specialists come each week to meet privately with some guests on possible housing options. We are blessed to have a variety of live music at every luncheon, provided by the Falmouth Cultural Council.

We have a dedicated and hardworking group of volunteers, some who are there every week. Along with our servers, we have a wonderful group in the kitchen. One of our cooks, for example, David Swift, became our dessert chef. He comes in early and bakes from scratch – cobblers, desserts, and even home-made sauces. He has such a wonderful and positive spirit. He truly brings a sense of joy to the kitchen. He is that spark. He will say: our guests deserve a good meal, and we will always have enough for them. God will provide.



Photo courtesy of: Merrily Crowley



APATT Photos courtesy of Rev. David Rider

A PLACE AT THE TABLE (continued)

Reflecting on the idea of community – what makes it so special?

This is such a big answer and there are many stories to tell around this.

First, the word ‘guest’ is used so deliberately and with so much love at A Place at the Table. We truly see those who show up as our guests who are welcomed. StB’s has become known as a place where our neighbors can come and there is no judgement. Some who come are not only looking for food nourishment, they are lonely, they need soul nourishment. They come and keep coming because A Place at the Table is a welcoming community, built on love and sharing. As volunteers, we’re among them. When we’re not serving, we talk with our guests, we check in them we laugh with them, and when one of our regular guests passed away, yes, we cry with them.

Second, the community is both solid and sometimes fragile. We respect that. If a client finds a job, and they feel they don’t need to come, they can move on, but when they drop in, it’s a reunion. They may be ‘back on their feet’ but this community still has a strong connection for them. Another guest, who is a senior, ultimately became a parishioner, but then faced transportation challenges. She now comes by bus, when she can, because the community is so important to her. One young man seemed uncomfortable, when he first came in. I saw him when I was walking through Falmouth one day and I said ‘hello’ but he was timid. Guests may lack trust, and A Place at the Table can be a place where trust is restored. This program offers love and acceptance to help our guests live a better life. And believe me, they give that love right back, it is not a one-way street. The feeling of love, community, connection and acceptance has been something that individually and collectively we have worked hard to build. Our volunteers know that is why we’re here. The meal is only the starting point.



APATT Photos courtesy of Rev. David Rider

You reminded me that this program helps to deliver on Jesus’ example. But it does more than simply act as a place to congregate on the StB’s campus. It truly serves the greater community, doesn’t it?

Yes, it does. I will continue to do whatever I can do, in the same spirit of love and caring as long as I can do it. The truth is, as volunteers, we get as much from this program, maybe more, as our guests. I am not an evangelical person, but it is clear to me that this ministry at StB’s is making manifest what we are asked to do. I am sometimes asked: Does everyone who comes to a Place At The Table really need it? My simple answer is: they do. If they come, they need it. We are just opening our door and we welcome whoever comes in.

FAITH THROUGH ACTION

On Sunday, May 31, 2020, six days after George Floyd was killed, my husband and I attended the Zoom mass with our parish then, Grace Episcopal Church in Hastings on Hudson, NY. When mass ended, we stayed online for our coffee hour chat. My husband mentioned his distress since seeing the up-close video of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Other parishioners followed with sorrow or anger, tears flowed across my screen.

Similar to Saint Barnabas's Church, Grace is an upper middle class, predominantly white congregation. Out of that coffee hour, we started a study group on racism, which became a Social Justice Committee, determined to "seek justice", and "defend the vulnerable." We all felt called to live out our faith through action.

It is heartening that Saint Barnabas's has an active Social Justice Committee of parishioners and members of the community working for justice from a faith-based perspective. In the past year, we have seen our current administration commit numerous injustices and crimes against immigrants, non-white citizens, science, and the environment. We have watched our administration bomb suspected drug traffickers and "leave no one alive", and invaded Venezuela killing 100 people. It is threatening Greenland with military force, a nation protected by NATO.

What do we do as Christians while all this happening? Having a Social Justice Committee gives us a safe venue to express our faith by helping those who are oppressed.

**"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the poor and needy."**

-Proverbs 31:8-9



**Isaiah 1:17 – "Learn to do right; seek justice.
Defend the oppressed."**

Having a Social Justice Committee at Saint Barnabas's is where I, with my morality shaped by the teachings of Jesus, can be with fellow Christians to express concerns of what is happening outside our church walls and be a "voice for the voiceless".

The Social Justice Committee is currently seeking ways to support our immigrant community, support racial diversity in the Woods Hole science community, and help other organizations in our community assisting immigrant neighbors and fighting racism. We held an "Email or phone your local Legislator" day in November, urging local legislators to support bills protecting our immigrant community; supported the efforts of the Falmouth Immigration and Rights Coalition; held a toiletry drive for Falmouth High School's Clipper Closet; and created a Social Justice Lending Library in our Parish House. All these small efforts have been incredibly gratifying.

The Social Justice Committee intends to keep working. Please watch for calls to action in our E-news, or join us at our monthly meeting.

**SUBMITTED BY:
IRENE LEDWITH**



IMPORTANT REMINDER: SAINT BARNABAS' ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH



Saint Barnabas's Memorial Episcopal Church

91 Main Street • Falmouth, MA 02540 • www.stbfalmouth.org

**The Wardens and Vestry of
The Parish of Saint Barnabas
Announce the**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

to be held on

Sunday, January 25, 2025, at 10 a.m.

Breakfast served at 9 a.m. in the Great Hall

The meeting is open to all members with Communicants in Good Standing* of the Parish having voice and vote. We will celebrate the past year, review the budget for the year ahead, vote on the slate of officers, members of the Vestry, and delegates for 2026:

In Accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church and by-laws of the Parish of Saint Barnabas:

ARTICLE 4 OFFICERS, VESTRYPERSONS, DELEGATES

4.1 Officers

The officers of the Parish are:

Two Wardens;
a Treasurer; and
a Clerk.

4.2 Vestry Persons

In addition to the officers above, there shall be no fewer than 7 and no more than 11 vestrypersons, in addition, a high school representative, who will be a voting member, will be chosen for a one year term. The number of vestrypersons within these parameters may be changed with two (2) consecutive vestry votes. Two or more members of the same household or family shall not serve concurrently on the vestry.

4.3 Delegates

The Parish shall have such Delegates to the Diocesan Convention and to the Deanery Assembly as it may be entitled to under the relevant canons and rules. Delegates may be members of the Vestry.

ARTICLE 5 ELECTIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE AND VACANCIES

5.1 Elections

The Wardens, Treasurer, Clerk, Vestrypersons, and High School Representative shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Parish. The Wardens, Treasurer, Clerk and the High School Representative shall hold their position until the next Annual Meeting, and the Vestrypersons until the third Annual Meeting following their election, and all shall hold their office until their successor is elected, and qualify. Any Vestryperson whose three-year term, and any Warden, Treasurer or Clerk whose sixth successive one-year term, expires at any Annual Meeting shall be ineligible, until the next succeeding Annual Meeting, for re-election to the same office. Any High School Representative whose third successive one-year term expires at any Annual Meeting shall be ineligible for re-election to the same office.

Slate of Nominations

George Liles, Warden, 1-year term

Kate Kristenson, Warden, 1-year term

Richard Whitmyre, Treasurer, 1-year term

Lucy Young, Clerk, 1-year term

Karl Loos, Class of 2028

Ted Gale, Class of 2028

Phoebe Office, Class of 2028

Claudine Kos, Diocesan Delegate

Returning to Serve

Neill Bogan, Class of 2027

Kirstin Meyer-Kaiser, Class of 2027

Lucy Young, Class of 2027

Stephen Handy, Class of 2026

Richard Jackmauh, Class of 2026

Louise Prussack, Class of 2026

Anne Wood, Diocesan Delegate

Beth Bullock-McGrail, Deanery Delegate

Irene Ledwith, Deanery Delegate

Signed by Wardens:

Ambrose Jearid

George Liles

*Communicants in Good Standing are baptized persons 16 or over who support the Parish with prayer, active participation, regular attendance at public worship, and financially; and are entitled to vote at the meeting.



Saint Barnabas's Episcopal Church Campus, Falmouth, MA

Photo Courtesy of Katheryn Chassé