

JUNE 2025

# The BANNER

SAINT BARNABAS'S  
JOURNAL OF REFLECTION

## The Editor's Musings LOVE REACHES OUT

A few weeks ago, with the news of the death of Pope Francis, I found myself moved by and drawn to the words shared about his life and his message, even as the world acknowledged his death. Only a few days later, the new Pope, Pope Leo XIV, delivered his own messages of love, as he called on those of faith to 'build bridges'. His past actions were also celebrated, and in particular, his proven commitment to social justice.

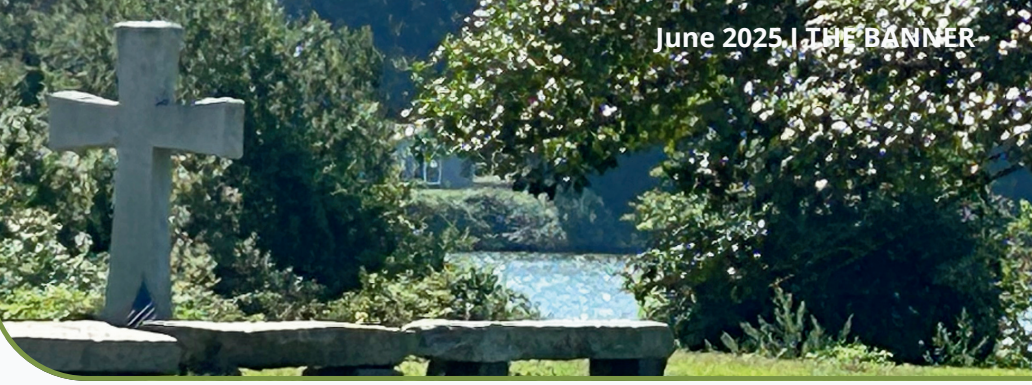
For those days, that public stage for millions, possibly billions, was a stage unlike any other. For me, it helped to rebalance the incessant and discouraging news feed and became a "pulpit" where messages of Love, Peace, Acceptance and Social Justice were on full display. I felt lifted up.

Fear not, I am not converting to Catholicism. But these events felt connected to our theme of **Love Reaching Out**. Wherever love and acceptance is on display, I will celebrate it. Our contributors have done the same in this issue. May Love reach out to you, as you read what lies within!

A place of serenity and beauty, where love reaches out: The Knob, Falmouth, MA

*beun*





# LOVE REACHES OUT

BY THE REV. W. (WILL) H. MEBANE, JR., RECTOR

Nothing lifts my spirits or brightens my day more than when I am crossing the parking lot on my way from the rectory to the rector's office in the Parish Center. This is true everyday but especially on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

What do I see as my eyes scan the campus? Volunteers entering Creighton House to care for previously unhoused and traumatized individuals now living there. Other volunteers are unloading vehicles and carrying items needed as part of the delicious free hot lunches offered to anyone desiring a meal...no questions asked. The mobile medical vans from Duffy Health Center and AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod nudge their hulking units into place. Their staff get organized to administer healthcare, counsel, and clothing to anyone in need. Again...no questions asked. There is a steady stream of individuals buzzing as they prepare to welcome and serve guests in the Great Hall arriving for A Place at the Table. This hubbub of activity continues mostly in anonymity for several hours.

Unity of spirit, sympathy, empathy and, most of all, love for others abounds. Then I realize these are just some of the daily examples of how love reaches out at Saint Barnabas's. What a witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ each day by people with tender hearts and humble minds.

*Wiest*

“

**Finally, all of you, have  
unity of spirit, sympathy,  
love for one another, a  
tender heart,  
and a humble mind.**

**1 Peter 3:8**

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# LOVE REACHES OUT IN SAINT BARNABAS

BY DEBORAH GEMMA, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

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We, the people of Saint Barnabas's Church, have been exploring the theme of "Love" throughout the year. To better understand our final segment, "Love Reaches Out," we need look no further than our patron, Saint Barnabas, whose feast day is June 11th.

The first mention of Barnabas in the Bible can be found in Acts 4:36-37: "There was a Levite from Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet." Barnabas reached out in love, sharing his treasure for God's work in the world. Next, Barnabas reached out to Paul after his conversion. The disciples were reluctant to trust Paul, because he had severely persecuted the followers of Jesus. But Barnabas paved the way for him to be accepted for ministry. Without Barnabas' outreach, we might not have had the ministry of St. Paul. Together, they nurtured and grew the fledgling church at Antioch, then reached out beyond that community sharing the gospel of love to a wider audience during their missionary travels. May we follow the example of St. Barnabas!

“

FOR BARNABAS WE PRAISE YOU,  
WHO KEPT YOUR LAW OF LOVE  
AND, LEAVING EARTHLY  
TREASURES,  
SOUGHT RICHES FROM ABOVE.  
O CHRIST, OUR LORD AND SAVIOR,  
LET GIFTS OF GRACE DESCEND,  
THAT YOUR TRUE CONSOLATION  
MAY THROUGH THE WORLD  
EXTEND.

THE HYMNAL 1982, #231, VERSE 2.



Deb Gemma is the Director of Music at Saint Barnabas's. She has served as Dean of the Cape Cod and Islands Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. She enjoys attending concerts, reading at the beach and her husband's delicious cooking.



# SHARE GOD'S LOVE

BY SUSAN SCHMITT

With a caring heart, feed your neighbor.  
Do the impossible by helping others.  
People everywhere are in need of love,  
of compassion, of an open heart.

While there are a million ways to reach others,  
one feels lonely and isolated in this digital era  
where one can access anything, except the touch  
that comes with true reaching out.

No single person can fix all the woe, and yet I can do all things in  
Christ. Claim it, live it! Engage with others to live into your  
baptismal covenant: A Place at the Table, Pastoral Care, Prayer  
Chain or other ministries.

Build others up and cheer yourself up at the same time.  
All we should tear down are systems that oppress the immigrants,  
the poor, the homeless, the widowed and the orphans.

Build bridges to others in and out of the parish.  
Share God's love freely given to us by reaching out.



Susan Schmidt is a lifelong Episcopalian. She teaches French, sings in the choir and is an activist for humanity.



# FROM THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

BY KEN MCGRAIL



We live in a world where our “leaders” try to divide us on a daily basis by spreading lies which are rooted in hate. Thankfully, this is when love reaches out from the right hand of God. It could be a smile from a stranger on the street, a warm and prolonged hug from my wife, an exuberant “welcome home” from a loving Cavalier King Charles puppy or a series of loving head butts from a Silver Ticked Tabby Maine Coon cat. You can fill in the ‘blank’ for where this happens in your life.

Love also reaches out when you go for an evening walk and marvel at the beautiful sunset or when your morning walk welcomes a beautiful sunrise. Love reaches out when your great niece falls asleep peacefully in your arms . God reaches out in so many ways, but you must keep your eyes and heart open to see and to feel it.

So, answer the hate with love and hope, read your bible, and listen for that wonderful bird song. This verse from the book of Isaiah says it best ...

“So do not fear, for I am with you;  
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you;  
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.  
– Isaiah 41:10”



Ken (and Beth) joined StB's in 2016, a parish they grow to love more each day. Ken's passions include sports (with Premier League Soccer and Fantasy Football at the top of the list). He also loves time spent with Beth and his beloved animals.

# A DREAM, A VISION OR A VISIT?

BY HELEN SCOTT MALINA

My daughter, Stephanie, passed away on March 26, 2024, from a fast developing case of pneumonia and sepsis. Her unexpected death followed eight years of immense healthy challenges, both physical and mental. And yet, after all of that, a cochlear implant took her from total deafness to some hearing, and with it, a new sense of life including re-engagement with the lives of her spouse and her sons and a growing sense of the joy and optimism we all barely remembered from long ago.

About two weeks after her passing, her husband Chris called to report a dream “or something” he had experienced the night before. Stephanie was standing outside on a grassy lawn by a picnic table and she called to him, smiling. She was her tall slender younger self wearing green short shorts (something he had never seen her wear) a pink top and sandals. “I’m fine here she said, “and you will never believe who is here with me!” She stepped aside so he could see who was sitting at the table. “It’s Grandma,” she smiled, “and she is eating a banana!”

That vision took me back in time. In 1984, about a month after I adopted this neglected, abused abandoned...and tender beautiful little girl, I drove her from Miami to Woods Hole to meet my parents. I carried the sleeping child into the house. She opened her eyes and looked up at my father. “Are you my Grandpa”, she asked. “I AM,” he replied. “And I am your Grandma,” my mother chimed in. Those visits remained special to us all. Grandma and grandchild loved sharing their bananas.

Several years after my father’s passing, my mother’s cognitive health began to decline and I brought her to North Carolina to live with us. Roles reversed and granddaughter helped to care for grandmother. When Stephanie started dating and married Chris, Grandma was enchanted with him, as well. After their marriage, I relocated North again so that my sister could assist in our mother’s care. When Hospice told us the end was near, Stephanie had Chris bring her, her son Taylor and their infant son Spencer to visit Grandma. Stephanie tucked Spencer into Grandma’s arm and sat beside them as they slept. My mother smiled in her sleep.

So, did Chris share a Vision with me? Or could it have been a Visit? Or was it merely a dream? Whatever the nature of this gift to us, I will treasure it forever.



Helen Malina, daughter of a Woods Hole scientist, attended Lawrence High School where she made lifelong friends and decided to call Massachusetts home. In 1991, she and her daughter attended StB's for the first time, and in 2021, Helen returned for good after a long career in psychology and social services with vulnerable populations.





## CHAPTER 8, ROMANS

... And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord ...

# GOD REACHES OUT TO A HURTING WORLD

BY BILL SULLIVAN

Love reaches out to our hurting world. So many people going through so much suffering, whether it is physical, emotional or spiritual trauma, we are all experiencing some degree of stress.

How does God word explain this? How do we help ourselves and others through these times?

For me the answers come clearly through the 8th chapter of Romans. There are many wonderful truths I wish I had the space to share. It has been my personal favorite passage which has always inspired, taught and encouraged me throughout the multiple decades of trying times. I look forward to sharing what this chapter has taught me.

There's no better response than to love God with every fiber  
of our being.

And to love each other as He loves us.  
That is how we as a Church need to be.  
With all my heart, I pray this for You!



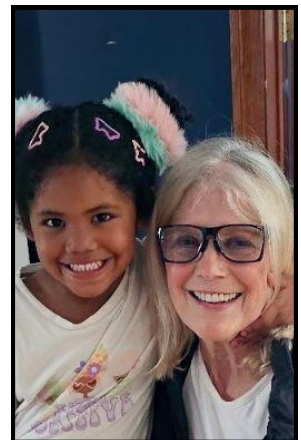
My wife, Cathy and I have been delightfully married since 1979. We have been faithfully following Jesus well before we were married. We have endured many challenges and our faith is eternal. We love the people of StB's, our new spiritual home. I currently co-chair the Pastoral Care Ministry and am actively involved in the parish's Archiving team.

# EXTEND YOUR HEART

BY LYNN HASSOUNA

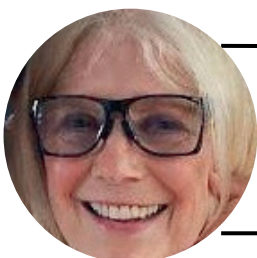
As I traveled in foreign countries, I was eager to learn new languages, find out how to navigate the streets and stores and make new friends. Smiling faces were at every turn. Their welcome, their "generosity of spirit" was their hearts reaching out to me.

Upon return from my travels, I applied to the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Service in New Haven, Connecticut. My spirit yearned to do for others as had been done for me. I too, wanted to reach out with my heart. And thankfully, I was able to do that. I taught language and integration strategies to Afghan families and through that work, I found myself enveloped by their relief, their joy and their excitement to be safe in America.



On Cape Cod too, there were Afghan and Venezuelan refugees who needed to assimilate. How fortunate I was to find them too! When you find those in challenging circumstances, jump in with all your energy. Reach out, smile, extend your heart to them.

Your soul will soar with love and light as you do.



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Perry and I joined St Barnabas's in 2018, he, as a priest, and myself, as an anthropologist. We have moved from one community to another for our careers and we are so happy to have landed here!

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# CELEBRATE REV. WILL & "RONNIE"

As they conclude their ministry at StB's, there are three ways to honor Reverend Will and "Ronnie":

## The Drum Majors Fund

- The Vestry established the Drum Majors Fund to ensure prophetic messages of justice, like those preached the last seven years by Rev. Will, can continue to be heard at Saint Barnabas's. The fund echoes the words of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Donate through this link: [www.stbfalmouth.org/drum-majors-fund-for-justice](http://www.stbfalmouth.org/drum-majors-fund-for-justice).

## The Theodicy Jazz Collective Concert

- An internationally acclaimed 8-person ensemble, Theodicy Jazz Collective will be in concert on June 28 at 6:00 pm on the Great Lawn. Ticket and food sales will help to endow the Drum Majors Fund in tribute to Rev. Will. For more information, visit: [www.stbfalmouth.org/a-residency-with-theodicy-jazz-collective](http://www.stbfalmouth.org/a-residency-with-theodicy-jazz-collective)

## A special service on June 29th

- On Sunday, June 29 at 9:00am, a special service will honor "Ronnie" and Rev. Will with Theodicy Jazz Collective providing the music. The group is arguably the nation's foremost liturgically based jazz ensemble fusing sophisticated jazz with the ancient rites of the church. Its name addresses the existence of evil in the world, which is contrary to God's justice, love, and mercy.

SAINT BARNABAS'S CHURCH  
DRUM MAJORS FUND FOR JUSTICE PRESENTS

A RESIDENCY WITH  
**THEODICY  
JAZZ  
COLLECTIVE**

**JUNE 28 | 6 PM**  
FOOD SERVED @ 4:30PM  
MUSIC STARTS @ 6PMD

THE GREAT LAWN  
SAINT BARNABAS'S CHURCH

TICKETS REQUIRED

91 MAIN STREET | FALMOUTH  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE, AT THE GATE & ONLINE AT:  
[WWW.STBFALMOUTH.ORG/A-RESIDENCY-WITH-THEODICY-JAZZ-COLLECTIVE](http://WWW.STBFALMOUTH.ORG/A-RESIDENCY-WITH-THEODICY-JAZZ-COLLECTIVE)




# IT'S (FINALLY!) SUMMER AT STB'S!

## HAIL THE STRAWBERRY!

ONE OF OUR PARISHES' MOST BELOVED EVENTS TAKES PLACE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH. SPREAD THE NEWS, BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY TO CELEBRATE!





## Strawberry Festival

JUNE 14TH ~ 10AM - 2PM

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES  
LOBSTER ROLLS  
BURGERS & DOGS

GRAMMAS ATTIC . CRAFT SALE  
BAKE SALE . BOOK SALE . JAMS  
GIFT BASKETS . JEWELRY SALE

91 MAIN STREET ~ FALMOUTH  
ACROSS FROM THE VILLAGE GREEN

[WWW.STBFALMOUTH.ORG](http://WWW.STBFALMOUTH.ORG)



## SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP JULY 21<sup>ST</sup> THROUGH JULY 25<sup>TH</sup> REGISTER NOW!


SAINT BARNABAS'S CHURCH



## SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMP

FREE

Join us for a week of  
faith, fun, and friendship!

**AGES: 5-12 YEARS**

Registration is Free  
Space is limited  
Register TODAY!

**21-25 JULY**  
9AM - 12NOON

**Activities Include:**

Bible Stories . Arts & Crafts . Music .  
Outdoor Games . Snacks & Lunch Provided .  
Daily Chapel Time .  
New Friends & Lasting Memories

Registration : [www.stbfalmouth.org](http://www.stbfalmouth.org)

91 Main Street . Falmouth  
Info : 508-548-3863



# IT'S (FINALLY!) SUMMER AT STB'S!



**A GIFT MARKET FOR THE ARTS & CULTURE IN FALMOUTH**

Support the arts & culture of Falmouth by purchasing thoughtful alternative gifts from local arts and cultural organizations during the Falmouth Street Fair.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 9<sup>TH</sup> 10AM – 2PM**  
Saint Barnabas's Episcopal Church | 91 Main Street

*Participating Arts & Culture Organizations*  
Highfield Hall | College Light Opera Company | Museums on the Green | Falmouth Arts Center | Nobska Lighthouse | Falmouth Cultural Council | Falmouth Chorale | New England Festivals | Falmouth Chamber Players | Woods Hole Cantata | Cape Verdean Museum | Arts Falmouth | Woods Hole Historical Society | Falmouth Theater Guild |

*Food & Entertainment*  
Beyond the Grind | Beachside Blends | Sea Scoops Ice Cream | Fresh Roll | Live Entertainment

*Event Sponsors*  
Church of the Messiah Woods Hole | Saint Barnabas's Church | Waquoit Congregational Church | Falmouth Jewish Congregation | Unitarian Universalist Congregation

91 Main Street, Falmouth | Across from the Village Green  
508-548-3863 | [www.stbfalmouth.org](http://www.stbfalmouth.org)

## A Gift Market!

**STB'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**Summer @ StB's**

**LOBSTER ON THE LAWN MUSIC SERIES**

**July 14: Highland Light Scottish Pipe Band**  
**July 21: Vanna Pacella Power Trio**  
**July 28: Groovalotots**  
**Aug 4: Bode Corona**  
**Aug 11: Front Street Jazz Ensemble**  
**Aug 18: Moonlighters Big Band**

**4:30 - 6:30 Food Served**  
(Lobster Rolls, Grilled Burgers & Dogs)  
**5:00 - 7:00 Live Music**

**91 Main Street - Falmouth**  
**Across from Village Green**  
[www.stbfalmouth.org](http://www.stbfalmouth.org)



**Mark your calendars!**



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An Episcopal Parish in the  
Cape & Islands Deanery  
of the Diocese of Massachusetts

