

# *The* BANNER

## SAINT BARNABAS'S JOURNAL OF REFLECTION

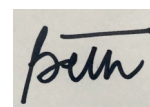
### The Editor's Musings LOVE WELCOMES ALL

Happy September!

I don't know about you but Summer 2025 did me in! The weather exceeded all expectations (did we even have rain on any of our Lobster on the Lawn events)? And the Cape came alive with a myriad of activities and events. It ran me ragged as I tried to fit it all in. Apparently, the same was true for many of you, as evidenced by this smaller-than-usual Banner. I really couldn't blame potential contributors from saying, 'not this time'. I would probably have said the same!

Though smaller than usual, the theme of this issue is powerful: "Love Welcomes All". And in that spirit, I welcome you to Fall at StB's where a new chapter begins. With the retirement of Reverend Will Mebane and the search for our next interim as well as our next full time pastor, change and rejuvenation (and maybe reinvention?) is afoot. It is a time for reflection: who are we as a Parish, and how will we move forward together? You'll learn something about each of these thoughts from our contributors, including Reverend Rider, who is lovingly supporting us on this journey.

Enjoy this issue!



**The Power of Theodicy Jazz Collective**

Photo Credit: David Rider

# CAN WE BE A SCHOOL OF LOVE?

BY THE REVEREND DAVID RIDER

love  
welcomes all

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ  
has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7

Going back at least to St. Augustine, we have often envisioned the Church as a school of love. Augustine's writings consistently point us to the love of God and neighbor in a space where we learn to order our loves while aiming our desires toward God and one another. It's a beautiful vision, if occasionally aspirational.

As summer ends and some head back to the classroom, I invite you to dream about StB's as a school of love for the Upper Cape. How might we embody a learning community in fresh new ways? How might spiritual formation better equip us to serve a disordered (Augustine's favorite word) world? How might this school of love enable us to become life-long learners until our final earthly breath?

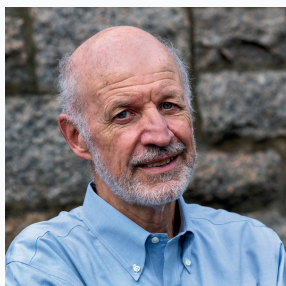
I believe that interim periods allow us to take a fresh look at mission strategy, community culture and fresh ministry scenarios. If our labors of love fall flat, no big deal. If we flourish in new ministries, it may have wonderful implications for the kind of rector we eventually will seek.

Remember that 'disciple' stems from the simple word 'student' or 'pupil'. What do you desire to learn anew? How might StB's school of love more deeply impact the Upper Cape? What unique qualities does Christian love bring to public witness as compared to other people of good will? How does our love reconcile a coursening culture?

I hope we embrace these themes in the coming months, and I would love to hear your personal take on our wonderful, fallible, and tenacious school of love at StB's.

Faithfully,

--David



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# LOVE WELCOMES ALL ... INTO CONVERSATION

BY GEORGE LILES  
VESTRY CO-WARDEN



As the Cape summer comes to a close, it's a perfect time for reflection on the Banner theme of Love Welcomes All. Throughout the summer, from the Strawberry Festival, to Lobster on the Lawn, to our weekly services under the tent followed by the fellowship of Lemonade on the Lawn, we've opened our arms to visitors and parishioners alike. Our hearts are full knowing that we have been of service and we are welcoming all as Jesus would. That same spirit continues as we enter Fall and we prepare for our new interim minister, whom we are working to identify. The loving welcome that we extend, is sure to showcase what is so special about our parish, to one who will be seeing all new faces. The interim minister's role is to carry us forth, as we search for a new spiritual leader.

At the same time, this month, the Vestry is eager to begin an important parish-wide discussion of our hopes for our church in the coming years. This discussion will include three sessions (dates and times to be announced) to hear parishioners' thoughts on three questions: 1) What excites you most about StB's; (2) what concerns you most about StB's; (3) what is your biggest dream for parish life in the next 3-5 years?

As we turn the page to a new chapter for our parish, we truly hope everyone will participate and that we will all welcome each other into the conversation in a spirit of love, remembering Saint Paul's teaching: **"Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."**

Practicing that kind of love is a challenge, but we can comfort ourselves remembering that Saint Paul goes on to assure us that "Love never fails." If we can discuss our visions of Saint Barnabas's in a spirit of love, we will succeed in fashioning a church that is a good place to worship and a good place to fulfill our Christian responsibilities to each other and to our community.



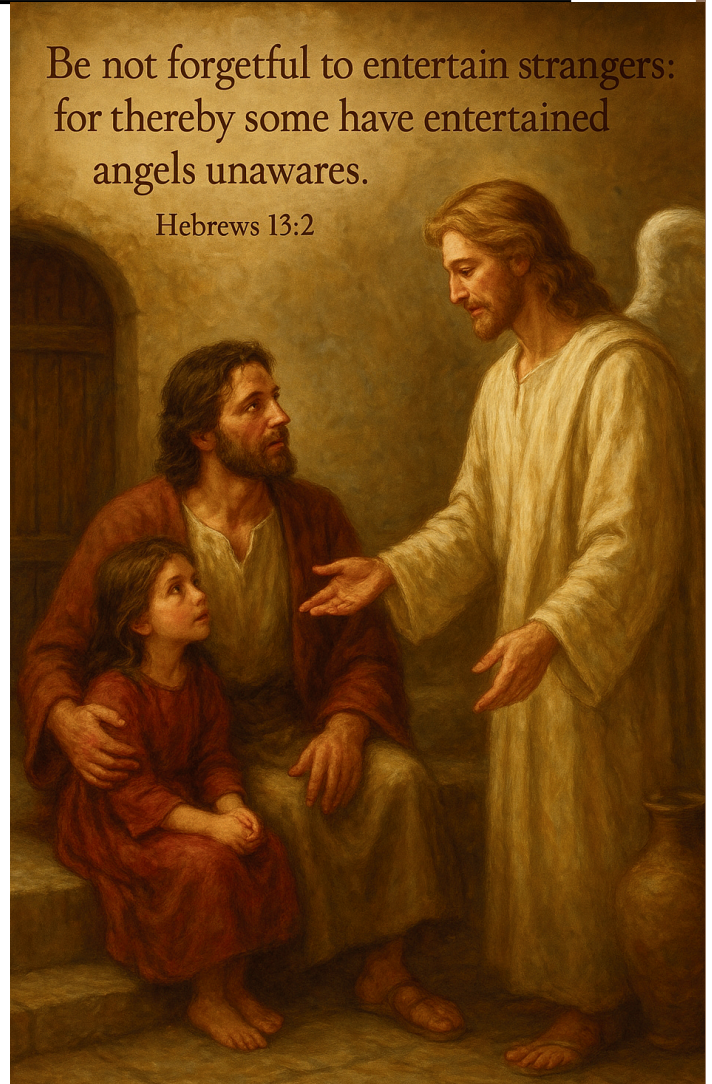
With Love,  
George Liles

# STRANGERS WHO BECOME FRIENDS

BY IRENE LEDWITH

In this time of transition at Saint Barnabas's as we welcome an interim priest, and search for our new rector, I am reminded of the gifts in meeting new people. Having only moved to the Cape three years ago, I am grateful to the people I have met and befriended, especially at Saint Barnabas's. What a gift it is to be asked to lunch, only to find that my new acquaintance and I have no loss of conversation. How heartwarming it is to be greeted by a parishioner at a newcomer's barbeque, only to find out we'd met ten years prior as he was a formative and much appreciated teacher in my son's marine science development.

Now, during this troubling time in our country, where neighbors live in fear of being separated from loved ones, and others are fearful that speaking out will bring retribution, I need our community of faith and love, and suspect anyone visiting our Church does too. Let's welcome them.



Be not forgetful to entertain strangers:  
for thereby some have entertained  
angels unawares.

Hebrews 13:2

“

HEBREWS 13:2

**BE NOT FORGETFUL TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS: FOR THEREBY SOME  
HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS UNAWARES.**

”



Irene grew up in the Catholic Church as part of a large and loving Irish-German family. Relocating from Hastings-on-Hudson, New York in 2022, she and her husband, Neill Bogan moved to Mashpee and joined Saint Barnabas's. They have two adult children, Sam and Gretchen. Irene is a visual artist and has spent her career as an art director in publishing.





# A LOVING WELCOME NEEDS NO WORDS

BY MERRILY CROWLEY



Nothing brings to my mind examples of ways to welcome others than the loving actions of a community of people in Honduras. These people lived in a remote mountainous area southwest of Tegucigalpa, the capital of the country. I was fortunate to travel there on a mission trip to help enlarge a tiny Episcopal church. The church members and others in the community could not have been more welcoming. They showed their love in many ways such as sharing their joy, construction knowledge, resources and food (of which they had).

Our first day at the church a group of men greeted us, playing songs on their homemade instruments and singing. Even though the songs were in Spanish the meaning conveyed through their warm smiles and gestures was that they were happy to have us with them. Later some of these men worked with us demonstrating how to dig a trench with pick axes and shovels, split and haul large rocks, construct rebar supports and mix cement to hold the rocks and rebar together creating the foundation.

There was no electricity in this remote area and the residents only had running water twice a week for an hour. Nonetheless they provided us with a generator that had enough gas to run for an hour after dark each night. Even more generous was their providing us with running water for an hour in the morning and evening every day. One afternoon a member of our group twisted her ankle badly. Before we knew it someone arrived from a considerable distance with a pair of crutches, loaned by an individual who also needed them.

At the end of the trip the community thanked us sharing local homemade "pudding" and again singing and giving us hugs goodbye. The many actions of these people: smiles, singing, working with us and sharing crutches and food said more to us about being welcomed than just saying hello ever could.

Similar welcoming behavior was what led me to join Saint Barnabas's several years ago. As Matthew 25:35 says: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."



Merrily is a lifelong Episcopalian who joined Saint Barnabas's after retiring from a career in nursing education and moving to Falmouth, with her family. For several years she was a member of the Outreach Committee and currently she is co-chair of the Altar Guild.

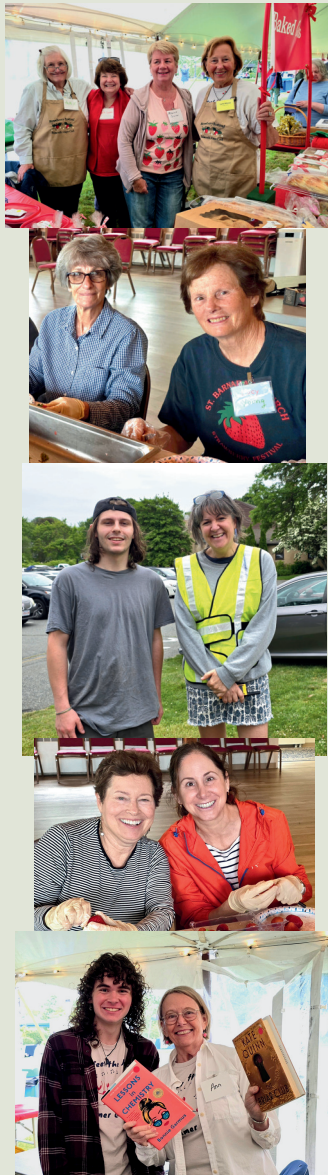


# SUMMER UNDER THE TENT



The StB's tent once again served up summer joy to both parishioners and visitors from June through August. With blue and sunny skies throughout, parishioners enjoyed God's creation at 9am Sunday services, as the breezes blew and birds sang. The tent was a beacon to the community as well, starting with June's Strawberry Festival, followed by the soulful and spiritual sounds of Theodicy Jazz Collective, and then six Mondays of Lobster on the Lawn. And with that, a summer of joyful communion and joy for the community comes to an end!

## Strawberry Festival



## Theodicy Jazz Collective



## Lobster on the Lawn



Photo Credits to David Rider, and Merrily Crowley



**DEAR SAINT BARNABAS'S PARISHIONERS:**

**IN CONSULTATION WITH OUR BISHOP AND THE REGIONAL CANON (THE BISHOP'S ASSISTANT), OUR VESTRY HAS DECIDED TO TAKE EXTENDED INTERIM TIME TO STRENGTHEN OUR PARISH COMMUNITY AND ENVISION OUR NEW MISSION BEFORE APPOINTING A SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR OUR NEXT RECTOR. WE BELIEVE THIS ADDITIONAL TIME AND THE RESULTING DISCUSSIONS WILL HAVE POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR AN EVENTUAL POSITION DESCRIPTION. WE ANTICIPATE FORMING A SEARCH COMMITTEE IN LATE 2026 WITH THE GOAL OF CALLING OUR NEXT RECTOR IN 2027.**

**DURING THIS TIME OF REFLECTION, WE WILL HAVE AN INTERIM PRIEST TO GUIDE US IN THE PROCESS OF PARISH BUILDING AND GOAL SETTING. AS YOUR WARDENS, WE ARE WORKING WITH THE DIOCESE TO IDENTIFY AN INTERIM PRIEST. WHILE THAT PROCESS UNFOLDS, WE ARE FORTUNATE THAT THE REVEREND DAVID RIDER HAS AGREED TO SERVE AS RESIDENT PRIEST UNTIL AN INTERIM RECTOR IS IDENTIFIED.**

**DAVID, THE WARDENS AND VESTRY ARE EAGER TO BEGIN A PARISH-WIDE PROCESS OF ARTICULATING OUR HOPES FOR SAINT BARNABAS'S IN THE COMING YEARS. TO THAT END, DAVID, THE WARDENS AND VESTRY ARE HOSTING A SERIES OF 90-MINUTE LISTENING SESSIONS DURING WHICH PARISH MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SHARE THEIR VISIONS OF AND HOPES FOR SAINT BARNABAS'S CHURCH.**

**THOSE SESSIONS WILL BE IN-PERSON MEETINGS HELD ON OUR CAMPUS:**

- 1. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, FROM 7:00-8:30 PM**
- 2. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, FROM 11:30-1:00 PM**
- 3. THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, FROM 1:00-2:30 PM**

**ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE SCHEDULING A ZOOM VIDEO SESSION FOR THOSE WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND IN-PERSON SESSIONS, A LINK WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE E-NEWSLETTER THE WEEK BEFORE THE SESSION, WHICH IS SCHEDULED FOR:**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 FROM 7:00-8:30 PM**

**THE WARDENS AND THE VESTRY ARE EXCITED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR STRENGTHENING SAINT BARNABAS'S. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH ALL MEMBERS OF THE PARISH TO BUILD A CHURCH THAT IS A GOOD PLACE TO WORSHIP AND A GOOD PLACE TO FULFILL OUR CHRISTIAN RESPONSIBILITIES TO EACH OTHER AND TO OUR COMMUNITY.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE INTERIM PROCESS, OR ANY CONCERNS OR SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE REACH OUT TO YOUR WARDENS TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS.**

**ONWARD IN PEACE,  
GEORGE LILES & AMBROSE JEARLD, JR.  
SAINT BARNABAS'S WARDENS**



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