

*Saint Barnabas on the Desert*  
*Memorial Acceptance and Fine Arts Committee*

May 11, 2026

**Members present:** Peggy Iacobelli, Nancy Harvey, Tom Baker, John Thornton, Marian Green, Donna Piscopo, Marga Fritze, Judee Morrison and Jack Wilson.

**Call to order:** Nancy read two prayers. One from the National Council of Catholic Women giving thanks for Rev Robyn and one from the Book of Common Prayer.

**Welcome Rev. Robyn:** The committee was very pleased to have our new rector attend the meeting and provide a wealth of knowledge and ideas which are of particular interest to the committee. Committee members introduced themselves to her.

After Donna introduced herself and the work that she, Marian and Marilyn are doing on the MAFA website with the customaries and sign-up genius, Rev. Robyn responded enthusiastically with a description of the new plans for the church's sign-up software program and web site. She also talked about the Fall stewardship campaign, which is to be called Hope Grows Here and the possibility of having art historians come to St. Barnabas and speak about our art in the context of the larger world of art. She also said that MAFA would once again have a line item in the church budget in 2027, which has been gone since 2005. She also said that she has been giving visitors tri-folds she has found that MAFA had made years ago. She asked that the brass processional cross behind the chapel organ be repaired.

**Minutes of March 2:** The minutes for the March 2, 2026 meeting were approved as written.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Tours:** Judee was to have had a tour on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, but it was cancelled. She gave a tour to Rev. Robyn. She will start up again in October.

**Buildings and Grounds:** John talked with John Martin regarding the choir railing project. The railing is under construction and will be similar to the choir side railing. Rev Robyn said that she hoped that the MAFA and Buildings and Grounds committees will work closely in unison on projects.

**Lent/Easter:** Parishioners started to remove the lilies after the Easter service, but they needed to remain on the altar for another week. Next year we will need to tell people this in the announcements on Easter Sunday.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Chapel kneeler storage:** Rev. Robyn said that since the chairs in the chapel remain in the same position throughout the week, the kneelers can be placed under the chairs. The storage rack can then be removed from the chapel. She also wants to have a table for the children to use and provide a place to store their items and also a table for the name tags and storage.

**Saint Barnabas history book:** Marga showed a drawing by Allen of the Urn Stand and its documentation. Nancy provided Marga with a book of early art of the church. Marga has scheduled ten more interviews and has found three new Quonset hut photos. She also talked about digital filing issues and putting the information on the church's computers and making it searchable with open access and a directory.

**Did You Know articles:** Marga showed her list of articles to Rev. Robyn who approved of all of them. She suggested that the Zaganelli article be expanded to place it in the context of a wider history of art.

**Website tour:** Peggy provided a link to the video before the meeting. Several people provided feedback before the meeting started and she asked for additional feedback on corrections and changes from the committee. It was also suggested that Manny take a look at the video so he can give his feedback.

**Ode to Joy disposition sub-committee:** Cutting of *Ode to Joy* into carefully planned pieces was completed. A total of about thirty pieces were rendered, most being in very good condition. Of the 748 sq. feet of the entire piece, only about 25 sq. feet was not converted into usable pieces, so the yield was quite good at about 95%. A catalog of the pieces showing a picture, dimensions and location of each piece was made and handed out. Additionally, a map showing the location of all the cut pieces was shown. John and Tom sewed brown linen edging on an additional nine of the cut pieces. John and Tom hung four additional pieces of *Ode to Joy* in the Learning Center, bringing the total to nine, which completes the hangings there.

**Retirement gift from *Ode to Joy*:** One of the remaining cut pieces not hung can be chosen from the catalog. They are currently stored in the Barnabas room in the Learning Center.

**Written work instructions for the holidays and inventory management initiative:** Donna reports that work continues on the customary. Marian received a drive with all of the MAFA minutes back to 2008, and with most of the ones from 2007 back to 1999.

**Music and sermon stand for the sanctuary:** Kent is in Minnesota. Rev. Robyn has a copy of the draft of the stand drawing and asked Tom for the contact information for the woodworker Steve Mosley.

**Adult coloring book:** Peggy talked about including the sanctuary doors in the book. Rev. Robyn suggested adding a visual scavenger hunt element to the book.

**Conservation project:** No report.

**Red chasuble:** Peggy has repaired the damaged gold and blue top stitching. Jim Newman's cassock was also repaired. John talked about repairing two of the deacon's stoles.

**Altar finish:** In the October 1999 MAFA minutes Nancy reported that Allen had completed the refinishing of the altar. Nancy also wrote two letters with information provided by Allen on caring for the liturgical furnishings. One has instructions on cleaning the pieces and one notes that he used Varathane polyurethane to finish the altar. John wants to complete the re-finishing before he leaves in June for the summer.

**Memorial and Gifts book:** Two new hand-made books were completed by Phoenix Book Restoration in April, along with a book for the Barnabas Legacy Society. The new memorial books will provide space for an additional 40-50 new pages to be added in the future. It took four trips to get the books done right. The expertise used in doing the old books had to be re-learned.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**White chasuble:** The silver lamé has disintegrated, so all of the lamé needs to be replaced.

**Ciborium repair:** One ciborium has the cross broken off and the cross is missing. The quote from Blix to repair it is \$4200, which includes redoing the gold inner plating. Nancy offered as a donation her cross from Alan Adler, made from the same mold, to use for the repair.

**Candles in the chapel:** Rev. Robyn said that candles will no longer be used in the chapel, as the soot impacts the Zaganelli painting.

## **CHAIR REPORT**

Peggy re-opened her discussion of MAFA funds within the Barnabas Foundation with Bruce Williams. MAFA had originally added \$10K in funds.

The next meeting will be **June 8<sup>th</sup>** in The Other Cup.

Let it be known that these minutes are intended to convey the spirit of the meeting and are not meant to be a literal documentation of the proceedings.