

# Membership

People often ask about membership in Saint Barnabas Episcopal Church. How does one become a member? What must I do to be a member? Is there an official process that a newcomer must follow? What can or can't I do if I am not a member of this parish? Here is, at least, a beginning of an answer.

Baptism is the first step in becoming a member of the Church, the Body of Christ. In whatever denomination you were baptized, it counts in the Episcopal Church. Anyone who is baptized can receive the sacraments offered by the church.

Three things are required of all members:

- regular participation in worship,
- financial support of the ministry of the parish,
- involvement in the activities and mission of the parish.

It is pretty basic. However, it also assumes that one is physically able to do these three things. Those who are homebound or nursing home bound have the sacrament brought to them so that they may continue to be a part of our parish life and, thus, members.

For those who come into the Episcopal Church from other denominations, there may be a time when you know that you want to publicly demonstrate that this is now the arena in which you choose to live out your faith. Inquirer's Classes can help deepen this decision. When there is the opportunity to be present with a bishop, Confirmation or Reception becomes the act that celebrates your official joining of the Episcopal Church.

For those who want to move their membership to Saint Barnabas from another Episcopal Church, there should be a request made to your former parish asking that a transfer of membership be sent to Saint Barnabas, Falmouth. That makes you official here.

Once a year, at our Annual Meeting, there is the opportunity for our new members to sign our Parish Register. A new member can do so if he/she has been fulfilling the three membership requirements for at least a full year or if a letter of transfer has been received sometime over the course of the year. Once the book has been signed, a new member of Saint Barnabas can take part in the votes which occur during the Annual Meeting.

It is important that everyone (new, more experienced, and barely beginning) take advantage of opportunities to learn about our particular ethos. The Episcopal Church has its own style that has been consistent since its early beginnings and yet ever faces new challenges to be faithful in the present. Look for small group educational offerings. Learn what it means to be a member of this church.

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## A PLEDGE TO ST. BARNABAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Grateful to God for all that I/we have been given, and as a statement of my/our commitment to serve God's people through the ministry of St. Barnabas Church,

I/we pledge, for the calendar year 200\_\_\_\_, \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_Please check if you want offering envelopes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Office phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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