

Encore

Be a Barney



I've known of three Barneys in my life; but really only knew one. You'll remember the two; globally branded. There was/is the bouncy purple and green Tyrannosaurus and his friends. And then there was Barney Miller; a Greenwich Village graying cop from the 70's sit-com. But the one I really knew was a leader in the church that I was a part of fifty years ago. Had there been an Encore ministry in the church, I suspect he would have been a contributing part of it. Along with serving as a leader in our northern NJ church, this Barney, as a retired NYC businessman, invested much of his life ministering to inmates at Sing Sing, the maximum correctional facility near New York City. Barney wasn't well known, but he lived well. In fact, he was the Barney that reminded me of one other man with the same name. "Barney", aka Joseph, aka John Mark's cousin, aka member of the Diaspora, aka The Encourager, became best remembered as, yes, Barnabas. We get a glimpse of him in the book of Acts where he appears in chapters 4, 11, and 13-15. Whatever "success" this Barney had in life seemed to get lost along the way. But his significance was not! We all know that there is a difference between "success" and "significance", though they often intersect. For example, I was considered a fairly successful pastor until I hit the age of fifty-seven. Up until then our church had notable numerical growth. But then the numbers leveled and then began to slide; while not badly, yet observably. Maybe I was unique, but I think most pastors, while denying the importance of the number of bodies in the building and the size of the budget, still keep one eye on these historical church markers.



Well, Barnabas seemed to slip when it came to organizational or literary success too. So much, that while he originally always had top billing with his co-laborer Saul, by the time we get to Acts 13, and from there forward, Saul or Paul, became the obvious team leader. And not only that, as Paul heads out on his second missionary trek, he leaves Barnabas, seemingly, to develop his own less-known “minor league” team. Further, Paul and John Mark, who both were tutored by Barnabas, are the ones that eventually write thirteen canonized letters and the gospel of Mark, respectively. And from Barney? We get nothing! Do you get the picture?

I don't know where you are in your life-journey, but I have always wanted to finish well. I still do. While I probably couldn't precisely define this end-goal, I wanted to be “successful.” But, over a fairly short season, as I was reaching towards sixty, I clearly realized that success was not where it was at. Aided by writers like Bob Bufford, author of Half-Time, and Dallas Willard, my focus moved away from “success” and even “significance,” and reached towards what I'd call “centeredness.” That certainly seemed to be Barnabas' life. He was, after all, “a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith.” (Acts 11:24) That is a descriptive statement of a life centered in Christ. How was it fleshed out? Well, study his story and you will find that he is known for a number of things, including his **generosity**, his **service**, and his **loving-relationships**.

That's what I want my life to be known for. How about you? In a Ken Blanchard short-stories book called, “Refired... not Retired,” those three characteristics are highlighted as marks of the “Refired” life too. Like Barnabas, as we move through this season of life, may our lives be known for what we give in wealth, time, and wisdom. May we find joy in the continuation of serving others through the ministry of “availability.” And may we work at and protect the relationships God gives to us. When infused by the Holy Spirit, these become markers of the centered-life.

All I want to say to you today is, don't turn the jets off yet! As you've heard said, “If you're not dead, you're not done.” Your life can be and, dare I say, should still be an encouragement to others, who if it goes well, learn to be the same. Be a Barney!

Dig In: Take a look on your own at what God has said about encouraging others.

Encourage (a word study)

The primary word used for “encourage” is also used to describe the Holy Spirit, the one who comes alongside. Encouragement is primarily a conduit that brings good to another. It is meant to help bring “boldness” to others, to “inspire with confidence.”

Psalm 27:14

The Bible reminds us that God encourages: See Romans 15:5 and Hebrews 6:18.

We are called to the ministry of encouragement:

- “encourage the faint-hearted” I Thess. 5:14
- “encourage one another” I Thess. 5:11
- “encourage one another daily” Hebrews 3:13
- “encourage to remain true to the faith.” Ac 14:22

An **Illustration** from the Bible is found in Isaiah 41:7: “The craftsman encourages the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer spurs on him who strikes the anvil. He says of the welding, “It is good...”

Views from the Bridges...

(Encore's ministry is broken into eight sections - or "bridges." Some updates are listed below)

PRAYER BRIDGE:

Be encouraged to call on others to pray...

If you have a prayer need, whether personal or for a family member/friend, please send it to me jane@thecalfees.com and I'll post it for our Prayer Bridge intercessors!

In Him, Jane Calfee

ALL CALL BRIDGE:

What is All Call?

No, it isn't an AT&T long distance telephone plan. It's not a text messaging or video conferencing app. And it's not a "clean, crisp, super-drinkable brew perfect for any occasion that brings people together," despite what Google may tell you.

All Call is one of the components of Encore which is intended to get people together monthly for some simultaneous fun, fellowship, and Kingdom-based good works. We meet at 2RC's Harrison Lane campus, gather in the Student Center (a.k.a. Amped), sit around tables with folks in the same stage of life as us, chat about whatever interests us, sip on coffee or sweet tea (TN is a southern state after all), and use our hands to do things that will in some way shine the light of God into the world around us.

Through November, we are making items that will go into Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes that are then distributed by Samaritan's Purse to children in 170 countries. To date, this evangelistic outreach program has led 12.5 million children to choose Jesus as their Savior.

Join us and you can help us decide what good works we should take on after November! As long as it benefits God's Kingdom, we are open to all types of projects and we welcome all people to participate! That's why we cleverly named it "All Call!"



Next monthly gathering: Thursday, October 21 | 10:00AM | Student Center | Harrison Lane

We'll meet in Amped (Student Center) to make items that can be put in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. While assembling these toys and trinkets, we'll have plenty of time to socialize, snack, and share with our fellow Encore participants.

SOCIAL BRIDGE:

Here are some upcoming social events...

Movie Night: God's Not Dead: We The People - Movie 7pm

October 4 | 7:00PM

We can preorder tickets. RSVP Jacqueline Burg at jacquelineburg@gmail.com.

Dinner at Farm to Feast

October 18 | 4:00PM

They have a minimum of 8 people for our farm dinners and a maximum of 20. Seating is under our comfortable covered patio, overlooking the farm. Price is \$100/person. Menus are always changing and based on the season, what is growing on our farm, and what is available locally.

farm ^{to} feast

They typically start with snacks on arrival, usually a charcuterie board with pickled fresh veggies from the farm, then move into a 3-4 course meal.

Jeff and Jessica Jorgensen founded Farm to Feast out of their love for welcoming people to the table to enjoy hospitality, community, and sustainably-sourced food. The couple's background in the restaurant-world and events has given them the expertise to provide quality and memorable moments for groups big and small.

RSVP ASAP - Jacqueline Burg at jacquelineburg@gmail.com

Some other exciting social events still to schedule are:

1. The Cutting Edge Classroom (Cooking)
Need help in the kitchen?
Educating East Tennessee in culinary skills and introducing fun into the kitchen!
We provide safe and exciting classes for all skill levels from beginner to advanced! You will learn from the best Chefs in the area, meet new friends, cook like a pro, and enjoy what you have created! We also offer hands-on and interactive Birthday Parties, Corporate Team Building, Private Group Classes, Private Cooking and Pastry lessons, and Product Demonstrations. Visit our website for more information!
<https://thecuttingedgeclassroom.com/cooking-classes/adult-classes/>
2. Dollywood
3. Ark

If you would like to help plan events please, pick an event and let me know when (day or evening, weekday or weekend) and we will try and make it happen.

Interests include: learn pickleball, go hiking, potluck meals at church, dinner club, theater, concerts, book club, all day excursions or overnight get-togethers, craft & hobby time (garden, wood working, cooking), fishing, etc...

Keep an eye out for the upcoming events. We will post on the events page of the 2RC website and on Realm once finalized.

CARE BRIDGE:

The Encore Ministry aims to welcome present and soon-to-be retirees into a caring community that honors the Word and Spirit of Christ so that a lifestyle of prayer, worship, discipleship, and service is multiplied. As one of eight 'bridges' in this ministry, the purpose of the Care Bridge is to love one another as Christ has loved us (John 15:12). So how do we do this? And what does a caring community look like? What have you done recently to care for others, and how might we multiply this effort? The focus today is on being an encourager. How have you encouraged a family member, friend, or neighbor this week? Perhaps it was a word of encouragement. Or you sent a bouquet of flowers. Maybe you cared for someone by mowing their yard or giving them a ride to a doctor appointment. If these kinds of questions and caring activities stir something in you and you would like to join others in the Care Bridge to discuss how we might multiply these efforts, please let David Fowler know. His email is fowler.david.e@gmail.com

SERVE BRIDGE:

There is a service opportunity with Hope Redefined Ministries. They offer a retreat 2x per year to women and they need some help with their upcoming retreat. Specifically they need help with ground transportation for a few of the women flying in to participate. Would you be able to help with transportation?

Here are the details in case someone is interested. If you are interested please email them at support@hoperedefined.org and they will get you all the details.



Needed ground transportation for 3 women (6 total) attending the Redeemed Hope Retreat in Gatlinburg, TN.

- Thurs 10/28 @ 1:30pm - Pick up 3 guests at Knoxville airport - transport to Wayfloy Retreat Center, Gatlinburg, TN (approx 1 hour drive)
- Sun 10/31 @ 3:00pm - Pick up 3 guests at Wayfloy - transport back to Knoxville Airport or neighboring hotel in Alcoa.
- They have a total of 6 ladies coming in and will need to recruit 2 vehicles to get them there and back.

If you think this might be something you want to volunteer with please email Lyschel at the email address above. They will compensate for fuel/mileage.

More Service Opportunities!

Support our Student Ministry Staff - Charlotte and Joe Bubar could use a couple or two to supervise two-five young children on Wednesday evenings from 6 pm to 8:15 pm so that their parents can lead in our Student Ministries. They are looking for people who would help one week a month during the school year. For more information contact Charlotte Bubar at charlottebubar@gmail.com.

The Harbor -- The Harbor is a place of security and comfort for middle and high school students with special needs to hear God in a way they can engage while caregivers attend worship service. They meet two Sundays a month. They need volunteers to work with Debbie Begbie (ryanbegbie@aol.com) during the second hour. Contact Debbie if you are interested.



Events Calendar

OCTOBER

4 - "God's Not Dead: We The People" Movie

18 - Dinner at Farm to Feast

21 - All Call

Encore Bridge Leaders are here to encourage others in the life and ministry to which they are called. We don't pretend to have the answers but would gladly talk and pray with you. Here's who we are:

8 Bridges of Encore

PRAYER: The prayer bridge is designed to provide prayer support for the Encore Community. This includes personal needs and concerns of individual participants and their families, as well as praying for God's direction for Encore Ministry as we move forward. Prayer requests will be posted as received on the Encore Realm Group (Prayer Bridge-6) making it personal to Encore.

[CONTACT JANE CALFEE - jane@thecalfees.com](mailto:jane@thecalfees.com)

CARE: The goal of the Care Bridge is to provide a pathway to connect with and support individuals who find themselves in circumstances that make it difficult to attend church or otherwise benefit from 2RC support groups. This Bridge provides Encore members the opportunity to join the 2RC Care Visitation Team to make hospital visits and to visit those who cannot regularly attend church for services and functions (e.g., those who are in nursing homes or are otherwise unable to attend church). Additional Care opportunities will be identified as needs arise.

[CONTACT DAVID FOWLER - fowler.david.e@gmail.com](mailto:fowler.david.e@gmail.com)

SOCIAL: The Social Bridge is designed to help retired folks meet new friends and enjoy deeper community through large and small group activities. Entering retirement can be a big transition from regular engagement in a working community to forming new community through activities and volunteering. With more time comes greater opportunity to connect. Our team desires to create environments where friendships and community can develop.

[CONTACT JACQUELINE BURG - jacquelineaburg@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelineaburg@gmail.com)

SERVE: We desire to help Encore participants engage alongside others from 2RC who are already on serving teams in ministries in the community (Meals on Wheels) or at 2RC (set design, building maintenance, etc.). We will maintain a list of specific opportunities and contacts to connect people who want to serve in whatever environment or setting they feel called or comfortable.

[CONTACT KEN BURG - kennethjburg@aol.com](mailto:kennethjburg@aol.com)

ALL-CALL: This Bridge is being designed to reach the largest section of our Encore members. The current vision for the All-Call Bridge is to engage participants in service projects that generally take place at Two Rivers Church's Harrison Lane Campus. These projects will typically take place around tables that allow you to simultaneously socialize and serve. We are working at becoming a significant player in the Operation Christmas Child efforts in Knoxville.

[CONTACT RICK & TERRI ROBERTSON - localimpact@2rc.tv](mailto:localimpact@2rc.tv) or terri@rrphotos.com

HOSPITALITY: The Hospitality Bridge is designed to show Christ's love to people in the Encore group, church members and people outside our walls. We can achieve this by organizing meals for Encore gatherings, for Encore members who have been ill or are experiencing a death in their family and are not affiliated with a 2RC Group.

[CONTACT LYNNETTE PAYNE - annlynnettegp@gmail.com](mailto:annlynnettegp@gmail.com)

MENTORING: The purpose of the Mentoring Bridge is to connect Encore participants with mentees who need a trusted and experienced person to counsel, train, equip, or advise them. Members of this Bridge-team become vetted to work with such ministries as our 2RC Family Ministries, our 2RC Harbor Ministries, Kids Hope USA, CASA, Bridge Refugee, Generous House, and others.

[CONTACT ROSEMARY PORTWOOD - spot1993@gmail.com](mailto:spot1993@gmail.com)

CONSULTING: Our intention of the Consulting Bridge is to find those challenging places that sometimes slow people down as they enter and navigate through retirement. Challenges like: re-purposing and positioning, finances, gift-ministry alignment, time management, along with others yet to be discovered.

[CONTACT JOE BUBAR - joebubar47@gmail.com](mailto:joebubar47@gmail.com)

ENCORE MINISTRY

[Encore Ministry endeavors to cast a God-sized vision for helping retirees build a Kingdom-based legacy, launch relational environments to go shoulder to shoulder to make a gospel impact, and bond with a fun and supportive community.](#)