

St. Barbara Monastery – 15799 Ojai Road – Santa Paula, CA 93060  
(805) 921-1563 – [www.stbarbaramonastery.org](http://www.stbarbaramonastery.org)

*The September Gathering of the Friends  
of St. Barbara Monastery  
Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

*4:00 pm Presentation*

*The First Days of Christianity: The Origins  
of What We Believe*

*Speaker – Dr. Stephen Lloyd-Moffett  
Assistant Professor of Religious Studies  
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo*

*5:00 pm Vespers*

*6:00 pm Potluck*

**DIRECTIONS TO THE MONASTERY**

***From Highway 101 – Exit Hwy 126 East at Ventura.***

*Travel 11 miles east along Hwy 126 and exit 10th St/Hwy 150 at Santa Paula.*

*Turn left from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.*

*Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.*

*Travel about five miles (1/4 mile past Thomas Aquinas College) to 15799 Ojai Road.*

*The monastery driveway is on the right just past our mailbox at Highway Marker 2830.*

*Drive across the bridge and follow the signs to the parking area.*

***From Highway 5 – Exit Hwy 126 West at Santa Clarita.***

*Travel 27 miles to Santa Paula, and exit at 10th St/Hwy 150.*

*Turn right from the exit ramp and follow 10th St/Hwy 150 through Santa Paula.*

*Bear right at the fork in the road. This is Ojai Rd/Hwy 150.*

*Continue as directed above.*



Dear Friends of St. Barbara Monastery,

As we approach the end of each month and it comes time to send out this newsletter announcing the forthcoming gathering of the Friends of St. Barbara Monastery to all on our mailing list, we are overwhelmed with thankfulness to God for the many, many people He has sent into the life of our monastery, people we do not hesitate to call *Friends*. And true Friends you have shown yourselves to be—pouring out your love for God by upholding us with your prayers and joining your efforts to ours in the building up of this monastery over the course of almost twenty years.

If one reads about the history of monasticism, one learns that monasteries came to be established in a host of different ways. Some were planted by emperors or local rulers, complete with endowments to support them (the monasteries of Mount Athos). Some were founded by private landowners, who wanted a monastery located on their property (in Russia and Ukraine). Some were planted by individuals who desired the monastic life for themselves and fled to the wilderness, only to be followed by any number of others who wanted to share in the spiritual riches of their way of life (the monks of Egypt in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries and of Northern Russia in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>).

What we have seen develop in America over the last fifty years or so is something else again: Individuals or small groups of monks or nuns often struggling just to survive in an unsupportive cultural environment, which remarkably often included their ecclesial environment! (The significant exception to this, which should not go unmentioned, is the phenomenon of the numerous, quickly-planted monasteries of Elder Ephraim in the past twenty years or so, widely supported by the Greeks in America.)

Where does St. Barbara Monastery fit into this American monastic landscape? We undoubtedly have been blessed with a unique and even unprecedented spot. It is a spot largely defined by the circumstances created by the love and active support of our host of Friends, who hale from every corner of the Orthodox world. These Friends of ours include our bishop, His Grace, BENJAMIN. Never, in all our years, have we experienced such encouragement! They include the clergy from roundabout—who without exception uphold us in our aims and *anticipate* our needs. And they include all of you, our dear and good Friends, who steadfastly image forth the love of God to us and to each other. Our gratitude to you is beyond our powers to express adequately.

Abbess Victoria  
and the community of  
St. Barbara Monastery



*Happy workers Matushka Judith  
and Katherine*

## **LAVENDER UPDATE**

At last! Glory to God! Matushka Judith Waisanen, her daughter Ruth Rutledge, and grandchildren Christopher, John, Katherine and Elizabeth all turned out to help complete the preparation of our lavender field.



*John, Matushka Judith, monk Lawrence and  
Christopher uncoiling the irrigation tubing*



*Katherine, Elizabeth and Matushka  
Judith stretching out the tubing*

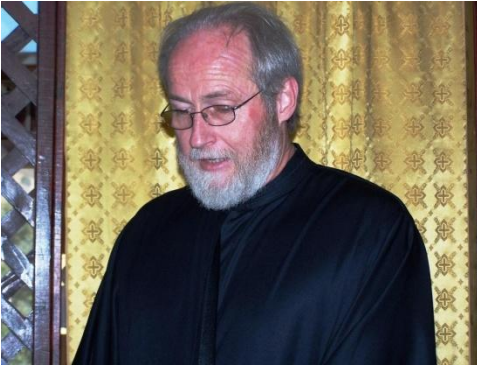


*Christopher and Katherine laying  
and stapling the tubing*

## **EXPLORING THE SECRETS OF ANCIENT IMAGES**

### ***The History, Meaning and Technical Process of Creating Byzantine Icons***

We wish to call the attention of all our Friends to a special event coming up at St. Athanasius Church in Goleta. Starting at 5:00 PM on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and then all day on Saturday, the 22<sup>nd</sup>, from 1:00 PM until 8:00 PM, an array of icons—including, of course, the icons that adorn the church—will be on exhibit with docent-led tours. Demonstrations of the techniques of iconography are planned as part of the exhibit. And lectures by Father Jerome Sanderson on the subject of iconography are scheduled for Friday at 7:00 PM, and at 3:30 PM and 7:00 PM on Saturday. For more information, please call the St. Athanasius Church office at 805-685-5400 or visit the Church's website at [www.stathanasius.org](http://www.stathanasius.org).



*Rev. Paul Olson giving last month's presentation on the prayers before Holy Communion.*

## **LAST MONTH'S FRIENDS' PRESENTATION**

At last month's Friends gathering, Rev. Paul Olson of St. Nicholas Cathedral, Los Angeles, gave an especially beautiful and especially helpful presentation on the Prayers Before Holy Communion. Anyone wishing a CD of his lecture can obtain one for the cost of postage by writing to or emailing St. Barbara Monastery.



## **TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES**

A number of you have asked what the monastery needs these days and what you might bring with you or plan to do at the monastery when you visit. Here is our updated wishlist.

Two metal rainbird lawn sprinklers

Two heavy door stops

Paper goods

Olive oil

Canned beans, tomatoes, grape leaves...

Gift cards (Lowe's Costco, Office Depot, Arco...)

Tall extension ladder

(for painting & window washing)

House staining (exterior)

Tree trimming

Brass polishing

Gathering up dead branches in our wooded area

Gardening, weeding & hoeing...

Log cutting & splitting

Wood chipping & mulching

## **FEAST OF THE PROTECTION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD – OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Archpriest Paul Waisanen of St. Herman Church in Oxnard will be with us on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God, to celebrate the Divine Liturgy at 10 am preceded by the Hours. The date will mark the sixth anniversary of our move to the Santa Paula property. We invite all of our friends to join us in giving thanks to God for all His blessings poured out upon the monastery throughout these six years. The Divine Liturgy will be followed by a luncheon.