



The Rev. Canon Carol Cole Flanagan, Interim Rector

August 27, 2017

Dear Women of St. Barnabas',

September 24th is the 165th birthday of **Julia Chester Emery**...Who?? No, she is **not** one of my relatives...she, along with Ida Soule, started in 1889 what we now know as the **United Thank Offering!**

The first **United Thank Offering** began as part of the missionary efforts of the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Mission of the Episcopal Church, authorized by the General Convention in 1871. Julia, as presiding secretary, along with Ida, who served as counter of the missionary offering, encouraged women to pray and give coin donations that would be earmarked for a new church in Alaska, as well as to send Miss Lisa Howell to Japan as a missionary.

In that year, 1889, the offering reached \$2,188.64 and inspired those women's dream of supporting mission work through "gratitude & grit." Their efforts supported and nurtured our present dreams of making a difference for those in need through thanksgiving and self-giving with a grateful heart.

The monies from your blue boxes help to expand the circle of thankful people! UTO accepts grant proposals in October from parishes & mission outreach programs and, after committee research, awards are made in late summer.

On **September 24, 2017**, Let us celebrate the 165th birthday of UTO founder **Julia Chester Emery** by holding our annual **UTO Ingathering** on that date. Please use the enclosed envelope for your contribution and make your check payable to St. Barnabas' (marked UTO). Your contribution may be placed in the collection plate at either service.

Yours in Thanksgiving,

Cricket Camp
UTO Chairperson