



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

January 2017 Newsletter

From Fr. Tim

My Brothers and Sisters,

By the time you read this message, you will have celebrated Christmas, and some even, might have taken down the tree. But before you box everything up, let me remind you of two things: first, as Episcopalians, the season of Christmas lasts twelve days—all the way until the feast day of Epiphany, on January 6th. Enjoy each and every day of it!

Second, along with all the beauty and warmth of Christmas comes a knee-knocking, demanding, and even dangerous challenge. We are called not only to be personally transformed by this baby, but, more than that, agents for the transformation of the world. You sure you still want to let baby Jesus into your home?!

Below, is a message from our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry. I thought I would let you hear from him as you prepare to put baby Jesus back in a box and turn your attentions to your New Year's resolutions.

Christmas (and New Year's) blessings!

Tim

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's Christmas Message

From Isaiah Chapter 9:

*For unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given;
and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

These words of Isaiah are often seen as words that foretell and foreshadow the coming of Jesus of Nazareth, born of Mary. The truth is, these words befit Him because this child changed the world. This child changes lives. This child changes us.

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I remember when our oldest daughter was a baby. My wife and I were young. We were foot-loose and fancy-free. It was just the two of us newlyweds, so if we wanted to go out to eat dinner, we went out to eat dinner. If we decided to go to a movie at the last minute, we just went. We actually felt like we had money back then. And we did have a little bit of discretionary income. We could pretty much do what we wanted to do, within reason, and we didn't have to think too much about the consequences or impact of a spontaneous decision and what we had to do to make that happen.

And then, all of a sudden, this little, innocent human being, a little child, came into our lives, and literally gained control over our entire world. Before we could do anything else we had to think about, "Who's going to keep the baby?" or "Is this a good time for us to go without the baby?" We soon learned that we were not in control of our lives anymore. Even our sleeping patterns became very different. We would stay awake when the baby was awake and we went to sleep when the baby went to sleep. Literally this child began to control our lives and the child didn't even know she was doing it. And then we had a second one she did the exact same thing. And I've since learned that that's what babies do. When they arrive they take over! And their parents begin to develop their lives around this child. To mold their entire lives around this precious needy baby.

Isaiah wrote, "*Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given . . . and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*" This child who was born of Mary changes everything. This child born in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes changes how we live. This child born to the sound of angels singing Gloria in excelsis deo — this child to whom the wise ones came from afar bearing gifts — this child, changed the way the entire world works.

And this Jesus, born into a world torn by strife and hatred and division and pain and poverty, this child is born anew wherever men and women say, "I'll follow Him. I'll follow Him as my Savior. I'll follow Him as my Lord."

When this child grew up, He said His reason for coming, again quoting Isaiah, from the 61st chapter, he said,

The spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach Good News to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty all those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

This child, when He grew up, came to show us the way to live lives of love, lives of compassion, lives of goodness, lives of kindness, lives of justice. This child came to show us how to change the world. So this Christmas, make room for him to change us. This Christmas help us change the world. And make a new commitment, to go out from this day, to let this Christmas Day, be the first day of a new world.

God bless you. God keep you. Have a blessed Christmas. A Happy New Year. And go on out and change the world!



January Service Schedule

January's Services Schedule has several special service times so **PLEASE PAY ATTENTION** to these changes.
THANK YOU.

JANUARY 1, 2017 - Lessons & Carols

ONE SERVICE ONLY @ 10:15 a.m.



JANUARY 8th - Epiphany

Holy Eucharist @ 7:45 a.m.
No Church School

9 am Adult Book Study (last week of Advent Book)
Epiphany Pageant & Holy Eucharist @ 10:15 a.m.



JANUARY 15th

Holy Eucharist @ 7:45 a.m.
9 a.m. Church School
Holy Eucharist @ 10:15 a.m.

JANUARY 22nd

Holy Eucharist @ 7:45 a.m.
9 a.m. Church School
Holy Eucharist @ 10:15 a.m.

JANUARY 29th - ANNUAL MEETING

ONE SERVICE ONLY @ 9 a.m.
No Church School



EPISCOPAL CHARITIES update 2016

We want to thank all who pledged their support to Episcopal Charities this past year. Gifts of any size are always welcome and together make a difference. If you have not yet fulfilled your pledge or wish to make a gift, it is not too late. If you get it in before mid-January, it can still be counted as part of the 2016 campaign.

As of the end of December, St. Luke's has pledged \$35,337 to help folks in need in Rhode Island.

We are especially blessed with a significant gift from the estate of our dear departed friend and brother Carl Hoyer. It was a major gift that greatly helped our campaign be so successful. We thank you, Carl.

We thank you all.

Faithfully,

Harry Waterman, harry.waterman24@gmail.com, 401.743.4569

Nancy Kaull, ngkaull@gmail.com, 401.219.0744

Dear Women of Grace:

As we enter into a new year, we would like to try meeting on a different week of the month and see how it goes. **We will begin meeting the first Wednesday of the month** and our first gathering will be on **February 1, 2017**. We will skip January as it is almost upon us following a busy time for us all. We look forward to having you all join us in the new year and we welcome your ideas on topics for discussion.



If anyone would like to **host the February 1st meeting**, please be in touch with either Elizabeth McNamara at emac6660@gmail.com or myself at lcrawley53@gmail.com.

Wishing you all a very Blessed Christmas.

Liz

Other Feeding Ministries



*As often as you did it for one
of my least brothers, you did
it for me.*

Over the years, St. Luke's has been involved in 2 other feeding ministries that haven't received much attention and unless we get some volunteers, we will no longer be able to help.

ST. STEPHEN'S SOUP KITCHEN - Providence

On the 1st Saturday of each month, St. Luke's brings 4-5 volunteers to this soup kitchen that we've been involved in for many years. However, Since we haven't had much publicity with it, we no longer have any volunteers. In order to keep our involvement with it, we are looking for 4-5 volunteers to meet at St. Stephen's on the 1st Saturday of each month, serve dinner at 3, clean up and be done by 5.

It is a wonderful way to give back. If you would like to try it, please email Balmore at bal4emily1@cox.net.

Sign up reminders will be in the bulletins the week prior to the soup kitchen.

ST. GEORGE'S in Central Falls

On the 2nd Sunday of each month Balmore travels to Central Falls following the later service for the 12 noon soup kitchen and is done by 3. There is a heavy population of Latina there and would be lots of fun if you speak Spanish and even if you don't. If you would like to help out with this feeding ministry, please email Balmore at bal4emily1@cox.net.

St. Luke's Refugee Ministry Happenings

St. Lukes Refugee Ministry and Christ Church Furniture(CCF) Exchange

It's true – as long as people are in need we will keep our efforts going. Our two churches have a great collaborative relationship providing furniture to the local needy, Veterans, Refugees, and others. Last week you may have seen a request for clean box-springs and mattresses. We are also in great need of bureaus. Please email Trudy at Christ Church right after the holidays and if you can't deliver to the warehouse on Liberty St. then she will arrange a pickup. Trudyjohn42@verizon.net.

Update on Dorcas International and assistance to Refugees in RI:

- Though we are the smallest state in the nation, Rhode Island is home to 140,000 immigrants
- An entrepreneurial 5,113 immigrants are self employed
- Share of immigrants in RI who are citizens – 52%; for the whole United States it is 47%
- Undocumented migrants in RI total 26,666-most come here for work opportunities
- Undocumented immigrants paid almost \$18 million in state and local taxes in 2014

Giving legal status to undocumented immigrants would increase their access to a variety of public benefits – but the offset is that legalization means an increase in their earning power, and continued contribution to state and federal taxes. In the past decade immigrants have contributed \$100B more for social security than they drew down!! While the debate over legalization continues without resolution, the data suggest that the undocumented immigrants in RI have largely assimilated in to the US, making it less likely that a mass deportation would be realistic.

We are happy to report that the St. Luke's "cover your bottoms campaign" showed extreme generosity and support to immigrants and New Americas in Rhode Island ~~~ Thank you!



After Xmas – Are you replacing your old Home Goods?

On Sun Jan 8th, (weather permitting) Eric's truck will be parked in the parking lot to receive any Home Goods that you may be replacing because you were gifted new items for Xmas. Please bring flatware, utensils, serving utensils, pots/pans, mixing bowls, mixers/blenders, toasters, microwaves, etc. All items should be in good condition. Please provide in boxes or bins.

Questions?

Please contact Peggy Rubel psrubel@gmail.com or Leila O'Connell leilao2@cox.net

RI Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty 9th Annual Vigil at the State House

There is a Anti-Poverty vigil on Wednesday January 4th from 3-4 pm at the RI State House.

**State House Rotunda
82 Smith Street
Providence, RI**

People will gather as a diverse community of faith to remind elected officials of their responsibility to those living in poverty. We believe that all Rhode Islanders deserve nutritious food, affordable housing, decent wages, quality education and accessible healthcare. Join this action sponsored event:

- bear witness to our faith traditions' teachings that we are to be a community that cares for all, not just some
- call on elected officials to govern with care, compassion and wisdom
- propose specific policies for legislative action in 2017
find -- and offer -- inspiration and encouragement in the struggle for economic justice

How can I contact the organizer with questions? Contact Emily at RIinterfaithcoalition@gmail.com or 401.421.4111 ext. 161.



PROPERTY BREAKFAST

In this new year our monthly Property Breakfasts begin on the 3rd Thursday, January 19th with another of Cindi's wonderful breakfasts.

In addition to the regular projects that are accomplished on breakfast mornings, additional projects have been handled at other times. Bruce Stevens and Sandy Rubel replaced the broken parking lot light near the cemetery wall with an LED light. This really helps on dark winter nights.

Pete Haynsworth has refurbished and repainted the aisle candleholders and brackets which adds so much to our Christmas festivities. Dick Elliott donated a sheet of stainless steel which he and Sandy molded to fit and then mounted on the kitchen cabinet next to the stove. Jim Rezendes, Jim McGuire and Sandy Rubel rewired the dimmers for the big church lights so they can be isolated to help those with hearing aids.

All this adds up to keeping St. Luke's looking its best! Please continue tell to us about things that need Property attention – leave a note in our box in the church office or call us at home.

Sandy and Peggy Rubel (884-6594)

THE GIVING TREE

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree for their generous and caring donations. Your beautifully wrapped gifts and your monetary donations made it possible for twelve families to have a wonderful Christmas filled with lots of presents and food for their cupboards. We gave gifts to 7 single moms, 16 children, 1 newborn baby and 4 elderly ladies. Coats, shoes, boots, gloves, hats, socks, pants and shirts.....books, games, learning toys, dolls.....and gift cards were given to overjoyed recipients all filled with tears of gratitude.



We would like to thank those who helped with the purchasing, wrapping and organizing....Mimi West, Jane Brockway, Karen Fecteau, Pat Savage, Linda Potter, and Helen Biancani.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Clement and Judy Horton

IN ADDITION to the Giving Tree we had a woman and her 3 daughters come in asking for help 3 days before Christmas and in usual St. Luke's fashion, you came through and then some.

We not only supplied her with great gifts and gift cards for her girls and her family, with what else was left over, we helped several people stock their refrigerators for the holiday with Stop & Shop gift cards, Mobile Loaves and Fishes passed out some Visa gift cards to needy families on their last run, several people within St. Luke's who don't have much, received gift cards and my favorite part with the remaining ones was to hang out around Main Street in East Greenwich and hand out gift cards to people who looked like they could really use a Merry Christmas.

You all are AMAZING and made a Merry Christmas possible to many. Thank you.

Introduction to ALPINE SKIING

FRIDAY 1/13 AT 4PM

FOR ADULTS & KIDS

DURING CHOIR PRACTICE

**BY SKI INSTRUCTOR
STAS BIRUTIS**

(973) 570 - 0121



MOBILE LOAVES & FISHES WINTER

CLOTHING NEEDS

Never let the generosity of our St. Luke's family be underestimated. So many of you have stepped up and kindly given to Mobile Loaves and Fishes. Sadly, the amount of those we serve has been increasing and we are finding the truck shelves nearly wiped out not long into our journey. From the clothing side we are extremely low to totally out of our most needed items. Please consider sending in any of the following items (sorry we are NOT excepting summer clothes at this time). Any questions about donations or volunteering are welcome to Caroline Sparhawk at cdsparhawk@verizon.net , Joyce Harvey at joyce836@gmail.com or children's clothes to Linda Wegrzyn at ldwez@cox.net .

We know we can count on the kindness of our fellow parishioners. Thank you all very much for your continued help and support and to quote those who benefit from MLF "God bless you."

If you are interested in volunteering to sort clothing at your convenience during the month or would like to help out on a run handing out clothing please call us! We are in great need of extra help.

Men's and Women's:

- Snow pants, long underwear
- WINTER boots, gloves, hats, jackets and scarfs
- SWEATSHIRTS AND FLEECE
- WINTER jackets and coats
- Winter boots, waterproof shoes
- New underwear, warm socks
- Hand warmers

Childrens and Teens winter clothes needed !



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99 Peirce Street
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