



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

March 2017 Newsletter

From Fr. Tim

I've just returned from my third mission trip to the Dominican Republic and I must say, each visit down there leaves me more and more in love with the people and the place. (I also should say, every visit down there leaves me more in love with the fabulous youth who make up this church!) The experience is so rich, filled with lush sights, lively sounds, memorable people, and heart-warming moments. I find myself searching for the words and the way to capture it all.

My daughter, Quinlan (who was one of the youth missionaries), and I kept Diane up into the wee hours of our first night home, telling story after story, trying to convey the specialness of this country. When we eventually retired for sleep, I still felt like I was looking for the language to sum up what makes El Pedregal not just magical but even holy.

Then, the next morning, I picked up a magazine, *The Magnolia Journal*, that laid on one of our end tables. The theme for their Spring issue was "simplicity," and it dawned on me that this very feature, simplicity, might be at the heart of the power and profundity of El Pedregal.

There, the adults pass the day playing checkers with bottle tops and the kids find recreation by jumping into the river or kicking a soccer ball between two trees. There, they spend the evenings sitting out on front porches or gathering at softball games. There, they stay connected not so much by way of cell phones but long, meandering, face-to-face conversations. There, the life and the pleasures are so much simpler.

Of course I understand that, in part, the simplicity of their days is driven by the poverty of their lives. It is a hard and meager existence they endure. I imagine not a one of us would trade it for a sustained period of time for that which we enjoy here in the U.S.

Yet the children whom we met in the school yard and the adults whom we met in the streets do not seem lesser for their deprivation. They seem to possess a deeper appreciation for what they have and a greater gratitude for what is given to them. They seem better able to tap into a creativity of the mind and a generosity of the spirit. They are kinder to strangers, gentler to neighbors, warmer in greetings, and quicker to embrace. They do not seem deprived; rather they seem enhanced by the simplicity of their lives.

I am grateful for the time I spent with these good people not just because of the memories I will forever cherish, but also because of the inspiration I now have as I begin my Lenten journey. They inspire me to explore the simpler life over these next forty days, and I want to invite you to join me in that exploration.

What does this mean? I am still working on an answer to this question. Thoughts that come to mind include a simple meal at least once daily, a simple prayer each morning, and a simple night each week—one without TV or computer or phone or work. If you have any thoughts of your own, I'd love to hear them. Please write and let me know!

And while I am not sure if any of these amendments to my life will have a dramatic impact, if they were to make me even a bit more grateful or generous or thoughtful or creative, then I believe they also would make me a bit more faithful to that person God is calling me to be. And isn't that what Lent is all about?!

This Lent, may God grant us not only the desire but also the much needed determination to live more simply—for while this amended life might be simple, it is hardly easy.

Lenten blessings,

Tim

Lenten Video Meditation sent to your E-mail box daily

The Brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) offer a six-week on line series called the **5 Marks of Love**. The material will focus on individual and faith communities, as well as in the world around us.

Each week will explore the Anglican Marks of Mission: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure through videos, questions and exercises so we can speak more clearly and act truthfully, motivated always by hearts marked by God's love.

The Brothers of SSJE will draw on their own monastic spirituality to help us balance action with contemplation, so that our words and deeds proceed from the deepest places of our hearts, where God dwells. The resource encourages us to reflect on how we should live, not what we should do.

Coming Full Circle—Vestry Corner



It felt rather odd to sit in the Blackburn Room several weeks ago – named in honor of George Blackburn, a close family friend – for my first vestry meeting. After growing up in St. Luke’s as a child, but spending the past 40 years as a visitor when I was back home to visit family, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I knew a fair amount of time would be spent discussing finances and direction, but I had not anticipated how much time we would spend in worship, reflection, and discussing concerns for parishioners in need. I was about to be pleasantly surprised.

When we came together, the first thing we did was spend almost an hour in prayer, and going through a series of ‘icebreakers’. What I loved about the prayer portion of our time together was that we didn’t simply recite the prayers, but we took some time to discuss each one and how the words or phrases spoke to us. I found this to be particularly refreshing, because we often recite our prayers, but rarely do we take the time to dissect their meaning. I have also been through many ‘get to know you’ exercises – which can be particularly painful- but not these. Fr. Tim guided us through a series of questions that allowed each of us to see the different backgrounds our members came from and how we all came to find St. Luke’s as our spiritual home. Afterwards we did sit down to discuss broader topics ranging from how to read our financial reports, our quest for a Curate, and our broader goals as a parish family, but there was much more to our time together than just nuts and bolts. By the end of the evening, I left feeling excited by the prospect of serving St. Luke’s for the next three years.

My takeaway from my first vestry meeting is that while our members care about the health of the church both physically and fiscally, they are even more invested in the human element of how we serve our members – and those who turn to us for support. I love the diversity of our vestry in terms of experiences on our own spiritual journeys, because I feel we have a wonderful balance of life-long Episcopalians, and others who have come to St. Luke’s for all of the right reasons – because they see us a loving, safe, and welcoming place to worship. Like all parishes, we will face challenges in the coming years as we try not only to maintain, but expand our reach. I am excited to be a part of a vestry that clearly cares about so much more than just the bottom line.

DIOCESE OF RHODE ISLAND
CHORISTER EVENSONG

SATURDAY, MARCH 11
AT 4 P.M.



Featuring

St. Michael's Choristers, Bristol
The St. Cecilia Choir *from* St. Luke's, East Greenwich
St. Peter's Choristers, Narragansett
The Choristers *from* St. John the Evangelist, Newport
Grace Church Choristers, Providence

ST. PETER'S BY THE SEA
72 Central Street, Narragansett, RI

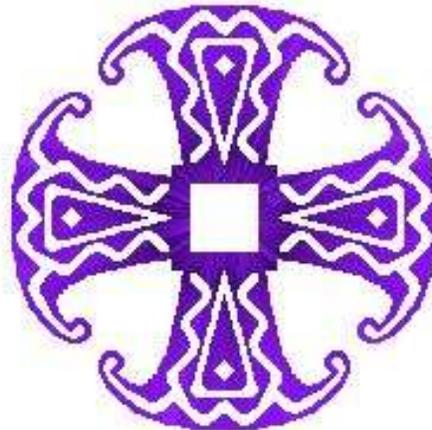
ALL ARE WELCOME

*As people have worshipped for centuries, come join in this timeless experience –
a respite of prayer, scripture, beautiful music, and meditation.*

EVENSONG FOR LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 19
AT 5 P.M.

The Canterbury Choir
and members of the St. Cecilia Choir
*Featuring music of Felix Mendelssohn,
including Hear My Prayer, with Arielle Rogers, Soloist*



ALL ARE WELCOME

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI



In addition to our Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation program for Lent, you may wish to consider some online resources:

Loyola Press

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/lent/living-lent-daily>

Center for Action and Contemplation (Richard Rohr)

<https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/>

Society of St. John the Evangelist—5Marks of love

<http://ssje.org/ssje/5marksoflove/>

World Council of Churches - Seven Weeks for Water (environmentally focused devotionals)

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/press-centre/events/seven-weeks-for-water>

Transformation in Lent. (an article written by Richard Rohr)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/fr-richard-rohr/lent-is-about-transformation_b_1282070.html

Recommended books for LENT:

“Show Me the Way: Daily Lenten Readings” by Henri Nouwen

“Forgiveness - A Lenten Study” by Marjorie J. Thompson

“Passion for Pilgrimage” by Alan Jones

“Love Set Free” by Martin J. Smith



Society of Companions of the Holy Cross

Lenten Quiet Day-
Saturday March 18,
from 9:30 am – till after lunch

**Address-St. Luke's
Church, 99 Peirce St, East Greenwich, RI**
***Holding Hope

The day will begin with coffee and greeting one another, in the auditorium at St. Luke's. We will have several meditations offered by the Rector of St. Luke's Episcopal Church the Reverend Timothy T. Rich. The day will offer opportunities for quiet time and reflection.

Please wear comfortable clothes and bring a lunch. We will close the day with a Eucharist Celebration. To register to attend please call Judy Stenberg at 401-884-3736.



For more information,
contact Judy Stenberg: j.stenberg@cox.net

***Artwork - Holding Hope by Anne Marilyn Karoly (used w/ permission of the artist)

Come Join Horses Bring Hope for an all
Italian Pasta Dinner on **March 12**

Meal includes both Gluten Free and Vegan options



Event is held at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

99 Peirce St, East Greenwich, RI 02818

When: 5pm – 9pm

Who is invited: Children and Adults

Ticket prices: \$15 for adults

\$8 for 60+

\$5 for kids 10 and under

2 years and under is *free*

What will be there:

Raffles, Silent Auction, and more!

Storytellers Needed!



19th century Priest Juan Bosco summed up his theory of education like this: Every education teaches a philosophy by suggestion, implication, and atmosphere. Every part has a connection with every other part. If it does not combine to convey some general view of life, it is not education at all.

Here at St. Luke's Faith Formation classes we strive to do just that. We begin with the premise that God is love. Over the dog days of summer all the classrooms were freshly painted and cleaned creating a safe and great environment for the kids. We feel that the atmosphere of each classroom should be clean and bright. Our teachers are all amazing spiritual beings who provide our children with wonderful role models from which to emulate. The curriculum at St. Luke's, Journey to Adulthood and Godly Play are both dynamic and comprehensive. I find that I learn something new each week.

We are currently looking for a few new storytellers and greeters for our Godly Play program. If you are interested please tune into the Godly Play channel on YouTube and check the curriculum out. Email me at Theresa@stlukeseg.org if you are interested in being part of an amazing adventure with the youth of St. Luke's. I look forward to hearing from you!



MARCH ADULT EDUCATION

Mark your calendars for our Lenten study when Dr. Despina Prassas, professor at Providence College, returns for the series below:



In the Image and Likeness of God

This is a series of discussions on the Agreed Statement between Anglicans and Eastern Orthodox Christians on the topic of Christian anthropology, or what it means to be human in our world today. We will focus on some of the more controversial issues and address how specific theological positions are understood in practice.

Join us on the Sundays in Lent at 9:00 in the auditorium!



Drivers needed! ... to take non-driving parishioners to mostly medical appointments.

Typically to-&-from weekday mid-morning hour-long appointments

With enough volunteers, only once or twice a month per volunteer ... scheduled at beginning of each month.

To offer availability, send email address to Dottie Fleming - mssadsam@hotmail.com to receive sign-up opportunities by email

Save the Date

THE JUBILATE RINGERS

Will be attending the RI Spring Ring



RI SPRING RING
April 29, 2017
Handbell Concert

Venue: Swift Community Center
121 Peirce Street – East Greenwich, RI

Daniel K. Moore, Director

7:00 PM



PROPERTY BREAKFAST

This month's Property Breakfast will be held on the **3rd Thursday, March 16th**, at 8 am in the Dining Room. We welcome everyone to join us for a delicious breakfast and various projects.

Please continue to us tell about things that need property attention. Thanks for your help.

Sandy and Peggy Rubel (884-6594)



LOAVES & FISHES RI

March and April needs..

Men's and Women's:

- Jeans
- Sweatshirts & fleece
- Sneakers, shoes
- Long & short sleeve T shirts (logo or colored)
- Jackets
- Backpacks, belts, baseball caps
- New underwear and athletic socks
- Women's leggings
- Toiletries

Children's

- New (or like new) Underwear –
 Sizes 3T through 16/18, (especially boys)
- Undershirts or sports bras (especially girls)
- Gloves
- Jeans
- Sneakers and Boots
- Bags and Backpacks

YOGA CLASS

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00-10:15am**



Welcome to this gentle yoga class designed to bring flexibility, strength and balance for Body-Mind-Spirit. Explore basic movement in simple yoga postures, and learn basic breath techniques leading you to a feeling of well-being and relaxation. Come and join this safe and enjoyable time.

All levels welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and please bring a yoga mat.

Join Linda Morse, a professionally certified Kripalu yoga teacher, whose enjoyable and humorous way will guide you to inner peace and strength.

With questions, call Linda at 401-318-0303, or click on www.BEAMyoga.com
Class fee is \$ 5 and open to the public.

Classes run from May thru Oct. only. St. Luke's is 99 Pierce St., East Greenwich, across from the public library.



EASTER

Flower Memorials

*Names must be submitted
to the office on or before
April 11th.*

I would like to remember: _____

*Checks should be made payable to St. Luke's Church,
indicating "Flower Memorials."*

Suggested donation for flowers is \$10 per name.

Email requests to barbara@stlukeseg.org

*Drop checks in the Sunday offertory, bring by the office or
drop in the mail to*



EASTER

Music Memorials

*Names must be submitted
to the office on or before
April 11th.*

I would like to remember: _____

*Checks should be made payable to St. Luke's Church,
indicating "Music Memorials."*

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