

St. Luke's

St. Luke's Episcopal Church - East Greenwich, Rhode Island



October 2017

MONTHLY

From Fr. Tim

A long time ago the late great comedian, Robin Williams, also an Episcopalian, released his top 10 reasons to be an Episcopalian. Perhaps some of you have seen it before? If not, I encourage you to google it and enjoy a good laugh.

Among my favorite reasons that Williams included are "#8-You don't have to check your brain at the door," and "#1-No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Episcopalian who agrees with you." (For the record, I also greatly appreciated his #10: "No snake handling.")

I was reminded of this list as twenty-five of us gathered for our recent adult faith formation offering on the "Episcopal way." Reading a book of the same title, our discussions involved not only the core values of the Episcopal tradition, but also which parts of "the way" were most meaningful to those sitting around the table.

One person cited his appreciation for our connection to tradition. Another individual was grateful for the recognition that faith involves a life-long journey of discovery. And a third participant was moved by the authors' declaration, " (The Episcopal Way) is a roomy way of being Christian, and a deeply faithful one." I think I spent the entire class time sitting on the edge of my seat and nodding my head in agreement.

Does that make me an Episcopal Geek? Maybe. But if so, I'd love to encourage you to join the Geek squad. I'd love it if each of you could make your own Top 10 list for reasons to be an Episcopalian. I'd love it if you could know with clarity of thought and word both what it is to be an Episcopalian and why you are drawn to being one. And then I'd REALLY love it if you'd tell at least one other person who doesn't currently worship in an Episcopal church.

I ask all this of you for both personal and promotional reasons. On the personal side, I think it a powerful thing to reflect upon why we do what we do. Too often, once we fall into a particular groove of any kind, we can find ourselves going through the motions without being particularly thoughtful. And then, as our thoughtfulness wains, so too can our commitment.

But with reflection comes clarification. With clarification comes purpose. And with purpose comes commitment. God knows (truly), that's a three-step journey which we all need to travel time and time again.

I also invite you into this thinking because I fear that the Episcopal Church is one of those "best-kept secrets." The book we are reading offers startling statistics. Thirty-two percent of those between the ages of 18-29, and twenty-one percent of those ages 30-49, claim no faith

at all (according to a 2012 Pew Forum poll). To add to this trend, our own study group offered that a high percentage of their family and friends-many older than these two groups - don't go to church either.

To some degree, I get it. People these days are struggling to trust institutions. The favorability of the Episcopal Church stands at the same percentage as that of Wall Street. Compounding this development, a larger and larger segment of our population have little direct exposure or experience with church of any kind, much less the Episcopal Church. As the authors of our book study explain, "Much of their knowledge of Christians, Christianity, and the church today comes from the media or outdated stories from their childhood."

This reality is a problem. The news reported on by the media is never good; and stories from our childhood are rarely representative of the church today.

Disappointing as all this might be, I think we have the right stuff to challenge impressions and even change lives. I think the Episcopal Church in general, and St. Luke's in particular, might be just the kind of place where those individuals who are spiritually thoughtful but institutionally suspicious might find a home.

But first, they've got to know who we are and what we are all about. They've got to know that we are "not simply a common set of doctrines, ideas, or even words to pray, but a combination of practices (and) attitudes" that make for a "roomy" and "deeply faithful" way of being Christian (The Episcopal Way, p.8). They've got to know that we are making a difference in our communities. And they've got to know that we are making a difference in your life, too.

So, whether you read this book or not (by the way, we still can order you a copy), give some thought to why you worship in an Episcopal Church. And then, share your thinking with at least one other person.

You know, I am glad that Robin Williams found his way into the Episcopal Church. And I appreciate that his Top 10 list provides our denomination with a little good publicity. But I think there is more to like about our church than the fact that we don't engage in snake-handling.

Let's be more than a well-kept secret or a good comedy routine. Let's not rely upon the media to tell our story. Let's find our language and our voice to spread the word. And let's invite others to join us on the way.

Peace,

Tim

Curate's Corner

During our kick off of adult faith formation on Sunday (September 24), I was outed as being a bit of a nerd. Though, I suspect for many of you this comes as no surprise. For those of you who were not there, here's what happened: we were making our way through the introduction of The Episcopal Way, and Fr. Tim was pointing out some vocabulary words for us to take note of. One word was "method," and as he talked about it, he shared that the Latin phrase included in the paragraph made me happy.

But the truth is, this Latin phrase (*lex orandi, lex credenda*) did not make me happy . . . it filled my heart with overwhelming excitement and joy; because, for me, that phrase embodies the very best of what it means for us to be Anglicans and Episcopalians.

Lex orandi, lex credendi translates loosely to, "the law of praying is the law of believing." But, I prefer the more colloquial translation, "as we pray so we believe." That, it seems to me, is what being an Episcopalian and an Anglican is all about. We are not a tradition filled with significant amounts of dogma, nor are we a confessional church. The way we believe, the development of our theology, comes from how we pray. That is why our life of prayer together is the most important thing that we do - because it forms us, models us, and strengthens us to believe. But we cannot just talk the talk; we've got to walk the walk as well.

That is why myself, and others like me, add another clause to that great Anglican phrase: "*lex vivendi*." All together "*lex ordandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi*" comes to mean, "as we pray, so we believe, so we live." Our foundation of prayer shapes the way we believe, and that belief impels us to live differently. Think about the words we pray on Sunday morning, or more clearly, think about the words of our baptismal covenant. What if these words were the inspiration of how we live our lives day to day, instead of just what we aspire to on Sunday mornings? Imagine the possibilities for the world if we actually lived the words we pray.

After almost three months of serving as your curate, I am convinced that this reality - that living the words we pray - is something we are striving towards here at St. Luke's. We take seriously the words of Jesus in scripture, and the words of our baptismal covenant to care for all people. When Jesus says feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care alike for friend and stranger - we go out and do. We go on a Loaves and Fishes run to Woonsocket; we bring in donations for the interfaith food pantry; we make dessert for Lunch on the Hill or CCK; we fill container after container of clothing; and we collect furniture and other household items for refugees. And, when we commit ourselves to respecting the dignity and freedom of every human being, we go out and learn. We gather together for formation opportunities to reflect on and listen to the struggles of God's beloved children (see elsewhere in this newsletter for information about our October series on Race).

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As the world around us continues to change, as we continue to grow and expand as a community of faith, I wonder, how will God continue to transform us through our prayer? I wonder, what work is God laying before us that our pray is strengthening us and preparing us for? I wonder, what new ways we will come to believe and to live?

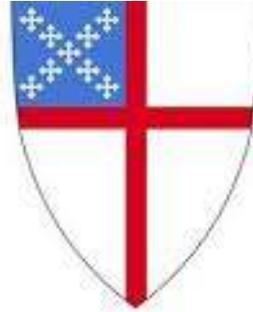
So let us keep praying, let us keep believing, let us keep living; that we might be participants in the building up of the Kingdom of God in the here and now. May all of our hearts be filled with joy and gladness when we encounter the words: *lex orandi, lex credendi, lex vivendi*.

Dante



Help Fr. Dante continue to learn your names by wearing a name tag. If you don't have one, you can request one at the resource center in the atrium. Thank you.

VESTRY CORNER



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16).

This past June, I had the pleasure of joining other members of the vestry at the Christian Brothers Center in Narragansett for our annual retreat. Part of our discussion was sparked by Simon Sinek's celebrated TED Talk, How Great Leaders Inspire Action. Sinek's name may ring a bell. With over 34 million views, his talk is now the third most popular in history.

In a nutshell, Sinek contends that inspired leaders share a bedrock belief in why their organizations exist. He gives examples of many organizations that fall short of their full potential because they tend to skip over the why question and go directly to describing what they do and how they do it.

Sinek offers a few examples of organizations and movements that have left their mark on history precisely because they share a core belief that dictates all their actions and strategies. In the summer of 1963, 250,000 people gathered on the Mall in Washington to listen to Martin Luther King Jr. give his I Have a Dream speech. Sinek notes all the things Dr. King did NOT have to build his movement - no Facebook page, no strategic plan, no pollsters, no focus groups. What King did have was an unwavering belief that not until man's laws are consistent with the laws of God would we as a society achieve true justice. Sinek believes that the civil rights movement grew so large, so fast because most Americans of all faiths and races shared this belief.

Sinek's talk moved the vestry to take up the question of the "St. Luke's Why." What central belief or purpose binds all the extraordinary work we do together both inside and outside our parish walls? Indeed, we worship, we comfort, we serve, we pray, we reach out, we sing, we teach, we learn, we feed ... but why do we do these things? In the words of one vestry colleague - What Is St. Luke's "Big Why"?

The vestry continued and deepened this search for "Why" over the summer months. Likewise, other parish groups have taken up this discussion including the committee that's organizing this year's Commitment Campaign. In the coming weeks, we look forward to inviting you all into this conversation as we ponder together the core belief that unites all that we do as part of this vibrant community of faith.

Stewardship

Commitment Campaign Kick Off

October 15

Over the next several weeks, you'll be hearing a lot about stewardship, commitment, and the role of giving in church life. The annual Commitment Campaign is aptly named; it demonstrates our commitment to God, our community, and ourselves. As an expression of faithfulness to God, giving is a joyful experience that helps deepen our connection to the church and the St. Luke's community.

Throughout my life in the Episcopal Church, its "business side" has always made me uncomfortable. When Father Tim asked me to join the Commitment Campaign Committee, I realized it was time to face that discomfort and embrace this project as a personal growth opportunity. In my heart, I understand the annual campaign provides the means that support all aspects of St. Luke's: its programs, ministries, building, and staff. I hope you and others also see that the commitment campaign is not just about one's relationship with and support of the church, it's also about one's relationship with God.

There are a few important dates I'd like you to save this fall. First is Commitment Campaign Kick Off Sunday on October 15. Unfortunately, there will be no footballs. But we will hold services in the auditorium where Father Tim will lead an interactive program focused on giving. On October 20, the Committee will host "A Gospel Gathering: A Feast for the People of St. Luke's." As always, all are welcome at the Lord's Table! And finally, November 19 is "Good News Sunday" where we'll celebrate the joy of giving as parish.

*Yours in Christ,
David Sampson*

Faith Formation

Middle School Youth Group

October 15, 27 & 28

On Friday, September 22, the new St. Luke's middle school youth group kicked off with pizza making planning party. We gathered together, made yummy pizza, and began brainstorming and planning what activities we wanted to do over the next few months. Here is our proposed calendar:

October 15: Mini Golf outing after church

October 27: Poster making, pasta party, episcopalooza.

We will get together at 6pm to make posters for the ECC Halloween village and for a special treat Fr. Dante is going to make homemade pasta for dinner.

October 28: ECC Halloween Village. We will head up to ECC to help decorate a cabin for the Halloween parade and trick-or-treating.

November 12: Duckpin Bowling after church

December 29: Laser tag and roller skating outing

All young people in grades 6-8 are welcome to join us for these events. Stay tuned for more information as we continue to plan our year. For more information please speak with Fr. Dante.

Episcopal 200: The Story of the Real Prayer Book

October 22 and 29

Once we finish our study of Eric H. F. Law and Stephanie Speelers' *The Episcopal Way* we will turn our attention to diving deeper into one aspect of *The Episcopal Way*: *The Book of Common Prayer*. In the first installment of *Episcopal 200: The Story of the Real Prayer Book* our curate, Dante, will guide us in looking at the history, heritage, and development of the Prayer Book we have today. We will think about what it means to be ancient and modern; about where this Book comes from; and why it is so important to us as Episcopalians and Anglicans. In the second session, our rector, Tim, will lead us through a scavenger hunt of our current Prayer Book to give us the opportunity to explore the treasures contained in this beloved little red book. Whether your Prayer Book is so well used that pages are falling out, or if you have never picked up that red book sitting in your pew this course is for you. Come, explore, learn, and share about this anchor in our common life. For more information please speak with Dante.

Faith Formation

Conversations on Race

Tuesdays, October 3, 10, 17 and 24

Beginning Tuesday, October 3rd and continuing for four weeks (through October 24), we will be holding a forum titled "**Conversations on Race.**" We will gather at 7pm and end at 8:30pm with a hard stop at 9pm.

Our objective is to create a safe space for us to discuss current events, our history regarding race, and the faithful Christian response. Each discussion will have a different article to start and focus our conversation. A more extensive reading list will also be provided for those wishing to learn more.

The themes for we week are:

October 3: Where Are We Now? Events of Hate and Racism in the US today

October 10: How Did We Get Here? Understanding our Nation's History
Regarding Race

October 17: How the Legacy Lives On: Understanding Obvious, Subtle, Systemic,
and Individual Remnants of Our History

October 24: Building God's Kingdom: A Discussion on the Christian Response
to Hate and Racism in the US

Sign-ups are not required, however if you have interest, please let Barbara know so that we have a rough headcount for this program. If you have any questions please speak with Tim or Dante.

The Great Litany

Friday's, October 6,13,20,27

One of the most important things we do as people of faith is to pray. It is our call as followers of Jesus to pray, particularly in times of division and strife. Following this call, our Curate, Dante will be praying The Great Litany (The Book of Common Prayer p. 148) every Friday at 4pm in the church. One

All are invited to join him in praying for ourselves, our nation, and the world. For more information please speak with Dante.

**VOICES OF THE EARTH:
People Helping People
Concert and Poetry Reading**

Hosted By

Notable Works Publication & Dist. Co., Inc.

A non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness for environmental and social concerns through the arts

Sponsored By

Ann Tanzi of Cranston, Rhode Island

Co-Sponsored By

Turf Works of Warwick, Rhode Island

Sunday, October 1, 2017 at 3 PM

At

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, Rhode Island 02818

Honoring

Crossroads Rhode Island

Featuring

**Tina Bernard, Maria Bilyeu, Dalita Getzoyan, Noreen Inglesi,
Mary Ann Rossoni, Alison Shea and Mary Zema**

With

**Special Guests: Pat Campellone of Crossroads Rhode Island
St. Luke's Episcopal Church Choir: Rodney Ayers, Minister of Music The
Poetry Loft and Crosswinds Poetry**

Admission \$5.00 per person (Children under 12 free)

50/50 Raffle Drawing, Prizes and Refreshments

**Provided by Ronzio Pizza and Subs, 5601 Post Rd., East Greenwich, Rhode Island
Texas Roadhouse of East Greenwich and local Stop and Shops.**

Volunteers from

**Lowe's Home Improvement Stores of North Providence and Warwick (510 Quaker Ln.)
and Texas Road House of East Greenwich**

Please bring items for Crossroads Rhode Island's Welcome Home Kits and receive a free gift.

Welcome Home Kits include: pots and pans, utensils, towels, cleaning supplies, trash bags and storage bags, paper goods, shower curtains, sponges, dish soap, can openers, brooms, mops & dustpans.

www.notableworks.org

www.noreeninglesi.com

Music

Evensong *November 5*

SAVE THE DATE . . .

Choral Evensong, Sunday, November 5 at 5 PM
Held at Grace Church in Providence, 300 Westminister Street
The St. Cecilia Choir, Canterbury Choir and Grace Church Choir
join for this glorious service of music, prayer, and candlelight



October Activities and Events

Blessing of the Animals

OCTOBER 8 ~ 11:15 AM

ST. LUKE'S COURTYARD
99 PEIRCE STREET
EAST GREENWICH



Bring your crated or leashed pets to St. Luke's courtyard on Sunday, 10/8, at 11:15 for our Annual Blessing of the Animals.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME,

ALL PETS ARE WELCOME

Pets and people are also welcome to attend our regular Sunday 10:15 service as well.

October Activities and Events

Dorcas Refugee Ministry *Men's & Women's Professional Clothes Drive*



Attire for Hire Drive

St. Luke's is collecting gently used professional clothing for men and women from now through October 15th. Clothing will be distributed through DORCAS, assisting the displaced refugees with the necessary clothing for interviews and a return to the work place.

Items needed include:

Conservative skirts and dresses ~ pant suits

Men's suits ~ Blazers ~ trousers

Blouses ~ dress shirts ~ professional ties

Dress shoes both men & women

Hosiery ~ dress socks ~ belts

***Please bring clean, unstained clothing on hangers
if possible or folded neatly.***

FLU CLINIC ...

October 22nd



Dear fellow parishioners,

It is that time of year again and I will be bringing free flu shots on October 22.

Please see the sign up information in the atrium. You can prefill out the form before that day to save time.

Halloween Village Saturday, October 28

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
(Rain date Sunday, October 29th)
872 Reservoir Rd, Pascoag, RI

Join St. Luke's Church and other churches of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island at the Episcopal Conference Center for a family Halloween event. Cabins will be decorated by church parishes. There will be activities, hayrides, a costume parade, and trick or treating at the cabins. St. Luke's Church is looking for volunteers of all ages to participate with the decorating prior to the event starting, to participate with the activities, and to clean up after the event.

Please contact Ann Holmstedt or Father Dante if you wish to be part of the event.
Ann Holmstedt annholms@cox.net, 885-7593
Father Dante dante@stlukeseg.org, 884-4116

Rhode Island College School Supply Drive

As some of you may know, in addition to being our curate, Dante is also the Chaplain at Rhode Island College (RIC). You might also be aware, that there are significant levels of need at RIC. As part of his ministry as chaplain Dante is working with community partners to find ways to support the students get the resources they need. This includes: establishing food pantries on campus; collecting food gift cards and bus passes; and creating text book lending libraries among other things.

For the next few weeks, Dante will be collecting school supplies for his students at RIC. Below is a list of items that the students need. Donations can be dropped off in the box outside the office on Sundays or during the week. Please speak with Dante for more information about the RIC Chaplaincy program and the needs of that community.

- Ballpoint Pens (Black/Blue/Multicolored)
- Highlighters
- Loose-leaf paper (college rule / wide rule)
- Mechanical pencils
- 2" binders
- 2 pocket folders
- Expanding file organizers
- Index cards
- Sticky notes
- Notebooks (single / multi-subject)
- Sharpies



Newcomer Wine & Cheese
Sunday, October 22

Newcomer Wine and Cheese
October 22, * 4pm * Blackburn Room

The clergy, staff, and vestry of St. Luke's would like to invite all people who have begun worshipping with us in the last year to join us for a wine and cheese reception. This is an opportunity for newcomers to the parish to get to know the parish leadership better, and it is a time for the leadership to get to know you better. We hope you will join us for this informal gathering so we can continue to welcome you into our community. Childcare will be provided. For more information please speak with Dante.

A Gospel Gathering: A feast for the people of St. Luke's
Friday, October 20th

On October 20th St. Luke's will be hosting A Gospel Gathering: A Feast for the People of St. Luke's (similar to the Harvest Dinner last year), so please mark your calendars to join your friends and family for this feast.

This year we are asking of donations to create 3 baskets for raffling off at the feast. If please consider donating an item for one of the following basket:

- 1) Children's Fun Basket
- 2) Adult Basket
- 3) Family Fun Basket

Please bring the item to office during the week or bring with you to Sunday service. Please bring any items you wish to donate by October 15th.

Information and sign up for volunteers and food items needed to make A Gospel Gathering: A Feast for the People of St. Luke's a wonderful community event will be coming this week. If you should have any questions, please contact Anna Pilkington at 401 486-5173

Christ Community Kitchen

Join us in October for Christ Community Kitchen. All are welcome to dinner in the St. Luke's dining room on Monday October 30 from 5:00-6:30pm. A free will offering will be collected.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for these upcoming CCK dinners: November 27, and December 18. For more information about Christ Community Kitchen please contact Paul Brookes.

Save on heat this winter

This year join an oil buying program to save on the cost of heating oil. Over the last 3 years - Peoples Power and Light has saved an average of .31 cents per gallon compared to the state average. The Discount Heating Oil Service works like a buyer's club or co-op for home heating oil and is available to all households in Rhode Island. We use the group buying power of our 12,000+ members to negotiate a discounted price per gallon with vetted oil dealers every day of the year.

In order to take advantage of this program - you must become a member of the *Discount Heating Oil Service* cooperative, at a cost of \$25 per year, \$15 for seniors. Go to their website: ripower.org and sign up or call the office at 401-861-6111 to enroll. For additional questions talk with Deacon Christine Cassels.

Property Breakfast

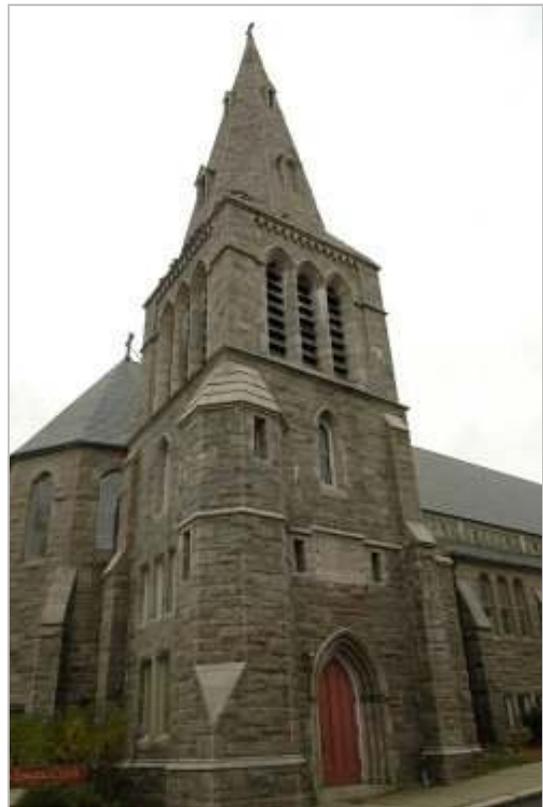
Thursday, October 19

The October Property Breakfast will be held on Thursday, October 19th at 8am in the dining room.

We need to get everything ready for cold weather with raking and outdoor projects as well as indoor ones.

We hope you're free to come on the 19th. Everyone is welcome.

Sandy and Peggy Rubel (884-6594)





10th Annual Interfaith Conference on Climate Change: Transforming Prayers into Passionate Action

*featuring Tim DeChristopher,
a prominent leader in the Climate Justice movement
with the music of Bryan Cahall*

What?

Enjoy a delicious dinner, network with climate change enthusiasts, and take local climate action all in one evening! Our educational conference will inspire immediate climate action and a group of Rhode Island based environmental companies and organizations will be available to assist you.

Where?

Providence College
251 Huxley Avenue
Providence, RI 02908

When?

Monday, October 16, 2017
5:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Early Bird \$ 20.00
General Admission \$ 30.00
Student \$ 10.00



Tim DeChristopher

Save \$10 with Early Bird Registration through 9/16!

Register: www.RI-IPL.org

RI RINGING IN THE HOLIDAYS HANDBELL SPECTACULAR

Woodbury Ringers, Warwick, RI

Community Church Ringers, Westerly, RI

Lincoln Ringers, First Parish, Lincoln, MA

The Jubilate Ringers of East Greenwich, RI

Lorrie Simons, Director

Andrew Wallace, Director

Diane Burke, Director

Daniel K. Moore, Director



Come join us at:



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI

Saturday, November 18, 2017 7:00 PM

Free Admission Handicapped Accessible Parking Available

