

# St. Luke's

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



MONTHLY

## From Father Tim

By now, most of you have heard that my father recently passed away. Before I go any further, let me thank you for your many prayers and expressions of support.

In part because of my travel, in part because of my need to attend to various matters, and in part because of my emotional labor, I have been thinking these past several days that my Lenten journey has felt scattered, distracted, and compromised.

But then, last night, as I sat in silence, my evening prayers completed, it occurred to me, the season of Lent and the “season of grief” share strikingly similar themes and choices. And maybe, rather than detracting from my Lent, my father’s passing had been a blessing to it.

Both seasons invite reflection—reflection upon our personal conduct, reflections upon the quality of our most significant relationships, reflections upon how we spend our time, reflections upon the values and priorities we hold dear.

Both seasons challenge us to consider how we might live differently—so that there is an integrity between what we say and do, and a harmony in the relationships we share.

And both seasons present us with a fundamental choice: will we be held hostage by the hurts of our past or liberated by the possibilities of our future?

By this I mean, will we hang on to past injuries? Will we harbor familiar grudges? Will we allow resentments a permanent home in our hearts?

Or will we be healed of old wounds? Will we let go of long-standing grievances? Will we make room in our hearts and souls for light, for peace, for grace?

As I wonder about these questions for myself, I wonder, also, did Jesus wrestle with similar thoughts while hanging upon the cross?

On that day, he had been hurt anew—both literally by the Centurion’s spear and figuratively by Peter’s denial. Who could blame him if he wasn’t consumed by his pain?

And surely, he had a right to harbor a grudge—at the very least against the chief priests and elders, who had been attacking him throughout his ministry and now turned him over to Pilate with trumped up charges. Would it not be reasonable for his heart to be filled with resentment?

Yet this was not the case. Instead he made that moment more about possibility than pain, more about forgiveness than judgment, more about life than death. What an amazing thing? What an example for each of us to consider. And not just in times of grief, not just during the season of Lent, but really throughout our lives.

We have choices as we find our way through grief; we have choices as we wind our way through Lent; we have choices as we make our way through life. May God grant us in our seasons of grief, in this season of Lent, and throughout the entirety of our lives the courage, the strength and the faith to choose grace.

Peace,

*Jim*

## Anecdotes From The Assistant: A Word From Father Dante

Some of you have heard me say, “I want to be George Herbert when I grow up.” This is a 100% true statement. Though I do hope to live longer than two years after my ordination to the priesthood.

Herbert was a 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century priest and poet in the Church of England. In many ways I have modeled my understanding of priestly ministry off of his book *The Country Parson*. But Herbert is better known for his place in the English literary canon. He was a fairly prolific poet during his life time, though his poetry was published by his friend Nicholas Ferrar posthumously. Several of Herbert’s poems have been turned into hymns: “Teach me, my God and King,” “Let all the world in every corner sing,” and “King of glory, King of peace” to name a few.

I find Herbert’s poetry to speak to the deep truths of the Christian life. He expresses honesty and vulnerability in his work; not shying away from talking about the challenges and difficulties of the life of faith. Time and time again in his poetry he takes the reader on a journey: beginning with a desire to praise God, then getting to the point of a sense of doubt and unworthiness, and finally concluding with the reassurance that no matter how much doubt we have in ourselves God loves us and in God’s eyes we are enough.

One of my favorite poems is titled “Love (III).”

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,  
    Guilty of dust and sin.  
But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack  
    From my first entrance in,  
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning  
    If I lacked anything.

“A guest,” I answered, “worthy to be here”:  
    Love said, “You shall be he.”  
“I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,  
    I cannot look on thee.”  
Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,  
    “Who made the eyes but I?”

“Truth, Lord; but I have marred them; let my shame  
    Go where it doth deserve.”  
“And know you not,” says Love, “who bore the blame?”  
    “My dear, then I will serve.”  
“You must sit down,” says Love, “and taste my meat.”  
    So I did sit and eat.

I find this poem to be a rather fitting one for this Lenten journey we are on. As we set out on Ash Wednesday we were called to be mindful and honest about our own sinfulness. We were called to be honest about the ways we have separated ourselves from God and each other. It is that same posture that Herbert begins this poem, “Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back, Guilty of dust and sin.” From then on out the poem is a conversation between the narrator and Love (read God). The conversation is basically the narrator confessing their unworthiness and Love claiming them saying you are worthy. It seems to me that is the journey we are on. The journey of recognizing that nothing we do can separate us from the love of God. That nothing deems us unworthy or unfit in the eyes of God.

The poem concludes with an invitation to be in communion with Love. To give up our unworthiness and take a seat in the presence of God. This is the invitation we are journeying towards. This is the invitation of Good Friday. The invitation to recognize that God has taken upon God’s self all our burdens and unworthiness. That God has offered us the gift us God’s supreme love and redemption in the work that is completed on the cross.

As we walk through this second half of Lent, may we work to lay our burdens aside. May we work to leave our sense of unworthiness behind, that we might glory in Love – that we might be in full communion and relationship with God.

Lenten Blessings,  
Dante

The Choirs Of St. Luke's

DIOCESE OF RHODE ISLAND  
CHORISTER EVENSONG

SATURDAY, APRIL 6  
AT 4 P.M.



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

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, NEWPORT  
61 Poplar Street, Newport, RI

ALL ARE WELCOME

## Reflections of a New Vestry Member

When I was asked to consider running for the vestry here at St. Luke's, I felt very honored, but frankly, on the other hand, quite hesitant. I wondered whether or not I was qualified for this position. Upon researching vestry qualifications and duties, I found that, by Episcopal Canons, one only need be 18 years of age, or older, and a regular communicant in good standing with the parish. I also reviewed the goals, objectives and vision of the future set forth by St. Luke's. Fortified with this knowledge, my concurrence with the mission and vision of the church, and a gentle nudge from the Holy Spirit, I accepted the offer. King George VI, of England, in a speech on the first of January, 1940, said "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God". (I love the movie, "The King's Speech"). So, that is what I did, although serving on the vestry is not quite as dangerous as serving in war!

Because of a snow storm in February, I have attended exactly one vestry meeting! Expecting a business meeting-like atmosphere, I was pleasantly surprised by the close camaraderie of the vestry members, and the spiritual atmosphere of the meeting. I do not recall that aspect of meetings being present when I served on a Bishops' Committee 50 some years ago. The prayer and devotions shared amongst us provided a sense of peace and comfort within me. The "welcome aboarding" for Jon, Ken and myself was actually fun! Who would have thought a vestry meeting could be fun? We did get down to business with updates on the current commitment campaign, some housekeeping tasks and an update on Dante's recent activities at St. Luke's and Rhode Island College. I was very impressed with the manner in which the vestry members work together and don't hesitate to offer their help in order to get the work of running St. Luke's done.

My first impressions of serving on the vestry here at St. Luke's are very positive. I look forward to working and worshipping with this very committed group of people. I pray that, with God's Guidance, I will be able to make some positive contributions to the vestry, and help to support and further the mission and vision of St. Luke's.

Beth Vollucci

## From The Treasurer

Did you Know!

If you are retired and attained the young age of 70 ½, you are required to take minimum distributions from your retirement accounts. This distribution normally is added to your taxable income.

One thing the tax code allows for is qualified charitable distribution.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity, like **St. Luke's Church!** QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD **excludes the amount donated from taxable income**, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Can I make a QCD?

While many IRAs are eligible for QCDs—Traditional, Rollover, Inherited, SEP (inactive plans only), and SIMPLE (inactive plans only)\* —there are requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes non-deductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly, your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$100,000.) . **(See Fr. Tim if you'd like to donate over that amount)**
- For a QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year's RMD.

**Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD. The distribution must be made to the charity to qualify.**

Under certain circumstances, a QCD may be made from a Roth IRA. Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime, and distributions are generally tax-free.

## Property Committee

Our Property Breakfasts this winter season will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month with our next meeting on April 11 beginning at 8 am in the in the Dining Room.

We welcome parishioners to become involved at any time – we begin with a delicious breakfast followed by projects and of course a coffee break! Come spring there will be outside projects as well.

Thanks for calling our attention to things that need property attention!

Sandy and Peggy Rubel

## St. Luke's Little Theater

Rehearsals are underway for **St. Luke's Little Theater's  
5th One-Act Play Festival to be held on**

**Saturday, April 27 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m.**

Here Marie Hennedy directs Ben Lovejoy and Jackie Granja in Alfred Sutro's "The Open Door," a classic and poignantly comic look at a love affair that might have been, and still is.



The Festival, a fundraiser for RI Loaves & Fishes, will also feature at least two new works from Providence women playwrights' Blue Cow Group: Jayne Hannah's "Dating in New England in the Winter" (a once-estranged couple learns spontaneity) and Martha Douglas-Osmundson's "For Free" (a sometimes hilarious exploration of deep family misunderstandings). For now, Patricia Hawkrigde is rehearsing their casts at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pawtucket. All will be performed April 27-28 in St. Luke's Auditorium, followed by a Q & A with their authors, directors and casts.

For more information, contact Marie Hennedy at 884-3976 or [mhennedy2@gmail.com](mailto:mhennedy2@gmail.com).



# APRIL

## SAVE THE DATES

### April 3, 2019

6 pm Wednesday Night Contemplative Eucharist @ Church

### April 6, 2019

4 pm Diocesan Chorister Evensong @ St. John The Evangelist, Newport, RI

### April 10, 2019

6 pm Wednesday Night Contemplative Eucharist @ Church

### April 11, 2019

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Rm

### April 14, 2019

7:45 and 10:15 am Palm Sunday Service @ Church

### April 15, 2019

7 pm Holy Week Eucharist @ Church

### April 16, 2019

7 pm Holy Week Eucharist @ Church

### April 17, 2019

7 pm Holy Week Eucharist @ Church

### April 18, 2019

6 pm Maundy Thursday Seder Supper, Foot Washing,  
Holy Eucharist @ Dining Rm/Church

### April 19, 2019

12 pm Good Friday Prayer Book Service @ Church  
7 pm good Friday Taizé Service @ Church

### April 20, 2019

7 pm The Great Vigil of Easter @ Church

### April 21, 2019

7:45 and 10: 15 am Easter Day Service @ Church

### April 27, 2019

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

### April 29, 2019

5 pm CCK Dinner @ Dining Rm

# JOURNEY WITH US TO EASTER AT ST. LUKE'S

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER • MARCH 5 • 6PM

ASH WEDNESDAY IMPOSITION OF ASHES AND HOLY EUCHARIST  
MARCH 6 • 12NOON & 7PM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONTEMPLATIVE EUCHARIST  
WEDNESDAYS • MARCH 13 - APRIL 10 • 6PM

A SERVICE OF SUNG EVENING PRAYER • MARCH 17 • 4PM

PALM SUNDAY HOLY EUCHARIST  
APRIL 14 • 7:45AM & 10:15AM

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY  
OF HOLY WEEK  
HOLY EUCHARIST  
APRIL 15-17 • 7PM

MAUNDY THURSDAY  
SEDER-LIKE MEAL,  
FOOT WASHING, &  
HOLY EUCHARIST  
APRIL 18 • 6PM

GOOD FRIDAY BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER SERVICE • APRIL 19 • 12NOON

GOOD FRIDAY TAIZÉ SERVICE • APRIL 19 • 7PM

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER • APRIL 20 • 7PM

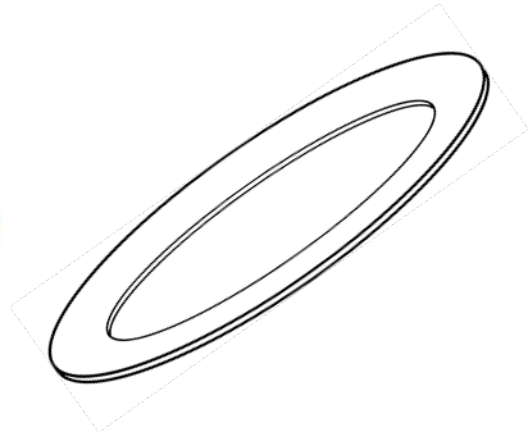
EASTER DAY • HOLY EUCHARIST  
WITH CHOIR, TRUMPET, AND TIMPANI  
APRIL 21 • 7:45AM & 10:15AM

99 PEIRCE ST.

401.884.4116

[WWW.STLUKESEG.ORG](http://WWW.STLUKESEG.ORG)

@STLUKESEG



**PLEASE RSVP FOR THOSE  
PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE  
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE/DINNER,  
April 18 @ 6 pm**

If you are attending the Maundy Thursday dinner, service and footwashing, please contact Christina in the office by either calling 884-4116 or by email - [cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org), by using sign-up genius, or by filling out the sign up form in the atrium at the bottom of the stairs.

It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you RSVP as soon as possible so our cooks know how much food to prepare.

**ALSO, Sign up for THE WATCH**  
in the atrium, by using sign-up genius, or email  
[cimondi@stlukeseg.org](mailto:cimondi@stlukeseg.org) with  
the time slot you would like to participate in  
between 9 pm and midnight.

A response to Christ's question in the Garden of Gethsemane:

***"...could you not stay awake with me one hour?"***

## New Lenten Offering: Wednesday Contemplative Eucharist

Every Wednesday beginning on March 13 and continuing until April 10 we will be offering a contemplative Eucharist at 6pm. We will gather in the Church for a simple celebration of the Eucharist with music. Unique to this service, we will be offering a space for reflection on a reading from a spiritual writer instead of a sermon. We hope these services will be a way for us to pause and reflect during this holy season of Lent.

**LENTEN OFFERINGS:** In addition to our Sunday Morning Adult Faith Formation program on the book of Genesis and our online learning community exploring *A Wondrous Love: Daily Lenten Meditations and Prayers* by Henri J.M. Nouwen and C.S. Lewis, you may wish to consider some of these additional resources helpful in your observance of a holy Lent.

Daily Devotionals:

*A Season for the Spirit* by Martin L. Smith

*Bread and Wine: Readings for Lent and Easter* with readings by multiple authors including: C.S. Lewis, G.K. Chesterton, and Thomas Merton.

*Living Lent* by Barbara Cawthorne Crafton

*Lent is Not Rocket Science: An Exploration of God, Creation, and the Cosmos* by Bishop Knisely

Books:

*Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* by Marjorie J. Thompson

*Passion for Pilgrimage* by Alan Jones

*Walking Home* by Margaret Guenther

*Meeting Jesus on the Margins: Meditations on Matthew 25* by Mike Kinman, Becca Stevens, and others



## Online Lenten Learning Community

This Lent the Adult Faith Formation team is offering a new opportunity to for the parish to engage in reflection together. Since the Sunday morning formation hour will continue exploring the book Talking about Genesis, we have created an online learning community to explore a book specific to Lent. Through using the program Slack, we have created a platform on which members of our community can post comments and questions and interact with one another outside of Sunday morning. For this program we will be using the book A Wondrous Love: Daily Lenten Meditations and Prayers by Henri J.M. Nouwen and C.S. Lewis. These books are free of charge to anyone who is interested. Please speak with Fr. Dante, Nancy Arnold, or Pam Gregory to sign up for this program, receive your copy of A Wondrous Love, to get an instruction sheet to explain how Slack works, or to ask questions about this program.

### Discernment: “Are You Listening To Your Life?”

**Lenten Quiet Days:  
8:30 am—3:00 pm  
Saturday, April 6th @ St. John’s, Barrington**

**\$5 Registration Fee To Help Off-Set Cost of Lunch & Materials  
Go To <https://quietdayeastgreenwich,eventbrite.com> or <https://quietdaybarrington.eventbrite.com> (even if you signed up at “The Diocesan Way of Love” Day @ St. Mary’s or at St. Luke’s Sign Up Sheet**

Led by The Revs. Pam Gregory & Jennifer West, who were both trained by Suzanne Farnham in the “Listening Hearts” method of discernment. This first discernment opportunity will be a process of creating your own spiritual autobiography, time to silently & prayerfully reflect on your life as far back as you can remember.

- \*When did you first recognize God’s presence?
- \*Trace turning points in your life, recognize holy fingerprints there.
- \*Who had a hand in forming you?

Registration will begin at 8:30am. Coffee & pastries will be available in the morning. Lunch will be provided. Materials will be provided - but if you happen to have a favorite journal or pen or whatever, please feel free to bring it.

We will provide you with two print-outs:

- 1.) An article by Parker Palmer, "Are You Listening to Your Life?"
- 2.) Spiritual Autobiography (*adapted from several EFM Common Lessons*)

# Lenten Request for Donations

## House of Hope CDC | Helping the homeless

The House of Hope is in Warwick RI, and their mission is to prevent and end the personal trauma of homelessness in RI. They offer life changing service, to serve individuals & support change from living on the streets to permanent housing. They work to rebuild trust through engagement in services that will enable re-entry into permanent housing. A new program in this effort toward stability, is called **Shower to Empower**. This is a mobile shower truck, that goes to different neighborhoods and offers complimentary showers, haircuts, clean socks and underwear. They have served 1,100 showers to people since last spring, but its more than a hot shower – it's a time out of the cold, to talk with someone who listens, who offers the care and comfort of clean clothes.

“One of the biggest things in homeless outreach is engagement,” said Sabrina Rivera, who has been an outreach worker for House of Hope the past three years. Rivera was homeless in 2002, just after she'd given birth. “It takes time to develop trust with people who have been homeless for a significant amount of time. I didn't realize that there were so many people who had lost faith that anybody could help them. The resistance was real.”

The key to this 20-foot-long mobile unit, with 2 private showers, a screening room and a barbers chair is that it attracts people from the street; people return and trust the providers for medical and personal care. There are more than 4000 people that are homeless annually in Rhode Island. The need is great, we are offering 3 ways to collect goods for this program, open bottles of shampoo, are ok.

**Website:** <https://thehouseofhopecdc.org>

**Power of HOPE Projects** – *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”*

### Sharing food to nurture

Gift cards for Dunkin Donuts, McDonald's, Subway, Walmart, Target (to help clients meet immediate food needs)

Food: Granola Bars/Fruit Bars, Microwavable Soups, Cereal, Peanut butter & Jelly, Crackers

### Shower to Empower

Toiletries (Razors, Shaving cream, Shampoo, Lotion, Combs, Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Feminine hygiene items (pads, tampons))

First Aid Supplies (Antibiotic ointment, Alcohol swabs, Peroxide, Gauze, Band-Aids, Foot Powder)

Laundry pod soap detergent

### Clothing to provide comfort

NEW Bedding: Blankets, Pillows, Air Mattresses

NEW Socks (white)

NEW Boxers or Briefs (M, L, XL)

**THANK YOU>>>** *'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*



## Loaves & Fishes RI

### **2 Volunteer opportunities on St. Luke's Team**

Dear Friends:

We want to thank the many parishioners and friends that continue to offer their contributions in so many ways to Loaves & Fishes. This ministry could not do the outreach to those we serve in Woonsocket without your support, from contributing food, clothing and toiletries to helping us prep and taking part in the run each month. We are very grateful to all of you. And we have an open invitation to anyone who has not yet taken part in this ministry to try it on!

At this time, we find we need assistance in two areas: people to drive the truck and someone to take over our monthly electronic communication tool called Sign-up Genius.

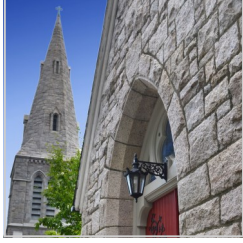
**Drivers** must be at least 25 years of age, hold a valid driver's license [no special one needed], and be comfortable driving a "catering" style truck. Must be willing to commit to driving once a quarter each year on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month and be willing to dedicate approximately 6-7 hours on that day [8:30am-3pm]. You need have no previous experience with Loaves & Fishes, and we will train you on the specifics of the truck. If you have an interest in assisting us in this role, please contact Liz Crawley at [lcrawley53@gmail.com](mailto:lcrawley53@gmail.com).

We are also seeking someone to take over our monthly electronic communication tool, **Sign-up Genius** <https://www.signupgenius.com/>. We use this tool to sign-up both people participating and items needed for each month's run. It is pretty much a well-oiled machine but it is time to hand off the reins to someone else. The time commitment is very limited. If you have an interest in helping in this area and in seeking more information, please contact Elizabeth McNamara for the details at [emac6660@gmail.com](mailto:emac6660@gmail.com).

## Cookies For St. Luke's College Students

At St. Luke's we are blessed to have many of our young people working hard at college. Final exams are always a busy and stressful time for them. We would like to extend our best wishes to them with a sweet gift of cookies! Your help with this is needed. If you have a student in college, let us know so they can be included. Dottie Fleming is the contact person. Please email your student's name and college address to Dottie at [mssadsam@hotmail.com](mailto:mssadsam@hotmail.com) no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> so they may be included. Please include your name in the email.

Sponsored by the Pastoral Care Ministry and Vestry



St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
99 Peirce Street  
East Greenwich, RI 02818

St. Luke's Episcopal Church  
April 2019  
Newsletter