

St. Luke's

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



MONTHLY

From Father Tim

Recently, it has seemed like death is everywhere. I know that might sound a bit obvious since, in fact, it actually is everywhere, but what I mean is that recently, I have found myself talking about death all the time.

Whether it is in responding to the news of someone's unexpected death, in "celebrating" someone's long-anticipated passing, or simply in reflecting upon the meaning of Jesus' death, this past month or so, I have found death a frequent topic of conversation.

So I suppose I shouldn't have been surprised that, while in VA to "celebrate" my own father's life, I picked up *The Washington Post* and discovered a feature article... on death—or more precisely, on planning for a good death. Sometimes it feels like God just wants me to sit down and give something a long, deep look.

Now I know it might seem a bit odd to write about death—especially with the glory days of summer upon us—and I know some might find the subject nothing but morbid, but it occurs to me that the best time to discuss the matter is when you have the luxury of time and the benefit of good health.

I can't tell you how many times people have commented to me in the dizzying moments of an emergency or the exhausting throws of fresh grief, "I wish we had talked about all this before." Conversely, it's hard to describe fully the immense relief I hear in people's voices on the occasions there has been some prior conversation.

The reality is, dealing with death is made harder when we avoid dealing with it until the bitter end. But if we are willing to wade into these waters without the undertow of crisis, then our questions feel less daunting and our conversations feel less unsettling.

For example: What are the elements of life that capture an essential "quality of life?" What are the pieces of dying that define "death with dignity?" How might you stay mindful of God's presence through it all? And finally, what are the features of a memorial service that both best honors you and cares for your loved ones?

Any one of these questions might require a turn or two. And each of these discussions might best be had in a favorite setting (a cold beverage of choice might be good too!). But do talk about it all. (And know that I will be happy to talk with you about it, as well.)

My guess is that if you do, you will come away feeling lighter, feeling more peaceful, even feeling closer to God. And isn't that what we always hope to feel by summer's end?

Summer blessings,

Jim

Anecdotes From The Assistant: A Word From Father Dante

Over the last couple of weeks, my social media newsfeeds have been filling up with friends sharing summer reading lists. Some of these lists are what their children brought home from school, some are lists from my various alma maters, and some are from friends who are still in school. I'll admit my book wish list has gotten decently longer after browsing all of these lists. Growing up, I absolutely loved getting a summer reading list (really, are you surprised by that?). One of the things I miss about being in school is no longer getting a summer reading list – no longer have a list of books to pour over during the summer months that cover a variety of themes and topics. So I got to thinking – always a dangerous thing – I could create my own summer reading list!

Over the course of a couple of weeks, I browsed my bookshelves and scanned my wish lists to come up with 12 books to make up my summer reading list. These books span a variety of subjects and a few different genres. I've got theology books, history books, books on racial politics, and of course a few things thrown in there just for fun. I sought to find books that would be professionally enriching, personally enriching, spiritually enriching, and some to just get lost in. A couple of the books are ones that I want to revisit and others have been waiting to be read. So here's my 2019 Summer Reading list:

The Dream of God: A Call to Return by Verna J. Dozier

The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone

Five Biblical Portraits: Saul, Jonah, Jeremiah, Elijah, Joshua by Elie Wiesel

Life in Christ: Practicing Christian Spirituality by Julia Gatta

Inwardly Digest: The Prayer Book as Guide to a Spiritual Life by Derek Olson

A Well-Read Woman: The Life, Loves, and Legacy of Ruth Rappaport by Kate Stewart

Dreams of Africa in Alabama: The Slave Ship Clotilda and the Story of the Last Africans Brought to America by Sylviane A. Diouf

Provence, 1970: M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, James Beard, and the Reinvention of American Taste by Luke Barr

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

Learning to Speak God from Scratch: Why Sacred Words Are Vanishing – and How We Can Revive Them by Jonathan Merritt

The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism by Jemar Tisby

Six Thousand Years of Bread: Its Holy and Unholy History by H.E. Jacob

Bonus: *Believe Me: A Memoir of Love, Death, and Jazz Chickens* by Eddie Izzard. (I've been reading this for a while and am finally hoping to finish it).

So there's my list. I do not know that I'll get to everything on it, as I'm sure other things will get thrown in the mix as well. I wonder what are you planning on reading this

summer? If you were to create a reading list for yourself that balanced profession, personal, and spiritual enrichment plus plenty of fun thrown in, what would you read?

As we transition into the slower pace of the summer months, I hope you find time to go off to a favorite spot and crack open a good book. If you come across something good, let me know. I'm always happy to add a few things to my reading list.

Happy Summer Reading,
Dante

Report from Joint Meeting of St. Luke's Finance Committee and Vestry Meeting

Michael Grady, Senior Warden
Pam Dresselhouse, Finance Committee Chair

On June 11, St. Luke's vestry and finance committee met jointly to review parish finances at the five-month mark of our fiscal year. We also received updates on property improvements and discussed supplemental fundraising strategies to meet parish operating and capital priorities. Last December we had our first joint meeting and now plan to meet twice each year: in December to discuss the budget for the upcoming fiscal year and again in June to review actual income and expenditures and make midcourse adjustments as needed.

The finance committee plays a critical role in parish life. The committee advises the vestry on all matters related to St. Luke's annual budget and finances. Each fall the committee recommends an operating budget for the vestry's review and approval then reviews actual income and expenditures throughout the year. We are fortunate that the following parishioners with expertise in business, finance, accounting and law agreed to serve on the finance committee in 2019: Pam Dresselhouse (chair), Jane Eaton, Jeremy Stowe, Stacey Nakasian, Steve McLaughlin, and Michael Sullivan (treasurer). The rector and/or wardens represent the vestry at most finance committee meetings.

Another key duty of the finance committee is to oversee St. Luke's annual audit. Audits are required by the Canons of the Episcopal Church and the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island for all parishes, missions, and other institutions. Annual audits a) assure that financial statements are fairly stated and that income subject to apportionment is fully and fairly reported; b) confirm that church assets are protected from mishandling and to detect fraud or significant errors if they have occurred; and c) reinforce good stewardship and accountability

for the Church's money and property at the parish level. The scope of the annual audit requires that all accounts are audited. No church money is exempt from the requirement of an audit.

For the past two years John Rannenberg, Jane Eaton and Caroline Arkin, three parishioners with financial, accounting and auditing expertise have served on the audit committee. St. Luke's is deeply indebted to the efforts of the audit committee whose recommendations serve to strengthen both the financial systems and business practices of parish staff, clergy and ministry leaders.

Our meeting on June 11 covered a range of issues related to the 2019 budget and parish finances. Meeting highlights included:

Property Update: Representing the property committee, Dave Savage reported on the status of various property repair and improvement projects. Projects completed as of mid-June included the installation of the new AC system, repair and painting of the sacristy anteroom, the start of exterior painting, and a repair of the roof from previous storm damage.

Midyear Budget Adjustments: The treasurer reported that as of May 30, parish expenses continue to trend below budget, much to the credit of responsible resource management by clergy, staff and lay leadership. However, because of lower than budgeted income the vestry and finance committee agree it is prudent to defer completion of two remaining property improvement projects – sealcoating of the parking lot and the final phase of roof repair, until later in the year and possibly until 2020. Roofing contractors have advised us there's minimal risk to postponing the final phase of the roof project until next year.

Kitchen Planning: Junior Warden Gary Schweizer, chair of the new kitchen design committee, reported on the early work of the committee consisting of four parishioners who lead various aspects of our feeding ministries: Steve and Lois McLaughlin, Paul Brookes, Ali Poirier. The committee is currently engaged in the visioning phase of its planning effort to determine how kitchen renovations can expand the reach of St. Luke's feeding ministries. In the next phase of work the committee will consult with leaders of other churches that have undertaken kitchen renovation projects.

Developing New Funding Sources: A new fundraising committee (Fr. Tim, Bill Warburton, Jeremy Stowe and Jon Jacaruso) has come together to brainstorm strategies for fundraising above and beyond pledge and loose plate income. While the majority of the fundraising effort will support the kitchen project, the committee is also looking into strategies for developing new income streams for balancing our operating budget without supplemental support from the parish endowment.

If you're interested in additional information on parish finances or business practices, feel free to contact either of us or members of the vestry or finance committee.

From The Treasurer

Treasurer's Note:

	May 2019	Budget	Variance
Pledge Income	\$212,542	\$242,000	(\$29,458)
Loose Plate	\$18,417	\$14,500	\$3,917
Total Income	\$290,084	\$321,087	(\$31,003)

Our 2019 pledge total has grown to 210 pledges for a total of \$471,311! And it's not too late to make one if you're still considering!

To date, our income is below budget. If you're a little behind on your pledge, now might be a good time to catch up before the hectic summer months are here.

Thanks, Mike

The Choirs Of St. Luke's

SAVE THE DATE . . .



A Celebration of the life of Priscilla Adams Rigg

March 22, 1929 – April 24, 2019
Minister of Music, St. Luke's Church, 1964 -
2015

Sunday, July 21
5 PM

St. Luke's Church

A reception will follow the service.

Summer Music at St. Luke's

While the full choirs are on break until after Labor Day, many musicians will still be busy making music at St. Luke's over the summer months. Depending on the Sunday, we'll enjoy the occasional pick-up choir, several wonderful vocal soloists, and the amazing Three Amigos. I'll be at the organ/piano most Sundays, but when I'm away everyone can look forward to the superb musicianship of Michael Ryan or Jay MacCubbin. Joyful music will resound over the summer!



Several of our youth choristers are continuing to rehearse as they prepare for week-long, highly demanding music courses sponsored by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). By the time you are reading this, Catherine and Laurel Ann Pilkington will have attended the Pacific Northwest Course, June 24 - 30, held in Seattle, Washington. Then later in the summer ten of us - Palmer Berry, Sebastian Borgia, Tori Cormier, Lily Messier, Catherine Pilkington, Laurel Ann Pilkington, Ryan Scarber, Shawn Scarber, Ethan Utterback, and I - will be attending the RSCM Rhode Island Course held in Newport, July 22 - 28. For more information about the course, check out the course website rscmnewport.org or check the course's Facebook page.

During the Rhode Island Course at Newport, there are three major services during the week full that are open to the public. Please come out and support our amazing choristers and enjoy some great music!

RSCM Newport, RI Course Services

Evensong	Thursday, July 25 at 5:30pm Trinity Episcopal Church, 1 Queen Anne Square, Newport
Evensong	Friday, July 26 at 5:30pm Chapel at St. George's School, 272 Purgatory Rd, Middletown
Holy Eucharist	Sunday, July 28 at 10am Grace Church, 300 Westminster St, Providence

Here's to a wonderful summer at St. Luke's. Let's all continue to make a "joyful noise" as we offer our musical prayers and praises together.

Faithfully,
Rodney

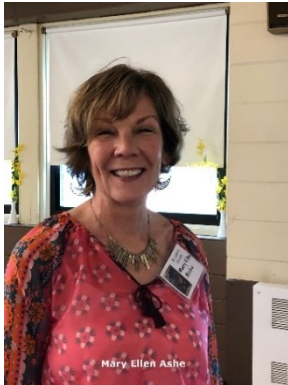
Welcome Committee

Newcomer/Visitor Brunch!

Over 35 newcomers, visitors, clergy and program leaders turned out for our Spring Welcome Brunch! Casseroles, quiches, fruit/parfaits, salads and baked goods were in abundance as introductions, stories and conversation expressed a shared gratitude for the community we all enjoy at St. Luke's. Many thanks to the Newcomer Team and volunteers who prepared the tasty dishes and made the dining room especially lovely: Sarah Muoio, Sharon Pickering, Nora Hall, Bill and Patricia Warburton, Laura Sullivan and Ali Poirier. Thanks to the generosity of Beth Vollucci, each newcomer family left with a Welcome to St. Luke's gift bag filled with notecards, magnet, Westerhoff and Pearson's *A People Called Episcopalians*, and a copy of the latest *Hill & Harbor Living* magazine featuring an article on programs hosted at St. Luke's. Please continue to extend your warmest of welcomes to our newcomers and visitors and share in extending the community of Christ to all who come through our doors!



Andre Cabana



Mary Ellen Ashe



Stephanie & Gabriela Bocock



Ginny & Bud Ekno



Rodney & Shirley LaBrecque



Thomas & Jeanette Hogan



Helen Becker



Corinne, Lena & Laah Mang

Property Committee

Property Breakfast

Our Property Breakfasts coming up will be on July 18 and August 15 at 8:00 a.m. Our summer menu will be a cool summer buffet.

If you see a need for repair or have a suggestion, please communicate with us by:

- 1) Placing a note in the Property mailbox in the office
- 2) Catching someone after the service on Sunday
- 3) Email one of us at: Doug - djmaceg@verizon.net
Bob - rwbrockway@verizon.net
Cindi - benem@cox.net

Please join us as all are welcome no matter your level of experience. Join us when you can for however long you are able. We meet the third Thursday of each month from 8:00 a.m.- Noon. We begin with breakfast and fellowship and move into tasks after cleanup. We work on indoor as well as out of doors tasks that need to be done to keep our building and grounds a safe, warm and welcoming place.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Twilighters

In support of Property Breakfast, the Twilighters meet the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning at 5:00 pm. All are welcome at any time, we will be here from 5-7:30pm and welcome whatever time you have to offer. Our upcoming meetings will be July 2, July 16, August 6 and August 20.

Generally we work outside (weather permitting) until after 6 when we adjourn to the Blackburn room for a light meal of soup and salad. Following that, we work inside attending cleaning and other tasks, although with a later sunset we can continue to work outside.

All are welcome as many hands make light work. If you have any questions about the Twilighters please email me at benem@cox.net.

Cindi Lovejoy

Do you enjoy gardening/pruning/edging/mulching?

St. Luke's Memorial Garden and grounds have been maintained over the years by many, many hands. Those hands have either moved away or are no longer able to do that kind of work. If you enjoy gardening and pruning, caring for your flower beds, we could use your help. Even if you only have an hour here and there to help out. It can be done at your leisure. There isn't an assigned time or day. Just email Jack Newton at jcn10954@verizon.net or Ellen Abell at ellenabell6@gmail.com or you can call the office at 884-4116, and let us know you are interested. We will have a list of things that need to be done and you can choose what you would like to work on.

Thank you!

JULY/AUGUST SAVE THE DATES

July 2, 2019

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Blackburn Rm

July 9, 2019

7 pm Vestry Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

July 10, 2019

1 pm Pastoral Care Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

July 16, 2019

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Blackburn Rm

July 18, 2019

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Rm
5 pm Main Street Stroll - Music On Main

July 21, 2019

10:15 am Holy Eucharist - Goddard Park Picnic
5 pm Celebration of Life for Priscilla Rigg @ Church

July 27, 2019

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

August 6, 2019

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Dining Rm

August 13, 2019

7 pm Vestry Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

August 14, 2019

1 pm Pastoral Care Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

August 15, 2019

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Rm

August 20, 2019

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Blackburn Rm

August 24, 2019

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, July 21st

Goddard Park Carousel

**10:15 ~ Worship Service
ONLY 10:15**



Followed by a Church BBQ and Picnic

Please save the date and join us for a wonderful day!

Our 7:45 service will be held as usual.

St. Luke's provides the hamburgers & hot dogs. Please bring a side dish or dessert. Look for a sign up sheet in the atrium, sign up through Sign-Up Genius, call the church at 884-4116 or RSVP to Christina at cimondi@stlukeseq.org.

2019 Main Street Strolls



Dogs on Main Stroll
Thursday, May 30—5 pm



Arts on Main Stroll
Thursday, June 27—5 pm



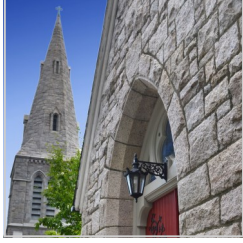
Music on Main Stroll
Thursday, July 18—5 pm



Taste of EG Stroll
Thursday, August 22—5pm

**Join St. Luke's during each Stroll
at Walsh & Associates - 294 Main Street**

**JOIN US AT OUR
TENT
IN FRONT OF
WALSH BROTHERS!**



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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
July & August 2019
Newsletter