

St. Luke's

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



MONTHLY

From Father Tim

One of the things I have come to realize after years of prayer and discernment is this: the times and places where I find myself resistant to an idea, often that's exactly where God is calling me to go. This has happened on various occasions when I have resisted reaching out to a person with whom I might have been struggling. This has happened in more than one instance when I have tried to turn away from a particular direction or ministry to which God was calling me. This has happened more often than I care to admit when I find myself reluctant to preach one thing or another.

In almost all of these times, when I push through my resistance, I find discover God waiting for me, ready to bless me beyond my wildest imaginings.

So it was with this thought in mind that I agreed at a recent adult faith formation meeting to spend four weeks discussing the theology of atonement. "Atonement?!" the naysayer in my head shouted. "That's so dreary! You don't want to do that. No one will want to do that. Why would we talk about Jesus' death on the cross some seven weeks after celebrating Easter?"

That was my initial reaction.

But then I heard someone ask, "Did Jesus have to die on the cross?" And I listened as others discussed the notion of sin—original or otherwise. And, most importantly, I took note of my own resistance to the suggestion. All of which moved me to say, "Sure, let's talk about atonement for four weeks."

Recently I read a meditation by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar and American author. (If you're not familiar with his writings, I encourage you to Google him.) About atonement Rohr wrote, "I take up this subject with both excitement and trepidation because I know that "substitutionary atonement" is central to many Christians' faith.

But the questions of why Jesus died and what is the meaning and message of his death have dominated the Christian narrative, often more than his life and teaching. . . . In my opinion this interpretation (of substitutionary atonement) has kept us from a deep and truly transformative understanding of both Jesus and Christ.”

I read this quote and found my excitement for the class piqued. I long have felt like all this atonement business has tended to focus more on the depravity of humanity rather than the grace of divinity. But here, in Rohr’s words, was the suggestion of an alternative framing.

Moved me to read more, I came upon Rohr’s concluding thought: *“I believe that Jesus’ death on the cross is a revelation of the infinite and participatory love of God, not some bloody payment required by God’s offended justice to rectify the problem of sin.”* And there, in that moment, in that sentence, was God, waiting for me to work through my resistance, offering me a reminder of the amazing love God holds for us all.

“Sin,” “Jesus’ death on the cross,” “Easter,” and “atonement”—these are heavy words with great significance not just to the Christian faith but also to our faith journeys. They speak to who we are at our worst and who we can be at our best. They reveal who Jesus was (and is). And they promise how God operates throughout eternity, doing whatever it takes to be at-one with us all. These things, I do believe, are worth discussing.

Classes on the theology of atonement will run June 2, 16, 23, and 30 during the adult faith formation hour (9:00AM). Dante will serve as our presenter, and I hope you will join me in what promises to be a series of rich conversations.

Peace,

Jim

Anecdotes From The Assistant: A Word From Father Dante

At long last, summer is here (or about to be here if we're getting technical). No matter the specifics of the seasonal transitions, one thing is clear: the academic year is coming to an end. As I travel around Providence it seems there is a constant hum of Pomp & Circumstance in the air as college and university graduation season is winding down, and high school graduation season is warming up. Here at St. Luke's we can feel this change too. A couple of weeks ago the music program put on an absolutely fantastic Spring Concert, and, by the time this issue of the St. Luke's Monthly hits your inbox, our Sunday morning youth faith formation classes will have come to an end. So indeed it seems we have entered into a transitory phase in our life together – the transition from the program year to summertime. As with all moments of transition, this provides us with the opportunity to look back and give thanks for what has been and to look forward and dream about what is to come.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to thank the Youth Faith Formation leaders for their dedication to their ministry. I am very privileged to work with the leaders of our older youth faith formation classes. For the last two years **Ali Poirier** and **Tom Sprague** have been faithfully leading our 9th-11th grade class. They have been a fantastic team working together to walk with these young people through their Sunday morning formation time, the DR mission trip, and confirmation preparation. This year our 6th-8th grade class got a new teaching team with the dynamic duo of **Michael Grady** and **Stacey Nakasian**. Mike and Stacey jumped in this year with both feet (and hands, and hearts, and minds, and everything else). They've helped encourage these young people to explore various aspects of their faith, have fostered an environment that transformed Room 9 into sacred space, and led these young people on a service trip up to Central Falls to work at the San Jorge (Saint George's) Soup Kitchen. In addition, Stacey also joined many of these young people (and myself) at our Middle School youth group events. Our youth faith formation ministry is better because of these people. They have been faithful in building on the foundation laid by all those who have come before.

There is much to give thanks for in our Youth Faith Formation program, and there is much to dream about in looking ahead. Over the course of the summer break I'll be working with these teachers to dive deeper into the curriculum we have been using. It is time for us to explore what is working well and what we could be doing differently. With the knowledge and experience of our dedicated teachers, I hope to use the summer to plan for next year so we can ensure this program continues to grow. Stay tuned for more information about the discernment that is happening around our Youth Faith Formation offerings.

As I begin to dream about what next year will hold for our youth faith formation program I am filled with excitement, hope, and profound gratitude. We are indeed blessed by the wonderful things God is doing in our youth faith formation program here at St. Luke's. From the Sunday morning classes, to the RSCM program, to the DR trip, to the Middle School Youth Group, to their participation in the out reach programs, to their liturgical leadership, to everything else that they take part in here at St. Luke's there is much to be thankful for and much to celebrate. I do not know about you, but I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us next.

Summer blessings,
Dante

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.

Vestry Corner

Dear St. Luke's Family,

As you may recall, Father Tim announced at our annual meeting that we would be looking into capital improvements to the kitchen this year. The Vestry gave top priority to kitchen improvements out of a list of several projects that need attention throughout our campus. Not only will kitchen improvements support our ongoing feeding ministries (Christ's Community Kitchen, Lunch on the Hill, Loaves and Fishes of Rhode Island), they will strengthen touchstones of our shared parish life (Maundy Thursday Dinners, Harvest Suppers, Newcomer Brunches, Coffee Hour and more).

I am happy to report that we have formed a Kitchen Improvements Committee to advance this mission. We are Ali Poirer, Paul Brookes, Lois McLoughlin, Steve McLoughlin and me. Father Tim has asked that I chair the group. In the coming months we will be exploring how we can transform our kitchen to realize its highest and best use. We will be looking at what works well now and what doesn't. We will identify the needs of the current users of the kitchen. And we will consider what new opportunities and synergies might be realized by having an improved facility. This is a time to think about fresh possibilities that build our mission and strengthen our church life. We will take these data points into consideration and come up with a plan that balances program needs, church mission, physical and code restraints, and of course, budget limitations.

Every capital improvement project requires capital improvement funding, and this will be no exception. A separate capital campaign committee is being formed to advance the fundraising effort. You will be hearing more about this as plans begin to take shape.

Some of you may ask, why are we embarking on a costly new initiative when we struggle each year just to keep up with regular operating and maintenance expenses? To that I would say, how can we not try? Especially for something that underpins so much of the outreach and community life that makes us who we are here at St. Luke's? If we are not stretching to grow and improve, we are not leaving room for the Holy Spirit to work in the life of our church. One of my favorite architects and city planner, Daniel Burnham, famously said "Make no little plans; they have no magic to stir men's blood." I hope that the prospect of a new and improved kitchen that better serves the work and life of St. Luke's stirs something in you, and that you join us in this endeavor with your support and enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

Gary Schweizer
Junior Warden

St. Luke's Youth Group

It might be summer, but that doesn't mean the fun stops for the Middle School Youth Group! All young people who are going into grades 6th-8th are invited to join Fr. Dante on a trip to United Skates of America. We'll meet here at St. Luke's on Friday June 21 at 11am and car pool up to United Skates of America together. There we will play games, rollerblade/rollerskate, play laser tag, and have lunch – after all know rollerblading/gaming/laser-tagging adventure would be complete without pizza. We will plan to be back to St. Luke's around 3pm.

Plans are also in the works for a youth faith formation cookout later this summer. This event would be open to all young people going into 6th-12th grade. Stay tuned for more information in the Weekly and next issue of the St. Luke's Monthly for more information about this and other summer plans for the youth faith formation program.

For more information about our Youth Group activities please contact Fr. Dante

Property Committee

Property Breakfast

We had a delightful breakfast and visit with Fr. Tim last month welcoming Doug and Bob to leadership of our group. We also welcomed Donna and Nikki to our Thursday Property Breakfast. Yeah, more ladies!

We helped put up the canopy for the Memorial Garden, defrosted refrigerator, readied air conditioners and other wonderful tasks to ready our facility for summer.

Our Property Breakfast this month is on June 20 at 8:00 a.m. This month's menu is corned beef hash, egg casserole, pancakes, fruit.

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

Repairs and suggestions are discussed and discerned for financial availability, safety concerns, and priority of time. Please remember that we are a group of volunteers who meet once a month.

If you wish to join us, 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 meetings for this month are June 4th and 18th.

In May we planted caladiums along the fence at the entrance to our parking lot.

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.

This spring we will also be looking for a small group of people who are available in the early afternoon who are willing to do "touch-up" painting.

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

JUNE SAVE THE DATES

June 1, 2019

11:30 am Teacher's Luncheon

June 2 2019

11:15 am Newcomer Brunch Reception

June 3, 2019

5 pm CCK Dinner @ Dining Rm

June 4, 2019

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Blackburn Rm

June 5, 2019

7 pm Women of Grace Meeting

June 7, 2019

Vestry Retreat @ ECC

June 8, 2019

Vestry Retreat @ ECC

June 11, 2019

7 pm Vestry Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

June 12, 2019

1 pm Pastoral Care Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

June 14, 2019

5 pm Choir End of Year Dinner @ Dining Rm

June 18, 2019

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Blackburn Rm

June 20, 2019

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Rm

June 22, 2019

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

June 27, 2019

5 pm Main Street Stroll—Music on Main

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, July 21st

Goddard Park Carousel

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

Followed by a Church BBQ and Picnic
Games, Arts & Crafts, and Music for children.

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

**The 7:45 service will be held at
St. Luke's as usual.**



Women of Grace Year-End Potluck June 5

It's been a terrific year for Women of Grace, with strong attendance and participation. Thanks to all those who have hosted over the year and for our leaders - we are so grateful to you!

We are holding our final Women of Grace before our two-month summer break at Pam Kelly's, 30 Sparrow Drive. Instead of a formal program, this is a social event. We will be taking topic suggestions and recruiting hosts and program leaders for next year so give a little thought to that if you can.

Here's a link to the signup for the potluck. Please don't feel like you HAVE to bring something. If the past is any guide, we always have enough food!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C44AEAC2EA13-women2>

If you have any questions or trouble with the signup, contact Elizabeth (emac6660@gmail.com).

Hope to see you June 5!

Share Your Many Gifts!

The Pastoral Care Ministry has been asked to host funeral receptions (collations) when requested. We would like to establish a list of volunteers to help with this important ministry.

If you are interested, please contact Jane Brockway – janebrockway@verizon.net or Ellen Abell – ellenabell6@gmail.com

***PENTECOST
SERVICE!
Wear Red!***



JOIN US AT OUR TENT IN FRONT OF WALSH BROTHERS!

2019 *Main Street Strolls*



Dogs on Main Stroll

Thursday, May 30—5 pm



Music on Main Stroll

Thursday, June 27—5 pm



Arts on Main Stroll

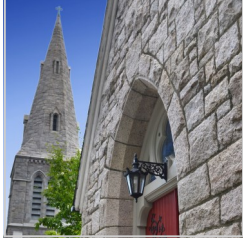
Thursday, July 18—5 pm



Taste of EG Stroll

Thursday, August 22—5pm

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



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

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
June 2019
Newsletter