

St. Luke's

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



MONTHLY

From Father Tim

Ok, so I just gotta say, "It doesn't get much better than that!" I think besides "Alleluiah!" the one sentiment I heard (and shared) most often Easter Sunday after our final Easter service was, "Wow!"

As in, "Wow, the music was fantastic!!" And, "Wow, the church looked beautiful!" And, "Wow, the pews were packed!" And "Wow, the Easter Vigil was so lovely!" And "Wow, the Taize service was so moving!" And, "Wow, the traditional noon Good Friday service was so provocative!" And, "Wow, the Maundy Thursday service was so powerful." And, "Wow, the weeknight Eucharists were so special!"

Really, the entire Holy Week was one extended "Wow!" And it left Steve McLoughlin (whom I saw each day of Holy Week) and I to reflect, not every church is so fortunate as to experience such an amazing series of services.

I know, as both a person of faith and a priest, I feel so very blessed to share Holy Week with you. Of course, the surprise of Easter and the stories leading up to that celebration are a gift no matter where celebrated. But to be able to celebrate it all at St. Luke's—well, it just doesn't get much better than that!

For me, besides the stories themselves, I think the most amazing—dare I say even "miraculous"-- thing about Holy Week at St. Luke's is the number of people and the abundance of talent that make it all possible.

The altar guild, headed by Lisa Johnson and Liz Fox and staffed by so many dedicated women, come out day after day to set up and clean up, and set up all over again. As I already mentioned, Steve McLoughlin was on site each night, and made sure we had ample ushers not only to work the lights but also to care for the swelling crowds. The choir members, who were at St. Luke's more than home, gave me goose bumps on more than one occasion. I marvel at their efforts—especially when I think about the range of musical pieces, themes, and emotions that make up Holy Week. I marvel too at the efforts of Charlie and Julie Cronin, who somehow get the teenagers to acolyte during the odd evening hours. (Kudos to those teens for sacrificing homework time and showing up!) 1

And then, there were the specific nights and services, each with its own particular demands. Arlene Serdakowski, Fran Gammell-Roach, and Paul Brookes captained the three teams (each populated with countless volunteers) that make Maundy Thursday so special. And really, the work for that begins long before Holy Week, as Lois McLoughlin drafts list after list and then tirelessly makes sure all is taken care of.

The three weeknight Eucharists are lovely and intimate but what I appreciate most about them is the lay preaching and the deep faith (and courage) each preacher demonstrates. Betsy Fornal and Anna Pilkington were simply amazing.

Speaking of Anna and amazing, the prosecco reception she hosts after the Vigil, complete with chocolate dipped strawberries, is sure to bring a “Wow!” to just about anyone’s lips.

Finally, how do I find the words to convey my immense appreciation and respect for the dedication and talents of our staff? Rodney is that rare musician who is as fabulous directing a choir as he is playing the organ. Dante’s chanting at the Easter Vigil not only reminded us of his many gifts but also made that night even more stirring. Christine’s orchestration of the Passion reading on Palm Sunday was no less difficult than herding cats. Christina’s tremendous organizational skills and tireless work equipped us all for each and every service. And Tim’s efforts in cleaning the church and moving furniture were nothing short of Herculean. When I consider how fortunate I am to work with this collection of extraordinary individuals, I think both “Wow!” and “Thank God!”

Truth be told, it doesn’t take Holy Week for me to be mindful of how blessed I am to share church with you all. You laugh easily. You weep openly. You question thoughtfully. You pray fervently. You gather faithfully. You make it a joy to sing, “Alleluia!”

And you move me time and time again to say, “Wow!”

Easter blessings!

Tim

Anecdotes From The Assistant: A Word From Father Dante

The Bishop is coming . . . The Bishop is coming . . .

On May 5th Bishop Nicholas Knisely will make his annual visitation to St. Luke's, and that means one thing. Well actually it means a lot of things. As I have heard Bishop Knisely say and as he has written:

My understanding of Episcopal visitation is threefold: to give the parish an opportunity to share with me first hand news of their ministry and for me in turn to help them learn about the work of the Diocese; to have time for Christian fellowship with one another; to preach and celebrate the sacraments as the representative of the larger church. I take as my model Acts 16:36 in which Paul says to Barnabas, "Let us go down to those places in which we have preached the Word and visit them with encouragement."

While it is always a joy to have the Bishop with us, this year there is particular excitement around his visitation for one specific reason – his Sacramental ministry amongst us. In addition to celebrating the Eucharist at both liturgies, Bishop Knisely will confirm 17 individuals from our community and he will receive into the Anglican Communion 3 individuals.

The Catechism of the Episcopal Church, which begins on page 844 of *The Book of Common Prayer*, defines confirmation in the following way, "Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (p.860). This is one way for members of our community to take the next step on their spiritual journeys.

We are very excited that 14 teenagers from St. Luke's will be confirmed. Over the last two years these young people have participated in our confirmation program. For two years these young people, and a few others who have decided they are not yet ready to be confirmed, have met with Fr. Tim and I during the spring semester as we have made our way through the Confirm Not Conform curriculum. We have explored Holy Scripture, our Anglican/Episcopal heritage and tradition, contemporary issues, and so much more. In addition to these evening classes, these young people have participated in Sunday morning faith formation, went on their DR Mission Trip, and have become more active in their ministries here at St. Luke's.

In addition to these teenagers, over the last several weeks I have been meeting with several adult members of our congregation as they prepare for confirmation and reception. Together we have read John H. Westerhoff and Sharon Ely Pearson's book *A People Called*

Episcopalians: A Brief Introduction to Our Way of Life. Together we have explored how they arrived at St. Luke's and what inspired them to take this step in their journey of faith. On May 5, we will have the joy of witnessing 3 adults taking on this affirmation and commitment of their faith.

You might be wondering what this reception thing is that I have mentioned, and no I'm not talking about the party we will have after church (though don't worry we will have one of those too). In the Episcopal Church we do not re-confirm someone who has already been confirmed. So instead the Bishop will receive them into this communion (the Anglican Communion). For the adults to be received, this is their opportunity to formally commit to our Episcopal /Anglican way of life.

This is an incredibly exciting time in the life of these persons and for the life of the whole community. I hope you will make the extra effort to be here on Sunday May 5 not only to welcome Bishop Knisely, but also to support, encourage, and celebrate with the members of the St. Luke's community taking this next step on their journeys of faith. Between now and then, and afterwards for that matter too, I ask you to pray for these persons to be confirmed and received:

Laurel Ann Pilkington
Samuel Joseph Cormier
Anthony Joseph Morganti
John Ernest Euston
Leah Mae Chace
Ethan Christopher Mossey
Ashley Carinne Carlson
Genevieve Elizabeth Cava
Kai Bennet Yates
Luke Mason Muoio
Alexander Favell Gray
Siân Mary Margaret Morgan
Sebastian Marcel Borgia
Jeffrey Daniel Levesque
Mary Anne Levesque
Amanda Marie Mello
Niki-Lynn Zirolì
Stephanie Leite
Marie Hennedy

See you on May 5th!
Dante

The Choirs Of St. Luke's

A SPRING CONCERT

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

Sunday, May 19 at 4pm

Featuring the Canterbury Choir, the St. Cecilia Choir, the Three Amigos, and a variety of soloists.

A reception will follow the concert.

All are welcome.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH
99 PEIRCE ST • 884.4116
WWW.STLUKESEG.ORG
@STLUKESEG

Vestry Corner

One of the truly fulfilling parts of being a vestry member is learning more about the church...not just St. Luke's Church, but Church as it is experienced and engaged across our diocese. Vestry member Beth Vollucci, Fr. Dante and I had the pleasure recently of attending a Leadership Institute hosted at St. John's Barrington for vestry, wardens and program leaders from across the Rhode Island Diocese. Sessions during the day ranged from an orientation to vestry responsibilities and practices, to ideas and resources for financial practices and stewardship, to strategies for community building, to enhancing our online presence and communications.

Before we broke off into our sessions, however, presentations by Bishop Knisely and The Rev. Meaghan Brower (Director of the Episcopal Conference Center) shared two important messages that framed our day: there are many ways to be a member of the Church; and, thus, our perspectives on and attitudes toward congregational development require greater attention and consideration. Traditionally, we have all enjoyed the fellowship of church members we see on most Sunday mornings and love the added company of those who seek us out during special services, Christmas and Easter. What we might miss is the recognition of those who identify St. Luke's as "their church" by virtue of participating in volunteer services, or being a recipient of meals, food, or clothing, or who depend on St. Luke's for pastoral care during times of need or crisis. I was reminded that living the message of "all are welcome" requires me to recognize all these members and how we individually and collectively are enriched by their presence.

The Rev. Brower talked to us about the demographics of our church community and what that might mean in terms of how we structure engagement. More importantly, she cautioned us that wanting to fill our church pews requires us to recognize the needs of those we welcome into our community. Are we seeking new members simply to increase our numbers or maintain status quo...or, are we welcoming new members as part of our abiding desire to share God's love and serve him through service to others? Her review of the issues facing young adults and their families was an acute reminder of how stressful this world can be and how important it is for the Church to be ready and willing to serve them.

Given these messages, we and our institute companions were open to fresh perspectives on community building, communications, and leadership practices as shared by our Episcopal friends across the diocese. We heard stories of how different parishes listened and responded to their church and local community needs to bridge the divide and build connections for all 'members' wherever they are on their faith journey. We were stimulated by ideas and excitedly generated thoughts on what we might introduce or use at St. Luke's. While we left the institute with a host of resources—checklists for websites and communications, guidance for new vestry, links for stewardship and planned giving—we also left with an most important reminder to discern how God calls us to connect with, welcome and engage each other.

Altar Guild Thank You

Thank you to everyone on the Altar Guild for all your hard work during Holy Week!

Everything went well, thanks to great teamwork. The flowers are beautiful, thank you Pat Savage! A big thank you to Sexton Tim Marnane for all he did!

Liz Fox & Lisa Johnson, Altar Guild Co-Chairs

Property Committee

Property Breakfast

In April we shared one last meal with Sandy and Peggy Rubel, whose blessings to Property Breakfast spans years. We will miss them and wish them well on their new journey.

Doug MacPherson and Bob Brockway have come together to fill Sandy's shoes; Cindi Lovejoy will continue to cook breakfast and monitor communications.

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 clean-up. We work on indoor as well as out of doors tasks that need to be done to keep our building and grounds a warm and welcoming place.

We look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Twilighters

In support of Property Breakfast, the Twilighters are a group of volunteers who work in the building and out on the grounds in the evenings. Started last fall, we had a hiatus over the winter and now we will rise up and begin again.

We will be meeting the first and third Tuesday of each month beginning at 5:00 pm on May 21, 2019.

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.

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

MAY

SAVE THE DATES

May 1, 2019

2 pm EG Clergy Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

May 2 2019

9 am Interfaith Council Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

9:30 am Leisure Learning @ Dining Rm

May 5, 2019

7:45 am Holy Eucharist - Bishop Visitation

10:15 am Holy Eucharist—Bishop Visitation w/Confirmation

11:15 am Corporate Communion Church Tour

May 7, 2019

5 pm Creation Care Meeting @ Auditorium

5 pm Episcopal Charities Board Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Blackburn Rm

May 8, 2019

1 pm Pastoral Care Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

May 9, 2019

9:30 Leisure Learning @ Dining Rm

6 pm Finance Committee Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

May 11, 2019

8 am Corporate Communion Rehearsal @ Church

May 12, 2019

10:15 am Holy Eucharist w/Corporate Communion

May 14, 2019

7 pm Vestry Meeting @ Blackburn Rm

May 16, 2019

8 am Property Breakfast @ Dining Rm

9:30 am Leisure Learning @ Dining Rm

May 19, 2019

4 pm Spring Concert @ Auditorium

May 21, 2019

6 pm Task Force on Creation Care @ Auditorium

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Blackburn Rm

May 25, 2019

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

Loaves and Fishes Rhode Island Auction Fundraiser

TICKETS FOR THE FUNDRAISER ON SALE IN THE ATRIUM
SUNDAYS APRIL 28 AND MAY 5 FOLLOWING BOTH SERVICES

On May 16, 2019 Loaves & Fishes RI will hold their 6th Auction Fundraiser at the RI Country Club in Barrington from 6:00pm – 9:00pm. Their last fundraiser raised over \$23,000 to benefit those we serve in our communities, those who are homeless or living marginally, those who are the most vulnerable.

Loaves & Fishes RI involves thirteen communities of faith and a food truck. Dedicated volunteers work year-round to prepare and deliver food, clothing, hygiene items and compassionate conversation to our working poor and homeless brothers and sisters. Over 2,000 men, women and children are fed and clothed each month.

We are only able to continue this important ministry with support provided by generous individuals, corporations and organizations.

We are seeking donations to support our auction fundraiser, whether in the form of a financial donation or goods/services. ***We are especially looking for donation for the auction.*** Some popular Silent Auction items include restaurant gift certificates, tickets to sporting events or plays, gift baskets, vacation home getaways, spa and beauty treatments etc. If you have any of these items that you would consider donating for this worthwhile cause, we would be most grateful. Tax donation forms are available. Please contact:

Liz Crawley at lcrawley53@gmail.com or 401-524-7594 OR
Dana Sparhawk at dana.sparhawk@gmail.com

Thank you for helping us to make a difference!

Creation Care Task Force

At our 228th Convention a resolution on creation care was passed. This is the revised version: **“To establish a creation care task force for congregations to monitor & study the General Convention creation care resolutions.”**

Reverend Anita Schell, from Emmanuel church in Newport was asked by the Bishop and Diocesan Council **to organize a creation care task force.** If you have a burning desire to work on Climate Action & the challenge of creation care – please touch base with Deacon Chritine. Ideally the task force would be 11 people, and the chair. The task force will meet 6 times a year, leaving open the option to meet more or less than that. Much work would be done outside of meetings.

Episcopal Charities - Extraordinary Caring

To St. Luke's Faithful –

It is about three weeks until our Episcopal Charities Kickoff Sunday! Please join us on **Sunday, May 19**, when we will welcome **Valentina Laprade**, from [Children's Friend](#), an agency that has been a beneficiary of your support through Episcopal Charities in past years. Tina is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW) with diverse work experience that includes 29 years in the field of social work. She has been at Children's Friend for 20 years and is currently the Director of Family Preservation and Permanency.

As Rhode Island's first child-serving nonprofit agency, Children's Friend has been providing services to children and families in need for over 184 years!

The agency began as a home for abused children when it was founded in Providence in 1834. Through the years their mission has evolved, and Children's Friend now strives to be the innovative leader in improving the well-being and healthy development of Rhode Island's most vulnerable young children. The agency feels that by reaching out to children in the earliest years and working with the entire family, they are able to help the children grow in the best possible environment and are able to assist families to become self-sufficient.

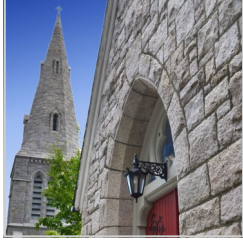
In order to support their mission, Children's Friend provides a very broad range of services for children and families. These services include but are not limited to; clinical services, adoption, foster care, parent education, Early Intervention, nurse family visiting for high-risk newborns, Nurse-Family Partnership, Healthy Families America, WIC, Early Head Start, Head Start, State-funded Pre-K, a summer learning and enrichment program, child care, including therapeutic child care for children with special needs, Project Connect, and other family support and family preservation programs.

By staying true to their mission, Children's Friend was able to support 36,336 individuals in 2017!

Tina will speak briefly at both the 7:45 and 10:15 services on May 19th and will also be leading a discussion/Q&A gathering between the services. Please mark this on your calendars to attend! It will be a great chance to not only welcome Tina and hear how Children's Friend exemplifies Extraordinary Caring but also to provide you with more information and understanding as you consider your own support for this year's Episcopal Charities campaign.

Thank you for all the generosity you have already shown by mailing in the gift form that you received with the Bishop's letter, or by [giving online](#) to Episcopal Charities. We will have gift forms and return envelopes available in the Atrium, under the Mosaic, and as always, will be available to assist you throughout this campaign.

Your 2019 Episcopal Charities Co-Chairs,
Laura Sullivan, Mikayla Dugas & Joshua Dugas



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Newsletter