

St. Luke's

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



MONTHLY

From Father Tim

When I was searching for my first position as rector (now more years ago than I care to imagine!), I had the good fortune of being a finalist in two places. The first was in my sponsoring diocese of Washington, D.C. I remember being so excited by the prospects of returning home, of ministry in a diverse urban setting, and of serving a church a stone's throw from the Capitol. On paper, this church seemed like a perfect fit in every way.

The second was a church in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I had to go to the map to even locate Portsmouth. They were searching for a priest who already had been a rector for at least seven years. I had been ordained only three. Their two previous rectors, spanning nearly forty years, had come from England. I had never even travelled to England. And they were looking for a priest who loved the history and tradition of the Episcopal Church. I had been an Episcopalian for a mere ten years. On paper, this place seemed as unlikely a landing spot for me as I could imagine.

Then I interviewed at both sites, and my sense of call could not have been clearer or more profound. I was bound for New Hampshire.

I knew from the moment I stepped foot in St. John's, there was just something different about the place. There was no pretentiousness. There was a deep love for what the church had been, but also a wonderful openness for what the church might be. And there was an ability to laugh that felt as warm and inviting as the cool breeze that blew off the near-by water. I left there thinking, "This place is special, maybe even unique."

The day after I returned home from my interview, I withdrew from the process in Washington.

From what I know now, clergy are lucky if they have such an experience once in their lifetime. Oh, they might find any number of churches that are perfectly fine. But truly different, maybe even unique—that's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Miraculously, amazingly, I have had that experience twice. Once with St. John's, and now a second time, as I have come to be with all of you.

Like the process with St. John's, I had the good fortune of being a finalist in two churches when Diane and I interviewed at St. Luke's. And again, after spending just a few days with the search committee, it was immediately apparent that St. Luke's was something different.

I'll not draw detailed comparisons in this instance, as the other parish (for which I have great respect) is also a part of the Diocese of Rhode Island. But the point I want to make here is that, at least to my experience, there really is something rare and different about St. Luke's. My conversations with you all, including just today with Ruth Batchelor, suggest that I am not alone in my thinking: it seems many of you find St. Luke's to be different as well.

On October 14, we will begin our 2019 Commitment Campaign. While these campaigns are hard work, I also find them invigorating. Each year I invariably learn something new about St. Luke's and about each of you, too.

To kick off our campaign, we will worship again in the parish hall. Like last year, you will find banners hanging from the rafters which celebrate St. Luke's and speak to the themes of our campaign. I am so excited for you to see what the Walsh Brothers have created!

Also like last year, the sermon on the 14th will be a time for us to reflect on a few crucial questions regarding our corporate life. In anticipation of this day, let me offer you this question for consideration: Based upon your experience, what makes St. Luke's a unique community and church?

I expect many of you will have different perspectives and insights, while a number of you might have some similar thoughts. I look forward to hearing them all!

I will tell you now, one of the things I find so wonderfully different about St. Luke's is that you all speak up no matter what crazy question I throw your way. It is for this reason and many others that I feel blessed to share church with you.

Peace,
Jim

Curate's Corner

Thoughts from Fr. Dante

Whan that aprill with his shoures soote / The droghte of march hath perced to the roote, / And bathed every veyne in swich licour / Of which vertu engendred is the flour; / Whan zephirus eek with his sweete breeth / Inspired hath in every holt and heath / Tendre croppes, and the yonge sonne / Hath in the ram his halve cours yronne, / And smale foweles maken melodye, / That slepen al the nyght with open ye / (so priketh hem nature in hir corages); / And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes, / To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes; / And specially from every shires ende / Of engelond to caunterbury they wende, / The hooly blisful martir for to seke, / That hem hath holpen whan that they were seeke.

Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*, Prologue, Lines 1-18

For nearly 1000 years Christians have journeyed from all over the world to what was once called the chief shrine in Christendom after Rome. This Pilgrims' Way was so important and prominent in the cultural mind of England that Geoffrey Chaucer, in the late fourteenth century, wrote the classic – now required reading for every high school student – *The Canterbury Tales*, the story of a band of pilgrims making their way across England to arrive at Canterbury Cathedral to visit the Shrine of St. Thomas Becket. While the Becket shrine was destroyed in 1538 by order of King Henry VIII, Canterbury Cathedral is still one of the most important places of pilgrimages for Christians around the world. This spring, we have the opportunity to join this faithful lineage.

As Episcopalians and Anglicans our heritages and roots are easily traceable back to the Church of England. Thus the history of the Church of England is our history too. This pilgrimage will give us the opportunity to travel back in time, to trace the footsteps of our Anglican ancestors, to learn of the living history of our inherited faith, and to immerse ourselves into the beauty, sacredness, and full breath of the worship life of the Anglican tradition.

Partnering with an organization called Wonder Voyage (a company that specializes in religious pilgrimages) we have an amazing – or at least I think amazing – 7 day pilgrimage planned. Departing on Wednesday April 24, we will travel to Canterbury and spend three days in that Medieval city exploring, praying, and learning together. While in Canterbury we will explore and learn about the living history of the cathedral, visit the monastic ruins of St. Augustine's Abbey, and even spend time in the oldest, continuously operated, English speaking church in the world – St. Martin's Church, which dates back to the 400s! From Canterbury we will set off 3 to Salisbury.

Salisbury Cathedral is home to Britain's tallest spire and best preserved Magna Carta is also just 8 miles from Stonehenge. The importance of Salisbury Cathedral in the liturgical development of the Church of England, in my humble estimation, cannot be overstated. While in Salisbury we will be in residence at a local monastic retreat center where we will be afforded the gift of slowing down for a bit, of entering into the joy and simplicity of monastic life.

Finally we will spend our final night in London. We will have a brief period of time to explore that amazing city and offer a concluding ceremony of thanks and celebration for what promises to be a stunning pilgrimage.

Over the years I have made two pilgrimages to Canterbury, spent an afternoon in Salisbury, and for a year considered London a second home. Having experienced our three destinations I can promise you one thing about this pilgrimage: if you come with an open heart, an open mind, and an open ear to God you will have a profound, and maybe even transformative, experience.

If you are interested in learning more about this pilgrimage please let me know as soon as possible. I hope you will join me as we journey 'The Pilgrims' Way.

Blessings,
Dante

The Choirs Of St. Luke's

CHORAL EVENSONG ON OCTOBER 14



Share the beauty and peace of Choral Evensong sung by the combined Canterbury and St. Cecilia Choirs of St. Luke's and the Adult Choir of Grace Church in Providence.

Sunday, October 14 at 4 PM
Grace Church in Providence
300 Westminster Street

Choral Evensong creates a timeless experience in our modern world. Music, prayer, and candlelight come together to form sacred space. For the service on October 14, the music will include works of composers old and new. The Responses are a setting by Richard Webster, Director of Music at Trinity Church in Boston. The canticles are set by T. Tertius Noble, formerly of York Minster in England and the founder of the Choir School at St. Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue. Of particular interest is the anthem, a setting of George Herbert's poem, The Altar. Composed by Buffalo resident Roland Martin, the sublime music features choir, organ, and solo violin.

**Oh, let thy blessed SACRIFICE by mine,
And sanctify this ALTAR to be thine.**

from The Altar – George Herbert

The Stewardship Committee

Join the Conversation: Stewardship and Commitment to Our Unique Community

On Sunday, 14 October we'll begin a thoughtful conversation about stewardship that will continue through the fall. Tim will address stewardship in his sermons and prayers; we'll discuss commitment to stewardship in the parish hall during a service and a supper; and several parishioners will share their perspectives.

This may all sound familiar. I think you'll see that it's different.

As this conversation develops, please don't commit as a reflex, commit as the outcome of thoughtful introspection. I ask you to listen and participate in that conversation, think deeply about the relationship between stewardship and faith, and commit to a pledge appropriate for you and what you feel is a reasonable step forward along your stewardship journey.

I appreciate the photos you sent to Rob Walsh. You will see them again as part of a powerful reminder of who we are and why we are in this community. Please mark your calendars and join other St. Luke's family members on Friday, October 26, for a parish supper.

Yours in Christ,

David Sampson
Stewardship Committee Chair

Women of Grace

Women of Grace Meets Wednesday, October 3 – Join Us!

Women of Grace – a lay-led group fostering friendship and deeper spirituality – meets Wednesday, Oct. 3, at Ellen Abell's home. The topic this month is [a video by Rob Bell titled "She,"](#) reflecting the importance of the mother, from a scary mother goose interaction (!) to references of springing from God's "womb" in the Bible.

The evening begins at 7 p.m. with casual conversation over appetizers and beverages. The formal program begins at 7:30 and we wrap up by 9 p.m. Ellen lives at [126 Pine Glen Drive](#) (off Middle Road in East Greenwich).

We welcome women of the parish and beyond. Letting us know if you can make it helps, but don't let that stop you from coming!

Contact Ellen Abell at eabell@ellen-abell.com if you can come or if you have questions.

Property Committee

We always have projects. Parking lot lights have been replaced so that there is light at night. Handicap parking spaces are being repainted and increased to a total of 6.

Now to fall with its usual and unusual projects. Property Breakfasts will be on the 3rd Thursdays, Oct. 18 and Nov 15. In December the breakfast will be held on the **2nd Thursday, Dec. 13th**. 8 am in the Dining Room with a delicious breakfast thanks to Cindi Lovejoy!

Helping all year long are our unsung heroes – the Sunday lock-up crew who lock up after the 10:15 services. We thank Harry Waterman, Dan Larkin, John Messier, Sandy Rubel, Dave Savage and Bill Capron. Many thanks!

Sandy and Peggy Rubel (884-6594)

Be a Blessing at Twilight!

Nothing says "we care" like well-tended grounds, but many of us work during the day or have sports with our youth on weekends and are not available to help. Enter The Twilighters, a group of God's blessings who will gather starting in mid-September, one night a week after work and before homework to tend to our beautiful grounds here at the church. We will begin on Monday September 17 from 6-8:30 pm and each Monday through mid-November in order to get the grounds ready for winter. We will have dinner at 6:00 pm with a light meal of soup and salad, the Twilighters will work on the grounds freeing up the Property Breakfast crew to attend to more technical tasks. We will be raking, pruning, clearing and sprucing up the grounds. No experience necessary: Bring your significant other! Bring your teenagers! This is an opportunity for stewardship of your time.

Bring a rake, bring clippers, bring gloves and be a blessing at twilight!

RSVP (to make sure we have enough food) to Cindi Lovejoy benem@cox.net



Welcoming Committee

Have you noticed? There is a lot going on at St. Luke's! With new faces, new programs and a heightened energy emanating from our growing community...well, the desire to share this good news and include others seems only natural. Under the leadership of Fr. Dante, we are doing just that through both our Newcomers' activities and a more recent focus on how we communicate within and beyond our church doors. The Newcomers' team has made our presence known on Main Street during the summer strolls in East Greenwich and will continue this church-to-community connection in the town's upcoming Halloween and Christmas parades. A new avenue of connection comes through our recent partnership with the *Hill & Harbor Living* magazine. St. Luke's will be featured in the November issue with a story about our **Blessing of the Animals** service on September 30. Early in the new year, the magazine will focus on the community services, activities and support meetings housed at St. Luke's. As these stories are told, we are following the lead of Pete Haynesworth, who has shared ideas for getting St. Luke's message to the greater parish community around East Greenwich. And, finally, thanks to the Communications Task Force, we are refreshing the face of our print and online resources to reflect the passion of our faith and the joy of our community. We look forward to rolling out these resources later in the year, so stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Newcomers' and Communications' Task Force Teams,

Deborah Collins & Fr. Dante Tavalaro

Newcomers' Committee: Sarah Muoio, Ali Poirer, Patricia & Bill Warburton, & Laura Sullivan

Communications Task Force: Stacey Ubelhour, Ann Rheault, John Walsh



School Supply Drive for Rhode Island College

As some of you may know, in addition to being our Assistant Rector, Fr. 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 Fr.

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.

This month (October 21 – November 4) Fr. 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 Fr. 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
- *1” binders
- *2 pocket folders
- *Expanding file organizers
- *Index cards
- *Sticky notes
- *Notebooks (single / multi-subject)
- *Sharpies

Middle School Youth Group Update

We are very excited for the return of our Middle School Youth Group. All young people in grades 6-8 are invited to join Fr. Dante, as well as senior mentors Shannon Lake and Sebastian Borgia, for gatherings for fun, fellowship, and formation. This year the Middle School Youth Group will meet twice a month. Generally this will be the second Friday and the fourth Sunday of each month, although sometimes schedules and activities will dictate different meeting times. This year we hope to play laser tag, have a mini golf rematch, go apple picking, meet young people from some of our sister parishes in the diocese to play together, go on another LFRI run, and even attend worship services in other parishes to discover different types of prayer. Please mark your calendars for our October events (please note October's dates are one of those times when we will be off our second Friday and fourth Sunday schedule):

Friday October 19 from 6-8pm: Movie Night

Join us for pizza and a movie as we watch the 1993 Disney Classic Hocus Pocus

Sunday October 21 following the 10:15 service: Apple Picking location TBD

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

Coming this Spring: Adult Pilgrimage - England!

All adults of the parish are invited to join Fr. Dante on a pilgrimage to one of the most important places in the history of our Anglican/Episcopal heritage: England

This spring, Fr. Dante and our adult pilgrims will spend three days in Canterbury to explore the roots of our heritage in the Church of England. We will walk the same steps, travel the same road, that faithful pilgrims have travelled for hundreds of years. Then we will spend two days in Salisbury another important location. While in Salisbury, the pilgrims will spend time with a monastic community and take time to pause and focus on the daily rhythm of prayer. Finally, the pilgrims will bring their journey to an end in London. Dates for the pilgrimage are tentatively set for April 24-May 1.

Please be in touch with Fr. Dante if you are interested in learning more about the parish pilgrimage!



OCTOBER SAVE THE DATES

October 1

6 pm Twilight Property Mtg @ Dining Rm

October 3

7 pm Women of Grace Mtg

October 4

9:30 Leisure Learning @ Dining Rm

October 8

Office Closed - Columbus Day

October 11

9:30 am Leisure Learning @ Dining Rm

October 14

4 pm Evensong @ Grace Church

October 15

6 pm Twilight Property Mtg @ Dining Rm

October 18

9:30 am Leisure Learning @ Dining Rm

October 19

1 pm Notable Works Music Event

October 21

4 pm Newcomer Reception @ Atrium

October 22

6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Dining Rm

October 25

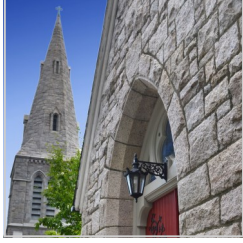
9:30 am Leisure Learning @ Dining Rm

October 27

10 am Loaves & Fishes Run @ Dining Rm

October 29

5 pm CCK Dinner @ Dining Rm
6 pm Twilight Property Dinner @ Dining Rm



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