

# The 186<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church East Greenwich, RI

January 31, 2021 - 11:00 am  
Annual Parish Meeting for the year 2020



## **Our Parish Mission Statement:**

*"We are the Body of Christ  
welcoming all to worship and serve God  
in order to reflect and pass on  
the Light of Christ."*

# ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH

## 2020 Leadership and Staff

### Clergy

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector  
The Rev. Tanya Watt, Assistant Rector

### Current Members of the Vestry

Gary Schweizer, Senior Warden  
Bill Warburton, Junior Warden  
Michael Sullivan, Treasurer  
Marcia Gladue, Clerk

Kate Golbitz ~ 2020-2022  
Kathy Lynch ~ 2020-2022  
Mark Cordle ~ 2020-2022  
Kenneth Fecteau ~ 2019-2021  
Jonathan Jacaruso ~ 2019-2021  
Beth Vollucci ~ 2019-2021  
Dana Borgia ~ 2020-2020  
Deborah Collins ~ 2018-2020  
Joel Gardner ~ 2018-2020

### Current Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Narragansett Deanery

Bill Warburton - Junior Warden  
Steve McLoughlin ~ Dorothy Fleming ~ Dick Kelly  
Gary Schweizer - Senior Warden (Alternate)

### Parish Staff

Rodney Ayers ~ Minister of Music  
Christina Imondi ~ Parish Administrator  
Theresa Deiters-Muscat ~ Godly Play Coordinator  
Lisa Paolino ~ Bookkeeper  
Tim Marnane ~ Sexton

# ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH

4

## Proposed 2021 Leadership with Staff

### Clergy

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector  
The Rev. Tanya Watt, Assistant Rector

### Slate of Officers (elected to a one-year term)

Gary Schweizer, Senior Warden  
Bill Warburton, Junior Warden  
Deborah Collins, Clerk of the Vestry  
Michael Sullivan, Treasurer

### Vestry Candidates (elected to a three-year term)

Sally House ~ 2021-2022  
Tracy Sampson ~ 2021-2023  
Bruce Stevens ~ 2021-2023  
Holly O'Brien ~ 2021-2023

### To Join

Kenneth Fecteau ~ 2019-2021  
Jonathan Jacaruso ~ 2019-2021  
Kate Golbitz ~ 2020-2022  
Kathy Lynch ~ 2020-2022  
Mark Cordle ~ 2020-2022

### Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Narragansett Deanery

Bill Warburton - Junior Warden  
Steve McLoughlin ~ Dorothy Fleming ~ Dick Kelly  
Gary Schweizer - Senior Warden (Alternate)

### Parish Staff

Rodney Ayers ~ Minister of Music  
Christina Imondi ~ Parish Administrator  
Theresa Deiters-Muscat ~ Godly Play Coordinator  
Lisa Paolino ~ Bookkeeper  
Tim Marnane ~ Sexton

## **Reports** *(Received with Gratitude)*

5

Report from the Rector	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich
Report from the Assistant Rector	The Rev. Tanya Watt
Treasurer's Report	Michael Sullivan
Acolytes	Charlie & Julie Cronin
Adult Faith Formation	Betsy Fornal
Altar Guild	Lisa Johnson & Liz Fox
Building & Grounds	Bob Brockway, Doug MacPherson, Jack Newton, Cindi Lovejoy
Christ Community Kitchen	Paul Brookes
Coffee Hour	Tracy Sampson, Marcia Gladue
Communications Task Force	Deborah Collins
Episcopal Charities	Laura Sullivan, Josh & Mikayla Dugas
Finance Committee	Pam Dresselhouse
Fundraising Committee	Bill Warburton & Jon Jacaruso
Kitchen Improvement Committee	Gary Schweizer
Loaves & Fishes RI	Dana Sparhawk, Rob Walsh
Lunch on the Hill	Steve McLoughlin & Steve Bartlett
Music Ministry	Rodney Ayers
Newcomers	Deborah Collins
Pastoral Care Committee	Donna Jordan
Property Committee	Dave Savage
Stewardship	Dave Sampson
St. Elizabeth's Community	Dottie Fleming
The Giving Tree	Judy Horton & Karen Fecteau
The Seasons	Harry Waterman
Theology on Tap	Brent Bostick
Usher Ministry	Steve McLoughlin
Women of Grace	Pam Gregory
Youth Faith Formation	Michael Grady

## **REPORT FROM THE RECTOR:** **THE REV. TIMOTHY T. RICH**

In a scene from one of my favorite movies, *Apollo 13*, NASA officials are gathered, having learned that a build-up of carbon monoxide in the capsule is threatening the safety of its astronauts. Disappointed that the planned lunar landing will not take place and uncertain about all the challenges that face them, NASA's director worries out loud, *"This could be the worst disaster NASA's ever experienced."* To which the chief flight director, Gene Kranz, responds, *"With all due respect, sir, I believe this is going to be our finest hour."*

It is not hyperbole to say that 2020 at St. Luke's (as throughout our nation and around the globe) has been filled with the unexpected, disappointing, challenging, and even heartbreaking. And yet, just as Gene Kranz rightly predicted for NASA, this past year arguably has been our finest hour.

COVID, social unrest, and political tensions tested the strength of our connections, the expanse of our creativity, and the depth of our faith. But by the grace of God, we have endured—in many cases, even thrived. And I, for one, have never felt so blessed to be part of a church.

A month or so into this pandemic we renewed our connections by way of Sunday **evening social hours** (now attended by parishioners as far away as Pittsburgh and the U.K.). I feel such joy in seeing faces and hearing voices, and I imagine I am not alone in this reaction.

Likewise, early into our separation, **Adult Faith Formation** classes resumed (see report in later pages), moving to Wednesday nights. Our numbers swelled with choir members (previously unable to participate) and other new participants. We read books about the pandemic, about race, and about the intersection of Christ and politics, all enabling us to navigate these times with a deepened faith.

In addition to these classes, Tanya organized our first ever Advent blog—an opportunity for members to share their faith and their creativity throughout the weeks of Advent. The offering was a huge success, and will be repeated as we make our way through this upcoming Lent.

Although we still need to figure out how to provide faith formation for our youth in this time of COVID—my thanks to Mike Grady and Stacey Nakasian for their valiant efforts with a small group of our kids. Our adult formation efforts have never been more robust. The conversations are insightful, the faith on display is moving, and the sense of community is heartening. I am grateful to all who have participated in these offerings, but most especially to Nance Arnold and Betsy Fornal, the committee chairs.

In the same way, I am grateful to Brent Bostick and Deborah Collins, conveners of **Theology on Tap and Women of Grace**, as well as to Donna Jordan, chair of our **Pastoral Care Committee**, for their fine leadership. The conversations of our men's and women's groups and the prayers and attention of our Pastoral Care Committee have provided further

evidence that while we may be apart, we remain very much connected, nonetheless. I am so moved and comforted by this reality.

And I must say also, I am so moved and heartened to see our energies over this past year directed not just inward but outward, in concern for the wider Rhode Island communities. Despite interruption to our routine **feeding and clothing ministries**, the leaders of these efforts continued to meet throughout 2020, adopting new ways to address the ever-growing needs for food and clothing. You can read about what they did in the report which follows. Although I am not sure of all whom I should thank, I am heartened to know the faithful work of outreach continued in these troubling times. My sincere thanks if you were a part of that work.

Any discussion of the connections, creativity, and faith during 2020 must include mention of our **worship**. God knows, truly, our creativity was tested. And we all know fully the role worship has played in maintaining both our connections and faith. While I'll say more about Rodney in my later comments about staff, I want to thank all of the choir members who provided us beautiful anthems and even inspired us to sing along at home. Thank you for your talents, thank you for your time, thank you for your sacrifices.

I also want to thank all of our lay readers who not only read beautifully but also mastered the trick of filming and then emailing the videos. No small chore that! You all have become quite expert cinemaphotographers in these past several months.

A thank you, too, should go out to the **altar guild**. Despite in-person worship being suspended, worship was definitely not cancelled and the ladies continued their faithful work behind the scenes. Thank you, Lisa, Liz, and ladies, for coming in at all hours and making sure that as we filmed we had the right appointments in place!

Finally, you should know, we would have seen none of this worship without the expertise and weekly diligence of Rob Walsh and Deborah Collins. Rob, thank you for your patient directions as we learned how to record while holding our phones in landscape position. Thank you for creating worship links and then posting the worship on our web site week after week. And Deborah, thank you for composing and sending our weekly invitations to worship—sometimes later than you bargained for—as well as tending to our Facebook page. In so many ways and on so many occasions, you two have been the glue to hold us together, and we owe you thanks beyond mere words.

Of course, there's more to church than fellowship, education, pastoral care, outreach, and worship, and, not surprisingly, we continued to be the church in many more ways than what I've already reported.

Dave Savage continued his oversight of our **capital needs**. Bob Brockway and a band of others continued their weekly work sessions, keeping the **building and grounds** of St. Luke's looking good. A special thanks to Cindi and Ben Lovejoy for their efforts to make our social distancing signs not only clear but also faithful!

Besides managing our physical plant there is the work of managing our finances, and no one does this work better than our **Finance Committee**, chaired by Pam Dresselhouse, and our **treasurer**, Michael Sullivan. This is hard work in normal years, and as we have already established, 2020 was anything but normal.

Pam has led the Finance Committee in discussions ranging from the care and condition of our endowment to developing a long-range strategy for recovering from the financial challenges of COVID. Please do take time to read her report in the following pages.

Michael has tracked our monthly finances carefully and thoughtfully, successfully obtaining a PPP grant this past spring, clearly reporting all of his activities to the vestry and wider parish, and authoring a wise and reasonable budget for 2021. I encourage you to read his report too. The ministry of being treasurer has never been more important and Michael has served us so so well. Thank you, Michael.

Thankfully, money matters have not been all doom and gloom this year—and in large part that is a testimony to your faith. My deep thanks to those of you who have contributed to St. Luke's, and especially to those of you who pledged. My great thanks as well to David Sampson and the members of our **2021 Commitment Campaign** team. The campaign, with its media elements courtesy of the Walsh brothers, and the witnesses of Charlotte Palmer, Stacey Nakasian, and Ali Poirer, spoke beautifully not only to our struggles but also our faith, pointing out that in these challenging times, we need God and church more than ever. Apparently many of you agree and I am grateful for your generous responses.

So too am I grateful for your generous responses as we launched a **major kitchen improvement campaign**. The campaign was kicked off by a breathtaking \$300,000 gift from parishioners, Linda and Al Potter. They have since relocated to Colorado, but their faithful and generous gift inspired many of us to give fully according to our own abilities.

Also a source of inspiration for this campaign was the life and dedication of Ron Clement, who sadly passed away in February. Sue became the lead sponsor for our centerpiece fundraising event, a **golf tournament** held in September. With Ron and mother nature shining upon us, the tournament was a huge success, surpassing our goals. Besides this divine intervention, credit for the tourney's success goes to many (see the report in following pages) but I want to specifically thank our tournament co-chairs, Bill Warburton and Jon Jacaruso. The number of hours they and their committee partners put into planning this tournament is incalculable, and the fruits of their labors invaluable. I know, every time I walk in to our improved kitchen, I will say a special prayer of thanks to the Potters, the Clements, and the tournament organizers.

At the same time, I will include in those prayers a thanks for the **kitchen design team**, chaired by Gary Schweizer (his report follows). They worked so hard to come up with a design that is both beautiful and functional, and I can not wait until we gather downstairs for our first meal. We are blessed to benefit from their thoughtfulness and creativity!

Actually, we have been blessed to benefit from the thoughtfulness of Gary Schweizer in numerous ways, not the least of which as our Senior Warden. There's always a little extra work for the Senior Warden to do when the rector goes on sabbatical, but a pandemic is rarely part of that portfolio. Happily, Gary did not resign and we have navigated COVID so successfully in part because of his leadership. I am so very thankful for all that he has done. And grateful—not to mention relieved—that he will serve as Sr. Warden for one more year.

Speaking of navigating COVID, I also should say here a great thanks to our **Re-opening Committee**, made up of Margaret Clifton, Kathy Lynch, Steve McLoughlin, Gary, and staff members, Rodney and Tanya. Each brought wisdom and creativity to the work and I believe we have done so well over this past year because of their input. Although there's more work to do in the coming months, I am confident we can meet the challenges to come. Thanks, gang!

Actually, my confidence about our future and meeting the challenges to come is great and well-founded, I might add, because of the amazing leadership team we have to guide us. To be clear, I am sad that we bid **farewell to outgoing vestry members, Marcia Gladue (clerk), Dana Borgia, Deborah Collins, and Joel Gardner**. Marcia has worked tirelessly to distill our vestry conversations and produced Pulitzer-worthy minutes. Deborah has brought creativity and enthusiasm to our discussions—and then often been the first to volunteer to bring her ideas to life. Joel has contributed a wealth of diocesan wisdom to our thinking. And Dana jumped in immediately with the invaluable perspective born of raising two kids at St. Luke's. I will miss their contributions immensely. And yet, even as I will miss this group, I am excited by the new individuals we soon will elect to fill their places.

I am excited, too, by the prospects of another year working with **our fabulous staff**. I feel so fortunate to have them as partners in ministry.

Rodney's gifts are numerous. He is a brilliant musician, a wonderful teacher, and a true pastor. His creativity and attention to detail have been so instrumental in making sure that even in this season of COVID our worship remains beautiful and uplifting. I feel so fortunate to work with him.

I feel equally fortunate to have now Tanya as a part of our team! She joined us in August after Dante's departure in May, having big shoes to fill. Dante's preaching was smart and inspiring, his knowledge and love of our Anglican tradition impressive. He had been a centerpiece of many of our ministries and a real gift to St. Luke's. And yet now, it feels like Tanya has been with us forever, her warmth obvious even on Zoom, and her faith clear as we hear her preach. Again, we are blessed with an immensely talented priest and I am blessed with a wonderful new colleague.

I also feel so blessed by our lay staff, whom I consider colleagues and partners as well. Christina is so thoughtful, thorough, and attentive. Her administrative demands changed dramatically as COVID arrived and yet she has kept us running without missing a beat. I would be lost without her. Tim, too, shifted gears seamlessly once COVID closed us down, taking



advantage of the empty buildings to do a variety of projects. Our buildings have never looked better. I am so grateful for his flexibility and dedication. Just as I am grateful for Theresa and her dedication to our youngest members. You should know, even as our in-person children's faith formation was suspended, she remained thoughtful about how to care for them. We all are fortunate to benefit from her great affection for our children.

Well, that about sums it up my dear friends. Whew! If you expected the 2020 annual report would be shorter because surely COVID would have limited our efforts, I guess you were wrong on both counts. Our work was different but not lesser. I think much the same could be said about our blessings, too.

As I write to you, hope fills my heart—hope both for our country and for our church. Some might consider it folly, given that COVID rages on and the conditions which prompted political and social unrest remain.

But I am a hopeful man. Hopeful in part because I share a God and a church with you. Because I have seen your concern for those in need. Because I have heard your desire for new understandings and new ways. Because I have experienced your kindness. And because I have witnessed your faith.

And made hopeful even more because I have heard a 22-year-old African-American poet say:

*"The new dawn blooms as we free it  
For there is always light,  
if only we're brave enough to see it  
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

*(Amanda Gorman, recited at the inauguration of President Joe Biden).*

In the year to come, may we see the light and be the light together.

Faithfully submitted by:  
The Rev. Tim Rich  
Rector, St. Luke's Church

### **Pastoral Services and Celebrations in 2020**

#### **Baptized:**

Noah Laine Kelly, Maya Angelina Clesias, Charlotte Yoskiko Caton, Fiona Mae Fogarty, Samuel John Primiani, Lincoln Charles Newman, Lucy Helen Caswell, and Nora Jane Garland

#### **Married:**

Lakeisha Marie Applegate and Mark Joseph Perriello

Received:

Angela Howard-McParland

Buried:

Gloria Kane, Ruth Tonks, Russell Harrison, Joan Mayo, Nayanah Applegate, Charles Velardo, Charles Schifino, Muriel Harris, Ford Jewer, Lillian Lillibridge, Ron Clement, Joan Sylvander, Martin Denny-Brown, Millicent Mali, Lawrence Baxter, Muriel McEvoy, Gardner Palmer, Elizabeth McClintick

## **REPORT FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR:** **THE REV. TANYA WATT**

We all have our favorite teachers, and one of my very favorites was my Old Testament professor in seminary. She is passionate about the Old Testament and the ways in which God still speaks to us through these ancient scriptures. She would insist that we sit and pray with challenging texts, never shying away from the difficult moments in our readings. Our heritage is too rich to flatten it by walking away from the harder parts. She would use that wonderful Godly play question, *I wonder*, and invite us to approach our work with deeper curiosity: I wonder how God is speaking to us through this now; I wonder where the life-giving word for us is in this text. She invited us to see how light and darkness, blessings and curses coexist in the scripture. We sometimes want the text to be easier, we want there to be only light, but scripture is multidimensional, and we lose something if we pretend it isn't.

The questions that Dr. Fentress Williams invites us to think about while studying the Old Testament have been especially relevant this year. How is God speaking to us now, where is the life-giving word in this messy world? We have become acutely aware of the darkness, and in some ways we know the light better because it stands out so sharply against it. We are keenly aware of the painful costs of the pandemic, but I often also hear of surprising gifts we have received while walking this road, little lights that let us know we are not alone. The value of our communities has never been clearer. We need one another.

When Fr. Tim and I first began to speak about the Assistant Rector's position, we spoke over Zoom, a technology we all have come to know better this year. Even over Zoom, I could feel his enthusiasm for his work, his love for our parish, and his desire to partner with someone who wanted to learn and grow. One of my favorite words, which I learned only a few years ago, is *priestcraft*. Being called to ministry is wonderful and powerful, but the call is only the beginning. Learning how to faithfully live into the call is a lifelong process, and part of that process is learning from more experienced ministers, lay and ordained. I care about doing this work well, and it was not hard to see that working with Fr. Tim would allow me to benefit from his mentorship. I spoke with some of the lay leaders in our church, and their love of this place and the people of St. Luke's reached beyond the limits of technology - I could feel it pouring through my computer screen. St. Luke's is steeped in faithfulness. That faithfulness shines brightly as a light from our corner on Pierce Street, especially when things in the world are dark.

My first Sunday was our first Sunday back in the building, and it was a Sunday full of light! The reopening committee had done such wonderful, thoughtful work prior to that day. I joined in on their conversation the previous week, and it was a comfort to know that such serious effort had been put into opening the church up safely. Masks, proper ventilation, contact tracing, sanitizing stations, ushers keeping the flow of people moving in one direction...the only problem was resisting the urge to linger and talk with everyone following the service. I never felt the absence of coffee hours so deeply as I did following our worship services this summer and fall. The first time I preached from the pulpit at St. Luke's, I looked out to a sea of mask-wearing parishioners. Over time, I began to recognize some of the smiling eyes over the top of those masks.

With Fr. Tim and a terrific *Brain Trust* (as Fr. Tim named them), we engaged in many hope-filled conversations around youth faith formation. Though there were too many uncertainties to move forward last fall, those conversations continue. Our youth faith formation leaders are faithful and creative, and I'm so grateful for their enthusiasm and commitment. (I was especially impressed by the Bethlehem Nightly News segment spearheaded by Stacey Nakasian and Mike Grady!) It was a joy to finally get to spend time with some of our youth for our Christmas Zoom pageant; their energy and joy in spending time together was contagious. Simply by being themselves they gave me hope for the present and something to look forward to in the future; I am eager to get to spend more time with them!

As hope-filled as I found the worship we engaged in online and in-person over the summer and early fall, (my very, very favorite Sunday being The Blessing of the Animals, which was a glorious day!), I was surprised by how much of the wind went out of my sails when we had to suspend our in-person worship in November. I was again impressed by the thoughtful, intentional work of our reopening committee, and especially Fr. Tim's leadership. The decision to suspend services was undertaken with great concern and care for our community. It was absolutely the right decision to make, but I was deeply sorry to lose the anchor of our time together in person, away from our computer screens. Though I have only been at St. Luke's since August, seeing those who felt they could safely join us on Sundays was a great joy. I looked forward to it every week, and I look forward with obstinate hope to the time we can securely gather together again.

Perhaps because we could not gather together in person, I was especially grateful to get to be a part of the sense of continued connection brought about by our Advent and Christmastide Blogs. Our Adult Faith Formation steering committee imagined it into being, especially through the many gifts that Angie Howard McParland brings us. It was enormous work but enormously gratifying to see it through its fruition. It was a chance to get to know some of you more deeply, and I continue to be amazed by and grateful for the diversity of thought and wisdom each of you brings to our shared life as the Body of Christ.

The dark and the light continue to coexist in our world, but six months into my time at St. Luke's, I am grateful. I am grateful for the experienced, thoughtful leadership that Fr. Tim and Rodney provide. I am grateful for the chance to live into my own priestly call more fully. I am grateful for Christina's faithfulness in her work that keeps our office humming along in these particularly challenging times. I am grateful for Tim Marnane's commitment to caring for our facility. I am grateful for a church that I already love so much that it hurt to suspend our in-person services. I am grateful for the people that show me what it means to be faithful Christians in our world as it is, who continue to find ways to feed and clothe those in need, who stay connected to one another through our Adult Faith Forums, and Women of Grace, and Theology on Tap, and many other ways I haven't even encountered yet. We are children of the light. I see that light in our church in so many ways, and I thank God for you.

Faithfully Submitted,  
The Rev. Tanya Watt, Assistant Rector

## ACOLYTES

A team of 13 acolytes are available to serve on Sunday and occasionally through the week whenever their services are required when things return back to Pre-Covid times. All youth in the parish from fifth grade up to twelfth grade will be invited to participate in this stewardship.

There was no Acolyte Recognition ceremony in 2020 due to Covid.

Under normal circumstances new acolytes would be recruited, have a training session and then shadow the veteran acolytes before they assume the full responsibilities of an acolyte. All acolytes are invited to participate in the training of the new recruits and this serves as an opportunity to sharpen their skills. Graduating acolytes are honored in June. At this point none of this is happening due to Covid.

In 2020, 1 acolyte graduated. 2 will graduate this June. We have had no new acolytes since 2019. As of last year prior to Covid, the robes were being cleaned 2-3 times a year but are very worn. Efforts to secure new robes were in the works., however this has not happened. Also, some crosses still need to be replaced as they have gone missing.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Charlie and Julie Cronin

BE THE  
*light*  
-MATTHEW 5:14

## ADULT FAITH FORMATION

This has been a strange year! In January of 2020, the Adult Faith Formation Committee had done our advance planning to provide a program of formational experiences for the spring/summer of 2020. We continued classes between Sunday services and in January and February read **“The First Christmas”** by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. For Lent, our intention was to offer two programs; on Sundays, a video series entitled **‘Signs of Life’** from the Society of St. John the Evangelist and on Wednesdays, a discussion of the book, **“The Cross and the Lynching Tree”** by James H. Cone. But in March, the pandemic closed us down and we had to suspend our adult formation for a time.



One of the considerations often discussed by the Adult Formation Committee was our Sunday morning time frame which prevented participation by those whose ministries happen at the same time. As we began to discuss how we were going to continue to provide formation, we decided to give a try to a Wednesday evening online ZOOM gathering to continue discussing our Signs of Life program. This online format which was launched after Easter is still going strong and regularly has participants numbering in the 20-30 range. We are so pleased to be joined by members of the choir as well as folks with St. Luke’s roots now living at a distance.

As topics for discussion, we dove right into books that spoke to our current conditions. Right after Memorial Day we began a discussion of Walter Brueggemann’s timely book, **“Virus as a Summons to Faith.”** In August we began reading an excellent but challenging book, **“So You Want to Talk about Race”** by Ijeoma Oluo. In early October we began Jim Wallis’s provocative book, **“Christ in Crisis,”** which we read through Advent. Who knew that we could adjust so quickly to gathering as a community for online formation and tackle such challenging topics with deep faith and good will!

We also decided to invite our church members to participate in an Advent blog where individuals would provide brief reflections of each day’s readings during Advent to be shared by email and on our St. Luke’s website. Hoping that a few people would be willing to write for us, we were pleased beyond belief that so many would be willing to share their reflections that the blog posts continued through Christmas. The reflections were awesome, timely and filled with faith. We are so thankful that so many participated by writing and reading the posts.

I suspect that 2020 will live on in our memories as a year when few things remained as they were before the pandemic arrived on our shores. We faced and continue to face choices of how we respond as individuals and as a faith community. I am grateful to the members of the Adult Faith Formation Committee for their creativity, flexibility and sense of adventure: Pamela Gregory, Joseph Gomes, Eddie Lopez and, of course, Fr. Tim along with our new members Sally House, Angie Howard McPartland, Patricia Warburton and Mother Tanya Watt who joined us in the middle of the year. Special thanks go to Nance Arnold who set the bar high as chair of the committee with her superb organization. Our blessings go with her as she continues her formation in the Province One School for Deacons.

Betsy Fornal, Chair

## ALTAR GUILD

Being part of the Altar Guild is a rewarding experience as we prepare the Sanctuary for services each week. Included as well are Tuesday Healing services and holidays, weddings, and funerals. We have five teams with 5-7 members each and serve on a rotating basis.

Team Captains Cynthia Newton, Lisa Johnson, Liz Fox, Carol Stevens, and Jan Prifty coordinate with their team members to prepare for the various services. Each team serves for a two-week period about 4-5 times per year.

Pat Savage serves as Flower Chairman. The flowers are given each week in memory of loved ones, including Easter and Christmas.

Judy Elliott, Cynthia Newton, and Pat Savage make sure the linens are clean and pressed to set the Lord's table. Kathy Lynch helps out when needed. We are grateful for our wonderful Clergy who are always available to assist and answer questions. Sexton Tim is a huge help assisting with set up for special services.

Of course, with the restraints imposed upon us this past year, things have been different for us all. Thank you to the few of us who have stepped up to the plate to do the small requirements at church.

We are hopeful to find a better year ahead and welcome anyone who might find our group one to find fellowship and spiritual growth in!

Respectfully submitted and gratitude to all,  
Liz Fox and Lisa Johnson



## **BUILDING & GROUNDS**

### PROPERTY – BREAKFAST AND MORE

The Property and Grounds Committees' usual functioning was interrupted for Covid-19 virus safety concerns. We suspended our monthly breakfast meetings and began an on-call functioning for maintenance and repair. The outdoor gardening and yard maintenance committee continued under the direction of Cindi Lovejoy and Jack Newton. During this year members worked alone or in pairs to perform necessary repairs.

Some of the projects we undertake involve the following: Carpentry, plumbing, safety checks, electrical repairs, stone work, shrub care, garden creation, general repairs, painting touch-up and Koi pond maintenance.

We welcome all volunteers (both women and men) to join us. We remain on call as the needs arise and continue to do safety checks and Koi pond maintenance. We are hopeful that 2021 will see a return to our monthly breakfasts and group maintenance. We are appreciative of everyone's help and thank all for their service.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Brockway  
Doug MacPherson  
Cindi Lovejoy  
January, 2021





## COLUMBARIUM - GARDENS AND GROUNDS

The committee administers leasing niches in the cemetery columbarium and leasing of space for interment of ashes inground in the memorial garden. The committee is also responsible for beautifying these and other areas of the church property.

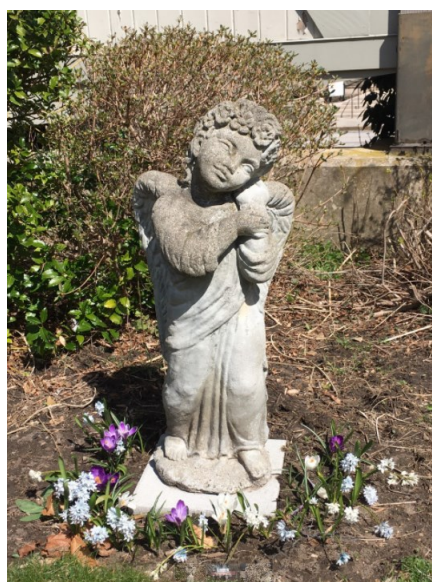
Faithful property crew members met monthly, with masks and social distancing to help keep our grounds looking welcoming and beautiful. Areas targeted for special work included completing the brickwork around the tower garden, repairing the areas that had to be dug up to repair the sewer system, trimming/cutting back/removing plants that were overgrown, damaged or old. A start was made on the healing garden and will be completed by June 2021. Also in 2021 we will be looking at areas that are in need of refreshing.

Thank you to all property crew and Twilighters who came and helped us keep our grounds looking nice. If you love being outdoors and getting your hands dirty, please join us. We will begin meeting again in March (weather dependent). We meet once a month on the third Thursday from 9-noon.

The original columbarium was dedicated in 1994, and the columbarium in the cemetery was expanded in 2014. Two additional structures were added, one on each side of the existing columbarium, each with 15 additional niches. As an alternative choice, there is ample space in the memorial garden for interment of ashes inground.

During 2020, there were two interments in niches in the cemetery, and one interment inground in the memorial garden. Anyone desiring further information please contact Fr Tim, Christina Imondi, our parish administrator, or Jack Newton (884-3128).

Ellen Abell  
Mark Cordle  
Cindi Lovejoy  
Jack Newton



## **CHRIST'S COMMUNITY KITCHEN - CCK**

For over ten years Christ's Community Kitchen has provided hearty meals to members of our community in a safe and welcoming setting. Saint Luke's hosts these dinners in our dining room with the help and support of many volunteers from our own parish family and other local faith communities.

In 2020 we were able to serve dinners in January and February before Coronavirus concerns led to the cancellation of events for the rest of the year. We offer our thanks to the ladies of the First Baptist Church and members of Christ Church for providing food and volunteers in support of this important feeding ministry.

We are hopeful that CCK dinners will be able to resume sometime in the fall of 2021. By summer of this year the kitchen and dining room renovation project should be completed, so we will welcome our volunteers and guests into a beautiful new cooking and dining facility. Once it is safe to do so, we will resume planning our monthly dinners. CCK is generally held on the last Monday of each month. Schedules will be posted in the church and in the Sunday bulletin. All the members of our parish family are invited to attend and work as volunteers or simply enjoy dinner with new friends. The level of volunteer support required from the Saint Luke's community varies from month to month, since other church groups often provide volunteers to prepare and serve the dinners. As hosts of the event, we always have some responsibility for setting up the dining room. Set up usually begins about 3:00 pm, and clean up is completed by 6:30 pm. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm. If you have any questions about how you might become involved with CCK, please speak with Paul Brookes or email him at [phbrookes@cox.net](mailto:phbrookes@cox.net).

The goal of CCK is to provide a healthy meal in a warm and welcoming space. We look forward to the day when we can safely invite the members of our community back into our dining room to enjoy our food and hospitality. Please plan to join us!

Paul Brookes



## **COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY**

We are all longing to be seen, heard, and known. Hospitality is the attentive response to others, whether stranger or friend. A welcoming Coffee Hour begins and ends with making space for folks to be heard and accepted.

Coffee Hour 2020 got off to a great start! Marcia and I began a quarterly sign-up sheet posted outside the church office where volunteers signed up to host a Sunday coffee hour after the 7:45am or 10:15am service. We were delighted to see a number of new hosts join this ministry... singles, couples and entire families hosted together. This took the burden off the dedicated hosts who had been serving in this ministry for years. People began going a bit further by decorating their table with seasonal decorations, tablecloths and napkins (not at all necessary, but fun!)

Then WHAM! Covid-19 put a damper on coffee hour when we followed the RI Department of Health's advice. Virtual church went into effect and we paused the in-person coffee hour. Kudos to Father Tim for coming up with the idea of hosting some Sunday evening Zoom Coffee Hours online - a great way to help folks stay connected! Seeing each other's faces online when we can't meet in person is wonderful.

We look forward to a time when we can gather as a parish and reinstate our beloved coffee hour. Each person is God's guest; each person is God's friend. In prayer, we receive God's welcome which we share with others.

Joyfully submitted,  
Tracy Sampson  
Marcia Gladue  
Co-Coffee Hour coordinators



## **COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE**

St. Luke's embraced virtual platforms in 2020 and it is here to stay. We have long been well served with our newsletters, announcements, and face-to-face communications through programs, ministries and being together in our church. But the events of 2020 called for more and St. Luke's quickly found its stride on the web, social media, and, yes, some good old-fashioned door-to-door, mail, and phone contacts. Let's recount some of the ways we used these various communication strategies to stay connected, support each other, and, most importantly, worship together.

*YouTube* – St. Luke's started posting virtual Daily Morning Prayer on March 22, 2020. What we learned is that not only did parishioners tune in, but they responded and shared their need for this virtual gathering. Even after the church re-opened, the posting of weekly Morning Prayer services each weekend continued, allowing us to honor our 'all are welcome' embrace to those who could safely attend or not, to those who were seeking a faith community and worship in these troubling times, and to the community at large who needed to know that while worship had changed, it had not ended.

*St. Luke's Website* – The Walsh Brothers continued to amaze and generate the love and spiritual bond that defines St. Luke's. New pages and apps were created to host the many new ways St. Luke's found to reach out – Virtual Worship became a standard offering under our Worship & Sacraments page, pop-up announcements provided week-to-week notices of upcoming services, activities, changes, and messages from our clergy and leadership, new 'buttons' populated our navigation menu and respective program pages to highlight musical offerings and gift ideas from St. Luke's, and then there was the Blog. This Advent, and subsequent Christmas, Blog was a collaboration of our adult faith formation team and the Walsh team, which all no doubt have now viewed, read and felt the resonance of St. Luke's voices across our parish...an enduring gift of connectivity and inspiration to be sure.

*Facebook* – Early in 2020, a Connections series of posts were invited to include images and reflections from parishioners as the pandemic lockdown kept us in our homes. Links to St. Luke's virtual services on St. Luke's website and YouTube were posted each weekend as well as announcements about protocols and plans for worship as we moved through various stages of the pandemic. Videos and/or reflective posts were posted to honor our high school graduates, share the continuing outreach efforts of our food and clothing ministries, highlight the work of our property/grounds volunteers and our pastoral care team, inform parishioners and the community of our fundraising events, and communicate upcoming services and events. Musical offerings were prevalent posts – tower bell concerts shared a range of seasonal and traditional themes and the choir created a special musical video to uplift spirits and share their message of hope. Looking back over these posts will remind us of how active and connected we remained throughout 2020.

*Newsletters/Constant Contact* — Our beloved Parish Administrator, Christina Imondi, is an invaluable resource who proved her mettle in this year. The Weekly newsletter was always there with the information we needed. Behind the scenes, her patient diligence assured accurate, timely posting of this and the many ancillary announcements required to keep us informed throughout the year. Not only do these missives come to us via email, but they post directly to our Facebook and Website—and, print copies are forwarded to those who are not online. Again, we are blessedly connected!

*Phone, Mail, Door-to-Door, Etc.*— At periodic moments over the year, the Vestry undertook phone calls to all parishioners to simply touch base. Much was learned about how families/individuals were coping and what additional steps might be taken to communicate with them. The food ministry group found that some of our usual patrons were uninformed about the opening of the food cupboard—again, a phone chain was initiated, and these patrons were grateful for the outreach. The stewardship campaign included a door-to-door cookie delivery, again giving parish leadership an insight to parishioner needs and providing a much-needed look at each other's faces. As Advent approached, a volunteer group sent out Christmas cards to all parishioners outlining all service offerings. This same announcement was shared through the East Greenwich Chamber of Commerce e-newsletter. In fact, the Town of East Greenwich reached out to St. Luke's to share a video of choral music to share in their virtual town hall meeting and then, later, to feature in their annual Christmas Parade. St. Luke's choirs enjoyed about five minutes of fame during the parade, which was broadcast on WCRI.

Communication is often a tricky thing, but as evidenced above, it is key to our communal life. St. Luke's has a rich network of communication tools and their importance cannot be understated. Yes, there is more that we can do, but 2020 taught us that we have the talent and the will to meet the need.

Peace,  
Your Communications Team

## **EPISCOPAL CHARITIES**

### **2020 Episcopal Charities: Giving, Serving and Loving, Even in a Pandemic**



As we began the year, plans were underway for the launch of our annual Parish campaign. Once again, Bishop Knisely had directed, in his letter to the Diocese, that Charities funds be given to those services and agencies that assist the most vulnerable among us: children and elders. These individuals, and their families, are subject to food insecurity, homelessness, psychological disorders, abuse and exploitation.

Looking over the list of past Episcopal Charities grant recipients, we decided to contact a special ministry, operating out of Westminster Unitarian Church, just up the street. The Sharing Locker, marking ten years, provides non-food essentials to families and individuals in the greater West Bay area. Offering this service on the third Saturday of every month, this ministry is a wonderful complement to our Interfaith Food Cupboard. Accepting their invitation to visit, we saw first-hand how the distribution of non-food provisions fills a critical need in our extended community. They were happy to accept our reciprocal invitation, so Kamila, Jan, Denise, Susan and Sandy came to St. Luke's for our official Campaign Kickoff on February 23th. Speaking at both services, they described how the grant they receive from Episcopal Charities supports the much-needed work of the Sharing Locker. It was a lively morning, as connections were made, and generous gifts came in. We were off and running.

However, three weeks later, our church doors were closed, and services were done virtually. The pandemic had officially begun, which changed all the dynamics. Any tabling in the Atrium or in-person discussions would not be done. We learned that St. Luke's was the first in the Diocese to launch its Episcopal Charities Kickoff, which went so well, and for that we were especially grateful.

Despite these restrictions and limitations, there were many silver linings, as parishioners continued to mail in their gifts and pledges, or make them online. In April, the Diocese launched its Charities NOW initiative in response to additional urgent needs created by the pandemic. This wonderfully-marketed partner to the traditional/annual Episcopal Charities drive delivered immediate funds to agencies and ministries on the front lines, which are helping the at-risk elders, children and families. The generous response to Charities NOW, we see, benefited our own East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard, as well as the Sharing Locker, which continued to distribute essential items each month, albeit now outdoors with masks and social distancing. Many other agencies who received both grants from Episcopal Charities, and Charities NOW also continued to fulfill their missions with modified processes that minimized the spread of the disease, while serving a greater number of impacted families.

Typically, over the Summer, many Episcopal Charities volunteers from the Diocese would go out to visit the many agencies which had submitted grant proposals for the following year. However, due to the continuing COVID-19 restrictions, these “visits” were done virtually, often via that now-familiar vehicle, Zoom. Though the methodologies and logistics are different, the needs are still the same, if not more so, and dependent upon the generosity of donors to Episcopal Charities.

The generosity of our St. Luke’s family also remains the same! As of December 31, 68 of you have contributed \$20,505 to Episcopal Charities. \$4,075 of this total represents gifts to Charities NOW. It’s worth noting, however, that these figures are as of this writing, as the Diocesan office continues to receive gifts via the mail, which has been slowed, due to the pandemic.

Nevertheless, Betsy tells us that total donations this year exceeded the last couple of years. Certainly the introduction of Charities NOW fund gave folks another option, and we’ve gained some new donors, while hearing back from others who had not given in years. We are so grateful for *your* continuing support and faithfulness in these challenging times. St. Luke’s has been a consistent leader in the Diocese in its support of Episcopal Charities, and we are happy to continue that tradition.

We extend special thanks to our own Canon Betsy Fornal, in charge of the Diocese’s Episcopal Charities, and we look forward in faith and hope to another year as we GIVE – SERVE – LOVE through Episcopal Charities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Dresselhouse & Laura Sullivan  
2020 Episcopal Charities Co-Chairs

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The Finance Committee is a standing committee that meets monthly and assists the Vestry by serving as stewards of the church's finances. The finance committee consists of seven members plus the Treasurer: Pam Dresselhouse, Jane Eaton, Steve McLoughlin, Stacey Nakasian, John Rannenbergh, Jeremy Stowe, George West and Michael Sullivan (Treasurer). Also participating in the monthly meetings are Fr. Tim Rich, Senior Warden Gary Schweizer and Junior Warden Bill Warburton, Jr.

Duties of the Finance Committee include:

- Prepare the annual operating budget and submit the budget to the Vestry for approval.
- Monitor adherence to the budget by reviewing income and expenses on a monthly basis.
- Monitor the church's investments and insurance coverages.
- Review audits and action plans and report findings to the Vestry.
- Advise and make recommendations to the Vestry on all matters pertaining to the finances of the Church.

The Treasurer, Michael Sullivan, oversees the day-to-day finances of the parish and provides reporting to the finance committee and Vestry each month. I want to especially thank Michael for the hours each month that he dedicates to the finances of the church. His efforts make the work of the finance committee so much easier. Another function of the finance committee is the recording of the minutes of all meetings and maintaining a permanent record of those minutes, which are reviewed as a part of the annual audit. A big thanks to Jane Eaton, who diligently records the minutes each month! Every member of the finance committee is engaged in the process, actively participates in meetings, asks thoughtful and thought-provoking questions and are overall committed to ensuring an open and transparent oversight of the church's finances.

Thanks to the entire committee!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Dresselhouse  
Finance Committee Chairperson



## **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE**

2020 - What a year to start a Fundraising Ministry!! Our team of Jon Jacaruso, Dick Kelly, Beth Vollucci and Bill Warburton started off with 10 possible ideas for fundraising but quickly narrowed it to 4 potential events: A Yard Sale and Golf Tournament both for May, a Stone Paver for a new walkway in summer, and a Comedy Show for the fall. Well, three of the four ideas got scratched once Covid-19 hit in March.

Fortunately, we were able to push back the May golf tournament date to August 31<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to a very talented and spirited committee consisting of Jon Jacaruso, Deborah Collins, Laura Sullivan, Pam Dresselhouse, Dick Kelly, Jane Brockway, Ellen Abell, Dottie Fleming, Steve Mendes, Eric Holmstedt and Bill Warburton. We took on the challenge of running our first golf tournament. A special thanks to all the Sponsors - especially our Grand Slam Sponsor, the Family of Ron Clement. Thank you Sue Clement. We appreciate all the efforts of the participants and volunteers. The Good Lord rewarded us with a beautiful day to have our St Luke's Community Kitchen Golf Classic at Potowomut Golf Club. The beautiful sketches of the Kitchen Design by Gary Schweizer were on display for all to see. A fun good time was had by all. We were able to raise \$28,238 for our new Kitchen Project.

Deborah Collins, with her gifted foundation of grant writing has brought in an additional \$18,000 for the Kitchen Project.

At the Annual Meeting last January, we received a significant gift from Al and Linda Potter. Additionally, we gained a total of 51 pledges totaling \$95,865. The Ron Clement Memorial Fund has also contributed \$5,370.

With the generous support of St Luke's and friends of our feeding ministries, St Luke's has raised a total of \$463,474 for the Kitchen Project.

Thanks to all for getting us to where we are today. What a true accomplishment, especially in a year of a pandemic. The Holy Spirit has certainly been guiding us!

Our fundraising goal for 2021 is to do a Yard Sale and a Dinner Dance and Auction if the pandemic situation improves.

Jon Jacaruso, Fundraising Co Chair  
Bill Warburton, Fundraising Co Chair

## **KITCHEN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Kitchen Improvements Committee is comprised of Paul Brookes, Lois McLoughlin, Steve McLoughlin, Bill Warburton and Gary Schweizer. Father Tim and Mother Tanya are involved in an advisory capacity. Paul Brookes took on the role of Project Manager as the project moved into the professional design phase, and Gary Schweizer remains Chairperson.

Like so many things in 2020, the kitchen improvements project did not go quite as planned. The timeline for the project extended farther out than we thought it would, and early cost estimates have come in higher than hoped. But much progress has still been made.

Gary Schweizer will present the Committee's Project Vision at the 2020 annual meeting. This vision was the result of a year-long effort of surveying existing use, visiting comparable facilities, establishing a program, and coming up with a preliminary design vision for an upgraded kitchen and dining room.

The kitchen fundraising campaign kicked off at the annual meeting with the announcement of a large gift by Al and Linda Potter. The campaign was to culminate in May with a golf fundraiser, but the COVID-19 pandemic postponed the event until August 31. Despite the delay, the event was a huge success and the campaign met its original goal of \$450,000.

With funding established, the Committee solicited proposals for professional design services. In October, Lofgren Consulting Architect was selected and schematic design began. Peter Lofgren brings with him an excellent team of foodservice design consultants, mechanical and electrical engineers, code consultants, specification writers and cost estimators. The professional consultants began inspecting the current condition of our facilities right away, especially the electrical and mechanical systems, so that an informed design scope could be established. The Committee also met regularly with the architect and foodservice consultant to refine the kitchen layout and design.

A schematic design package was submitted to the cost estimator in December. The preliminary estimate came in mid-January, and as is so often the case in renovations, it is higher than expected. The Committee is working with the architect to review the estimate and to refine the scope and design to bring them in line with the budget. Moving forward, we expect the design to be completed by the end of April, with construction completed by the end of the summer.

The Kitchen Design Committee wishes to thank the Parish and community supporters for their incredible generosity and enthusiasm for this project. The events of 2020 have highlighted two very important truths: 1) there is tremendous need and food insecurity in our community, and 2) coming together as a community and a parish is an absolute blessing. We are so excited about what a new facility will be able to do to support these essential activities and look forward to the project's successful completion in 2021.

Gary Schweizer  
Kitchen Improvements Committee Chair

## **LOAVES & FISHES RHODE ISLAND (LFRI)**

“With kindness and compassion, we serve food and provide clothing to our neighbors in need, while honoring their dignity”. That is our mission at LFRI. We are now in our seventh year of supporting this statewide mobile ministry dedicated to feeding and clothing the homeless and needy of Rhode Island. For the seven years prior to last March, on the 4th Saturday of every month we had been loading up the LFRI truck with food and clothing at St. Luke’s and would then drive to Woonsocket to a bus stop parking lot under a train trestle. There were always 120 or more men, women, and children waiting anxiously for us. We would arrive in a caravan of our truck and 3-6 cars where 5-15 volunteers from St Luke’s and friends from the community set up food lines, clothing tables out of the backs of SUV’s, and a prayer station. We brought sandwiches, snacks, hot food, and drinks for our clients which earlier that morning a team of volunteers worked putting together at St Luke’s. The children and adults were always appreciative of the socks, underwear, sweatshirts, jackets, and other clothing items we brought. Each year we had done this we had seen more clients than the prior year, and until last March, this was no different. We were always completely depleted of food and clothing within an hour.

The ministry as we had known it came to a sudden stop with the pandemic. We tried providing pre-bagged items for the month of March, but then decided this was not safe to continue. We look forward to the time we can start providing this support again. In the meantime, we have focused our efforts locally, supporting other local efforts where we could. We have worried about homeless and needy in Woonsocket, and, through Steve McCloughlin’s efforts found that other groups were working in Woonsocket on a limited basis. Working with “Help the Homeless RI” out of West Warwick we were able to coordinate joining them in early December and we donated 110 large reusable shopping bags stuffed with winter and clothing and toiletries. About 50 of the bags went to homeless adults who were getting food, and the rest we took to a women’s shelter where the women and children were so very appreciative. We were able to fill these bags through a grant St. Luke’s LFRI had received from the Rhode Island Foundation.

At St Luke’s, our Loaves and Fishes ministry is part of a state wide organization, LFRI, which is comprised of 12 partner churches who share resources, including the food truck. In 2019, our statewide ministry provided over 20,000 meals and over 6,000 articles of essential clothing to our neighbors in need throughout Rhode Island.

We have a St. Luke’s steering committee that meets every 1-2 months to discuss logistics, and ways to improve our mission. Our discussions the past 9 months have focused on what we can do locally. For now, we are no longer accepting clothing donations from our parishioners, and all food donations should be directed to the East Greenwich Food Cupboard. We will be in touch with the parish when we start our mission again, hopefully by late spring or summer.

Faithfully submitted,  
Dana and Caroline Sparhawk on behalf of  
St. Luke’s LFRI Steering Committee



## **LUNCH ON THE HILL**

(St. Luke's and the East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard (EGIFC))



*Matthew 25:35*

*I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...*

Little did we know as we enjoyed lunch together late last February that it would be the last time that we would have the pleasure of each other's company for over a year. Like everything around us, our time at Lunch on the Hill was impacted by COVID-19. We discontinued lunches at the end of February out of extreme caution for the safety of our clients, friends, and volunteers. Through the generosity of Jiggers restaurant were able to continue delivering lunches to the East Greenwich Hotel until the end of July.

We are looking forward to getting together again, hopefully in the spring, and looking forward to hosting LOTH in our newly renovated kitchen and dining Hall as we resume our ministry together. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the restaurants and organizations that volunteer their time, services, and meals to make these delicious lunches available.

If you happen to be in the area of one of our sponsor restaurants, please take the time to support them with your business as they recover from these difficult times.

Wed	Host & Meal Sponsor	Contact Information
1	Our Lady of Mercy & Wild Harvest	Bill Daily - daly17@cox.net
2	Saint Luke's, EGIFC & Jiggers Diner	Steve McLoughlin - <a href="mailto:Smcloughlin2@aol.com">Smcloughlin2@aol.com</a>
3	Christ Church & T's Restaurant	Cathi Sloan - cbsloan1@cox.net Pat Ritacco - patr@christchurcheg.org
4	Westminster Unitarian Church & Dave's Market	Janet Searles – jsjpjs@aol.com
5	Methodist Church & Filippou's Pizza	Steve Bartlett –dufferdog@aol.com

### **Lunch Hosts/Contact and Sponsors:**

Please make a point of stopping by at our sponsor restaurants to let them know how much we appreciate their support.

**New volunteers are always welcomed and needed.**

**Each week six volunteers are needed (10:00AM – 12:30PM) for setup, serving, cleanup, and greeting our guests.**

**Volunteers are also needed to bake desserts (Cupcakes, Brownies, etc.).**

Feel free to call Steve McLoughlin at 225-5540 or Steve Bartlett at 885-5889 if you have any suggestions/questions or would like additional information on how you can help.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.  
Steve McLoughlin/Steve Bartlett

## MUSIC

As we flipped the calendar from December to January, 2020 promised to be a good year. Little did we know what was ahead.

We began the New Year on Sunday, January 5, with our annual Epiphany Pageant. Forty cast members presented a song filled tableau that so beautifully tells the Christmas/Epiphany stories. A big thank you to Charlotte Palmer for her help in directing the pageant and to Geo Borgia, Anna Pilkington, and Christine Scarber. It was a tender and hopeful way to launch the year.

Rehearsals then resumed for our choirs – *Angel Choir* (Pre K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grades), *St. Cecilia Choir* (3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades), and *Canterbury Choir* (Adult) – as they continued their primary responsibility of providing and leading music at our Sunday morning 10:15AM celebrations of the Eucharist. We had ten Sundays of beautiful and inspired leadership from these amazing ensembles.

The St. Cecilia choir's bake sale on Sunday, February 9, was a great success raising \$1,157.50. Thank you Jody Ryan for all your hard work organizing and baking. These funds help buy materials for the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) curriculum used in our St. Cecilia choir program. The funds also go to scholarships to help our choristers attend summer programs sponsored by the RSCM.

Saturday, March 7, brought a spectacular Chorister Evensong at Grace Church in Providence. Our St. Cecilia Choristers joined the Grace Church Choristers along with choristers from St. John the Evangelist in Newport and St. Christopher's Church, Chatham, MA. Guest conductor Graeme McCullough, from All Saints Church, Worcester, led the more than 50 singers in a truly uplifting and memorable occasion. We were already worried about the Covid-19 virus that was now major headline news; however, we cautiously proceeded following the expert advice at the moment...hand sanitizer was provided at every turn, but masks or social distancing recommendations had not yet been issued. The exhilarating day culminated with a magnificent Evensong service. Thank God no chorister or congregation member got sick or passed along the virus. This was the last big in-person choral event of the year.

The Angel Choir met as usual on Wednesday, March 11, but by then Nancy Borden and I were increasingly worried...how quickly things were changing. We met the choristers at the door and directed them directly to the restrooms to wash hands. Nancy wore gloves when preparing the end-of-rehearsal snack.

By the next day, Thursday, March 12, the clergy and wardens had decided to temporarily suspend all in-person activities and groups at St. Luke's other than Sunday worship. Hastily, the Thursday Canterbury Choir and Friday St. Cecilia Choir rehearsals were called off. By Saturday, March 14, word came from the Governor asking churches not to meet in person, so Sunday, March 15, services were quickly cancelled.

At the time many of us thought we were in for a 2-week or so pause. I still remember Tom Dresselhouse calling me with the offer to pick up choir folders from the church and deliver them to people's homes since Holy Week was only 3 weeks away and we needed to be ready. Little did we know how long the lockdown and restrictions would last.

We quickly moved into virtual worship. Lent 4, March 22, was led by a group of 6 of us gathered together at the church. But early the next week, even that was deemed too many people together. A stay at home order was now in place, and we moved then to services including multiple participants, but with individuals recording her or his portions on cell phones from individual homes...thus beginning a pattern that would last the rest of the year.

Nonetheless, the first week of April brought a powerful series of Holy Week services – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday – culminating in a glorious Easter Sunday celebration on April 12. St. Luke's was still a vibrant community worshipping together simply in a new way.

By this time, however, singing (especially group singing) was deemed one of the riskiest activities by many health organizations and leaders. While more hopeful scientific studies were eventually to come in the fall, we continued with a suspension of all choir rehearsals and moved to Zoom check-ins with the St. Cecilia and Canterbury Choirs.

Section leaders Arielle Rogers and Brad Logan, the Three Amigos, and I kept recording new music for our Sunday services. Fortunately, we were able to use numerous archival recordings of our wonderful choirs as well, so many voices continued to be heard. Unfortunately, many of our end-of-program-year events (concert, parties, etc..) did not happen in usual ways since it was not safe to gather in groups.

Another deep disappointment was the cancellation of the annual Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) course held in Newport. This course is a beloved by many of our St. Cecilia choristers and families.

By August, St. Luke's had returned to in-person worship albeit with all sorts health safety protocols and limited attendance, and sadly, no congregational singing. But a wider circle of soloists were now able to participate, and we continued our virtual worship as well.

As Labor Day came, more scientific studies and gathered data were now more accurately reflecting the risks of singing. Yes, still risky in large groups, but with proper protocols, the risk assessment did allow for at least small singing groups to gather. We decided to wait for schools to open and then evaluate how things were going two to three weeks later. All basically went well, so on Friday, October 9, some members of the St. Cecilia choir resumed in-person rehearsal with strict protocols (extreme social distancing, masks, etc...). On any given rehearsal we had 8-12 choristers. We rehearsed outside most of the time, and when indoors we stood 14 feet apart with masks on. Windows were open at all times even during the late October storm when snow was blowing in through the windows!

During this period, Deborah Collins shared a great idea with me. Couldn't all the choirs offer some sort of gift to the parish even if we couldn't all sing together? Deborah's idea was to use a previously recorded piece by the choirs, but then video small groups and families from each choir holding posters of the lyrics. I suggested the song, "How can I keep from singing," from our May 2019 concert, but that's all I did. Deborah Collins and Laura Sullivan, with the help of Michael Sullivan and Rob Walsh, did all the rest. For several weeks and countless hours, Deborah and Laura devoted themselves to this amazing project that was released to the parish on "Celebration Sunday," November 15. It was a true labor of love on Deborah and Laura's part. I thank them from the bottom of my heart. The video is still available on our Facebook page.

Assuming all went safely with the St. Cecilia rehearsals, I had hoped to then start meeting with small groups from the Angel and Canterbury choirs by mid-November. Unfortunately by November, the Covid virus was spreading at much higher rates again. By late in the second week of November, all in-person worship and activities were again suspended. Fortunately, in the five St. Cecilia rehearsals up to that point, we were able to record several anthems and hymns for our virtual worship.

So we ended up finishing the year in a totally virtual manner. Yet still, several special events still took place. Deborah Collins went into high gear reworking our 2018 Christmas Concert video for a freshly edited and updated 2020 offering. Before releasing this full video to the parish on December 12, portions of the concert were played on the radio for the East Greenwich holiday car parade and tree lighting on Sunday, December 5, and a selection was also used for the East Greenwich new town council's inauguration/swearing-in Zoom ceremony on Thursday, December 10. Even during a pandemic shut down, the St. Luke's Choirs were still visible and heard in the wider community. I can't thank Deborah Collins enough for her enormous efforts and countless hours in making all this happen.

While our Christmas Eve celebrations were certainly different this year, we still had two beautiful services. The service particularly for children and families featured pieces sung by a small group from St. Cecilia Choir along with a Zoom pageant and a touching Christmas story from Fr. Tim. The second service, Lessons and Carols, featured soloists, a small group from St. Cecilia and a couple of small groups from the Canterbury Choir. Hyunjung Choi, harpist, joined as well, and Bruce Dearnaley inspired us all playing the Tower Bells with beautiful St. Luke's photographs overlaid by Deborah Collins. Different this year? Yes, but still absolutely beautiful.

Now for a few other acknowledgements. While we only made it to the beginning of March with normal, full in-person rehearsals and RSCM classes, thank you to Geo Borgia, Anna Pilkington, Jody Ryan, and Christine Scarber for their immense efforts to help keep the St. Cecilia Choir program running smoothly. And thank you to the RSCM teachers, Sally House and Ben Lovejoy, who volunteered time, wisdom, and talent to teach. Thank you to Nancy Borden for her enormous assistance with the Angel Choir. As they say, "it takes a village"...we truly have a phenomenal group of people nurturing our young choristers.

Huge thanks to the Three Amigos – Brad Logan, Rob Walsh, and Bruce Dearnaley. I'm so thankful for their amazing music making both at St. Luke's and beyond our walls into the wider community.

And thank you to Bruce Dearnaley for all the inspiring music rung through the tower bells. This year, more than ever, Bruce's ministry has been so important. Even while the church building has remained closed much of the year, Bruce continues to play our exquisite Tower Bells each week...a gift to St. Luke's and the entire East Greenwich community. Bruce and Deborah Collins have made numerous bell videos overlaid with special pictures around St. Luke's. These videos grace our Facebook page and several have been featured in special virtual worship services. And late this fall, Bruce even released a Tower Bell compact disc as a gift to St. Luke's and as a way to increase the Music Fund. Bruce and Deborah, you are a gift to us all. Thank you for all you do!

I began this report by saying 2020 promised to be a good year. Well, it played out to be a much unexpected and different year. To be honest, there has been much sadness, anxiety, and loss in so many ways. We have missed being together, and my goodness, the choirs have missed singing together. But still, our worship and community life have included beautiful music. I hope and pray we will be back to some sense of "normal" by the end of 2021, but even during the struggles of 2020, good things did happen. In the words of our special choir video, "through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music ringing. It sounds and echoes in my heart, how can I keep from singing."

It is my joy and privilege to serve as Minister of Music in this dynamic community under the amazing, inspired leadership of Fr. Tim. I look forward to a hopeful, song-filled 2021 at St. Luke's.

Faithfully,  
Rodney



## NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

The Newcomer team was ready for 2020. We had the schedule of East Greenwich Main Street Strolls on hand, some tentative dates for our spring brunch, and some ideas for more individual outreach to newcomers to St. Luke's. Then things changed. We were not in the pews to meet and greet new faces, there was no one in the pews to fill out Welcome Cards, and no coffee hour to get to know and introduce ourselves to visitors. But, somehow, newcomers found us. In fact, we were blessed with twelve new families at St. Luke's. They contacted the parish office, filled out Welcome Cards when we reopened for short period last summer, or simply started attending and participating in our parish ministries. The good news is that St. Luke's was there for those seeking a faith community during this very challenging year. Most of the families immediately declared themselves 'active members'—having been active members at churches in the communities they formerly resided in or finally finding a spiritual home that fit. Others were and may still be exploring a connection with our parish, asking to receive our Weekly newsletter, following us on Facebook, and touching base through our various virtual offerings.

As a team, we called newcomers during the early stages of the pandemic and volunteered to address and post the Christmas postcards sent to all parishioners. This latter effort harkened back to previous Newcomer mailings to keep newcomers, neighbors and the community aware of our services and programs. This time, we partnered with members of the Pastoral Care committee and other volunteers to make sure we were keeping in touch with all members and, especially, our new active members.

We look forward to resuming our brunches, our presence on Main Street, and creating new ways to welcome and engage newcomers to St. Luke's. For now, we feel blessed that St. Luke's was found to be a spiritual home for so many new families and cannot wait to be in the pews together again.

Faithfully submitted by The Newcomer Team,  
Deborah Collins, Sarah Muoio, Bill & Patricia Warburton, Sharon Pickering,  
Nora Hall & Laura Sullivan



## **PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Care Committee meets monthly under the guidance of the Rev. Timothy Rich. In September, the Rev. Tanya Watt joined our ministry. The committee members are: Ellen Abell, Jane Brockway, Donna Dufault, Dotty Fleming, Donna Jordan, Anne Mackie, Amanda Mellow, Sharon Pickering, Nancy Rudicil, Carol Stevens, and Harry Waterman. This year we have added two new members, Kathy Denny-Brown and Stephanie Leite.

Our main purpose is ministering to our parishioners who are in need of communion, a visit, a phone call, or a greeting card. We visit the homebound and visit our members in nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted-living facilities. We provide support for the individual and also family members. The committee members establish personal relationships with our parishioners and their families.

In March, 2020, the COVID 19 pandemic lead to a change in how we performed our ministry. We continue to meet through our Zoom meetings in order to support our parishioners in need. With the guidance of Mother Tanya, we updated our prayer list requests by providing a request form found in the Weekly and also on the St. Luke's Website.

A very important outreach of our group is the following: We have two members who are trained as Eucharistic Lay Visitors. They can take Holy Communion to our parishioners who have requested this ministry.

As special needs arise, the members also assist in preparing and delivering meals to parishioners in need identified by Father Tim, and other concerned members of our church.

We also continue our card ministry. It involves sending messages of support, cheer, and sympathy to our members. We try to keep an updated list of our active military men and women. The shawl ministry continues to be an outreach of our committee. The shawls, and lap blankets are knitted and crocheted, then blessed by a clergy member, and then given to our parishioners in need.

Our outreach continues to parishioners in need by offering hand-held wooden crosses of olive wood, made in Bethlehem. The ministry is called: My Caring Cross. The Caring Cross is designed to fit into the palm of your hand as an aid to prayer and meditation.

The committee members continue to sell "The Windows of St. Luke's Church" book. All proceeds from the sale of the books go toward maintaining the beautiful stained glass windows of St. Luke's Church. Copies are available by contacting Christina in the church office or by contacting a member of the Pastoral Care Ministry.

Please inform Father Tim, Mother Tanya, or a committee member if you know of someone that would benefit from our ministry outreach.

I would like to thank all of the members of The Pastoral Care Ministry for their dedication and support to this ministry and to their dedication and support to all of the members of the St. Luke's community.

We CARE about our parishioners, and we pray that this pandemic will finally end soon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna L. Jordan



## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE (CAPITAL)**

The capital property committee is responsible for identifying, prioritizing, and acting upon capital improvements on church property.

The committee is chaired by Dave Savage and consists of members Laraine Leech, Paul Brookes, Bruce Stevens, Bob Brockway, Glenn Kullberg and Tom Dresselhouse, who meet as necessary to review progress on projects, assign responsibilities for action, and evaluate and initiate new projects.

2020 was a year of retraction, as we dealt with the pandemic and resulting strains on the treasury. We did manage to complete the roofing project, thus taking that off our to-do list for upwards of twenty years. We also had to deal with two sewer issues, one resulting in considerable interior damage, the other leading to replacement of a section of the sewer line.

Our 2021 “wish list” reflects current conditions; foremost completion of the Loggia painting project and resurfacing repair, and relining of the parking lot. Both are in a contingent mode, until we get a better reading on the financial picture come Spring-Summer.

The committee is always looking for new members; if this work may be of interest to you, please contact me or any of the team members.

Dave Savage



## **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Connect, Hope, Pray, Act, Give

Let me start by saying thank you for supporting St. Luke's and our ministry!

As I mentioned in my November update, the Commitment Campaign was different this year; it was much more personal! The Vestry and Stewardship Committee worked together to connect with our congregation amid multiple ongoing crises. We reached out with letters, phone calls, and personal visits to deliver cookies. Despite the return of physical separation, I think we bridged the elements that divided us as a community and helped keep the congregation together while raising money to do God's work.

Several members of the team deserve special recognition. Rob and John Walsh donated their time and creative talents by designing the campaign's messages, media, and orchestrating the social media elements. Dotty Fleming and Deborah Collins spent countless hours updating our parish membership database helping the entire Stewardship Team contact our community.

We approached the annual campaign with some apprehension. Not knowing how the virus and social unrest affected each individual, it was difficult to set expectations. As of January 5, 2021, our community had pledged over \$430,000 to support St. Luke's and its ministries! I believe this shows our resiliency and faith in God even when faced with crisis and uncertainty. While the formal 2021 campaign is over, it's never too late to make or increase your pledge.

Yours in Christ,

David Sampson



## **ST. ELIZABETH'S COMMUNITY WORSHIP**

On March 13, 2020, as the pandemic gripped our nation and the world, our St. Elizabeth's worship ministry was paused. Little did we know that we would not be able to visit and serve our beloved people at St. Elizabeth for such a long period of time. During this time, the Volunteer Coordinator has kept in touch with updates on how the residents and staff are coping. As of this writing, late December, the home has been fortunate to only have a few positive cases and no deaths due to COVID-19. I informed the Volunteer Coordinator of all the virtual connections available on our St. Luke's website and encouraged her to offer the residents opportunities to worship with us virtually. Meanwhile, our team continues to pray for both residents and staff and we look forward to the day we can return to bring worship and companionship in person.

ST. ELIZABETH'S COMMUNITY WORSHIP under the leadership of Dorothy Fleming continues a long tradition of providing a team of volunteers to assist with the weekly worship service. The service is held on Saturday afternoon at 3:30 pm. The volunteer arrives approximately 30 minutes earlier to prepare the chapel and the altar for the service. Our volunteers are scheduled once a month. They assist the residents getting to and from the chapel and assist the clergy as needed with the worship service. The volunteers then spend a few minutes putting the chapel and altar back in order. Usually this is all completed by 4:30 pm. The opportunity to provide this service to the residents of St. Elizabeth's is a very rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dorothy Fleming



## **THE SEASONS**

Due to the devastating restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, The Seasons Assisted Living and Memory Impaired facility closed its doors to all "outside" activities and visitors as of March 15th and has remained closed to our "once a month service" until further notice. The Bishop and the Diocese of Rhode Island and the Rector of St. Luke's Church, Fr. Tim Rich, all agree to respect the wishes of the Governor of Rhode Island and the Administrative Staff at The Seasons to honor the health and safety of all residents and employees at this East Greenwich facility. We continue to pray for our St. Luke's families at The Seasons including Norman and Elaine James and Al Greer and all residents at The Seasons until I am permitted once again to share the sacraments and the fellowship of St. Luke's Church with the residents of The Seasons.

Respectfully submitted,  
Harry Waterman



## **THE GIVING TREE**

Like almost everything else this past year, our Giving Tree project was different. We couldn't ask parishioners to take tags from the tree and buy gifts like clothes, toys, books and cold weather gear. We couldn't have our volunteers gather to organize the beautifully wrapped gifts. We couldn't physically connect with people during distribution. We couldn't see the smiles or receive the hugs from grateful recipients. However, the Covid-19 virus could not stop St. Luke's from making Christmas special for seventeen families who asked for assistance. Through numerous phone calls, we were able to ascertain the needs of each family like the grandfather who took in his daughter and four children after both losing their jobs or the sisters who moved in together to lower expenses after also becoming unemployed or the single mother of five just trying somehow to have a Christmas this year for her children.

Through various discussions about the need being evident, it was decided to once again ask our parishioners for assistance. Instead of beautifully wrapped gifts, it was decided to ask for gifts cards from Walmart that could safely be distributed to those in need. The outpouring of kindness and generosity was overwhelming. Noting food insecurity as another issue, we were fortunate enough to also give each family Stop & Shop gift cards.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the Giving Tree Project was another success this year. Seventeen families had a brighter Christmas during this very difficult time because of St. Luke's parishioners' willingness to share the love and joy of the season with others less fortunate.

Thank you to everyone!

Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Horton & Karen Fecteau





## **THEOLOGY ON TAP**

As the men's group of St. Lukes, Theology on Tap (TOT) focus is on Christian fellowship and service. We are a casual, friendly group and welcome all who will join us.

Our monthly meetings, on the last Monday of the month (7:00 pm), are currently conducted via Zoom. Prior to this year we have enjoyed the camaraderie of meeting face to face in the Blackburn room.

This year we have began a discussion of the idea of a Legacy letter or, as we describe it, "My Stories" and are continuing to evolve this concept together. This is an age-old custom of passing on to the future generations one's values, experiences and stories, generally in a letter, but now often in the form of a video or even a book. The purpose is a thoughtful examination of one's life experiences and learnings and a creating a vehicle to facilitate a healthy dialogue with loved ones.

TOT has historically had engaged with St. Luke's food ministries by supporting Christ Community Kitchen, Mobile Loaves & Fishes and other endeavors where we can help with food insecurity. Covid has placed some limitations on us this year, but we were successful in providing a warm Thanksgiving holiday meal to the residents of The Greenwich Hotel. Many thanks to all of the folks who contributed, and Karie Myers of Jiggers, for their flexibility and generosity in helping to make this happen. In 2021, although living in a COVID-constrained world, we are actively seeking ways that we can contribute and participate in programs that can help those who need.

Thanks to Father Tim for preparing and facilitating a very special TOT Christmas Service via Zoom. It was quite a scene to see the men of TOT, dressed up in their holiday finest for the occasion, and enjoying each other's company. We found that, even apart, we could be together and share the joy of friendship and faith.

We are looking forward to the days when we can again meet face to face. Anyone who is interested in learning more or joining us, feel free to contact Brent Bostick at 908-230-7569 or email [brentbostick1@gmail.com](mailto:brentbostick1@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,  
Brent Bostick



## **SAINT LUKE'S USHER MINISTRY**

**Dear friend, when you extend hospitality to Christian brothers and sisters, even when they are strangers, you make the faith visible. ... It's good work you're doing, helping these travelers on their way, hospitality worthy of God himself! (3 John, vs 5-6)**



The Usher Ministry is made up of twelve teams of over 50 men & women who served regularly at scheduled, holiday and special services to assist in creating a welcoming, reverent and safe environment for worship. Several teams have made this a family ministry, including their entire family when they serve. If you are interested in joining us in this ministry please contact me or any of the ushers.

In the Spring our Ministry found the need to be flexible, adjusting to Covid guidance and recommendation on social distancing provided by the State and Diocese of RI. When services resumed in early summer the Usher Ministry played an important role in creating a safe place for worship while reinforcing the changes necessary to reduce movement, provide socially distanced seating, collecting contact information, and managing the flow of congregants when entering and exiting the service.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to the ushers and office staff for their dedication and support to this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve McLoughlin (Head Usher)

### **Our Mission**

The usher ministry offers the hospitality of Christ to people who come to worship, to collect and secure the gifts of the people, and to assure the order, comfort, and safety of the congregation, making St Luke's an inviting place to worship.

### **Talent**

- Must like meeting and greeting people.
- The ability to be friendly while dignified and appreciative of the setting.
- Attentiveness to needs and poise in the unexpected.

### **Time Involved**

- Ushers serve on a rotational basis about every 6 weeks.
- Ushers may specify a preference for services.
- Arrive 30 minutes before service

### **Who are the Ushers**

- Individuals Men, Women, Young Adults
- Couples
- Families
- You



## WOMEN OF GRACE

In 2020, *Women of Grace* bridged the worlds of pre-COVID and now-COVID life with prayers, reflection and immense measures of support and hope. The year started with our usual meetings in the homes of WoG hosts, unaware of what loomed ahead. It was a delightful start in January, with a group of nearly 30 women gathered to follow our usual routine—time to meet, greet and chat, opening prayer and introduction to our topic, a rich and insightful discussion, closing prayer and farewell hugs and good-byes. February brought yet the same, but within a few weeks after, life changed. But, as all of us at St. Luke’s learned in 2020, church was changed but not ended! We launched into Zoom, learned how to engage and maintain our routine...absent those loving hugs, but mindful of the gift of our voices and faces shared together each month. As we reached our traditional ‘end of year’ program in May, we realized how critical this connection was in sustaining us through the opening strains of 2020, so we met through the summer months and into our fall program. Grace was ours indeed as we embraced a wide-ranging array of topics, briefly outlined below.

Pre-COVID, Pam Gregory led our January discussion of an article by Lonnie Lacy, an Episcopal priest in South Georgia, who wrote about what we hold on to and what we can let fall away. February’s program was led by Laura Sullivan, Marie Hennedy and Sophie Meschter, who introduced or refreshed our memory of C.S. Lewis’s *The Four Loves*.

As we moved to virtual gatherings, WoG shared weekly reflections, emails and interactions as plans were formed to meet via Zoom. While the learning curve seemed steep at first, mutual encouragement, patience and support resulted in a successful and resourceful first Zoom meeting. Participants shared stories of how they were coping and viewing this early stage of isolation...then, forging ahead, they outlined a substantial list of topics and ideas to introduce at future meetings.

May re-established our routine of meeting and greeting, prayer, discussion, and closing farewells. Patricia Warburton led a discussion focused on *Women’s Way of Knowing Self and God*, drawing on excerpts from works by Glennon Doyle, Richard Rohr, Brené Brown, and Cynthia Bourgeault.

June was to be our last meeting until September, taking a traditional break for the summer. However, during that conversation, the group realized a need to continue through the summer. Concern over issues related not just to the pandemic but to race and divisions in our country galvanized a drive to share our collective observations, perspectives, questions and need for understanding. Books, articles, resources were shared to inform our ongoing conversations.

By September, WoG outlined a fall program through December that included discussions of: Brené Brown’s 2018 video on collective joy versus dehumanization; Mother Tanya Watt’s presentation on creating a personal rule of life; Dr. Deborah Britt’s (St. Luke’s resident microbiologist) talk on “the virus unmasked”; and, creation of a community poem led by Jennifer Cormier and her co-blogger, Lori Ayotte (look forward to a 2021 reveal soon!).

Women of Grace proved true to their name in 2020, both experiencing and emanating grace in their collective sharing, prayers, and faith. We look forward to continued grace in 2021.

Faithfully submitted on behalf of WoG by Deborah Collins



## **YOUTH FAITH FORMATION/GODLY PLAY**

Throughout the fall and early winter of the 2019-20 school year, the youth faith formation program at St. Luke's operated with the strong participation of students and adult leaders. Our three core programs, Godly Play (Pre-K through Grade 5) and the two youth programs (Grades 6-8 and 9-11) met on a weekly basis along with an array of regularly-scheduled service trips. Then like so many other parish ministries and society at large, all face-to-face activities were suspended in accordance with statewide Covid-19 guidelines. Below is a summary of activities for the main youth faith formation classes at St. Luke's. The report covers both pre-Covid activities and some of the virtual work completed since the pause of all in-person activity in March 2020.

*Godly Play.* Two elementary-age class groups (pre-K-Grade 3 and Grades 4 and 5) comprise St. Luke's Godly Play program. Our biggest class is the PreK - 3rd grade with about 25 active students, teachers and parents. The Grade 4-5 class is a smaller contingent with about nine students attending regularly. Both classes have continued to build tight-knit families who share, explore and act out the stories they learn each Sunday. We are so fortunate to have many talented and dedicated storytellers and greeters each week for Godly Play. They know their students by name and are able to manage with love and grace a very busy classroom. Our staff includes Lisa Rivard, Erica Simo, Melissa Sylvester, Kate Goldbitz, Holly O'Brien, Aileen Sprague, Mikayla Tudino, Glenis Downing, Diane Rich, and Carrie Jacaruso.

*Grades 6-8.* Mike Grady and Stacey Nakasian lead our middle school formation program once again this year. Students continued to use the new *God Talks!* curriculum first introduced in 2019-20. This is a topic-based sequence that examines a single theme or concept in detail over a 2-5 week period for purposes of familiarizing students with key concepts in spiritual development.

Following the suspension of in-person classes in March, Mike and Stacey designed a few zoom classes joined by students eager to reconnect with their church school friends and teachers. The first was a Lenten-themed program topped off with a lively round of "Lent Jeopardy." Later in the spring our students gathered again on zoom to bid a fond farewell to our beloved Associate Rector, Fr. Dante Tavolaro. In his three years at St. Luke's, Dante formed a strong bond with our group and formed the mainstay of the St. Luke's Youth Group that he launched in 2018. This past December a number of our students met via Zoom on two consecutive Saturdays to plan and produce *The Bethlehem Nightly News (BNN)*. BNN featured our student-correspondents reporting from the field on the birth of Jesus by interviewing fellow students who assumed the roles of shepherds, magi and Mary's cousin, Elizabeth. We recorded the segment and posted it on the parish website for viewing during Christmas week. The class is planning a few more virtual productions this spring as we all eagerly await the return of face to face classes.

*Grades 9-11.* Led again this year by Ali Poirer and Tom Sprague, the high school faith formation program continued its journey through the *Think. Believe. Do, (TBD)* curriculum. TBD challenges the students to unpack various aspects of our life of faith, think more about what they believe, and work on incorporating those beliefs into their daily lives.

Finally, prior to the Covid-19 shutdown, our middle and high schoolers engaged in a series of service activities to support the broader community as a complement to regularly-scheduled Sunday morning classes. These activities included a joint middle-high school Mobile Loaves and Fishes run, a clothing drive and a Sunday afternoon working at St. George's Soup Kitchen in Central Falls.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Grady

