



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 24, 2021

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Greetings!

While 2020 is behind us, it will undoubtedly inform our vision forward as St. Luke's approaches its 186th Annual Meeting. As we review our accomplishments over the last year and set the course for new leadership, programs, and our collective work together, we take this moment to reflect upon the lessons learned, the losses shared, the changes introduced into every aspect of our lives, and the hope, love and support we brought to bear on it all. As so oft repeated, never more have we needed each other and never more has St. Luke's needed all of us.

As you will learn at the annual meeting, a few more changes are ahead. Our vestry will shift its membership with some members rotating off and new members joining the team. Three of us will be part of this shift. Joel Gardner and Deborah Collins completed three-year terms and Dana Borgia a one-year term, finishing out Bill Warburton's term when he took on Junior Warden responsibilities in 2020. The context of 'before 2020' and 'during 2020' as well as our various orientations to St. Luke's lend different perspectives on how each of us experienced our vestry service. Perhaps you can identify with some of what we share with you now.

Deborah -- Yes, it's a monthly meeting, with an agenda, discussions, decisions, some follow up tasks and plans. But, what I remember, what has moved me most, is the pervasive faith and depth of spirituality that each person brings to the table. True to our Episcopalian nature, each vestry member has a unique, personal faith journey, affording a roomy space within which we were able to explore, grow, and connect spiritually. The devotions we all tried to avoid leading, but eventually relished, shared intimate family stories, a variety of inspiring resources from Mr. Rogers to Robert Frost to *A Quaker Book of Wisdom*, musical backdrops from country to rock n' roll, and creative arrangements of interactive prayers and reflections. Our vestry retreats

before 2020 took us to ECC for two days of fellowship, eating, praying, laughing, planning, relaxing and bonding-a lot like summer camp but with more Jesus! Despite the 2020 trifecta of pandemic, racial tension and politics, and the ensuing changes we never could have anticipated, faith prevailed. What a blessing to serve and to be fed by this deeply dedicated and loving community during these times.

Joel -- It has certainly been a privilege to serve this parish as a member of the vestry for the past three years. I think that we all agree that it has been an amazing growth experience, and we have gotten so much out of it. Led by the amazing Fr. Tim, our meetings are more like family gatherings than you would expect. We begin each meeting with prayer and reflection, and then give prayerful consideration to reports and decisions as we work to discern God's will for our great parish and to make it possible for this church to be in the best possible position to do God's work in the world.

I would like to express my admiration for the graceful leadership exhibited by our staff and wardens during this unusual year. Making plans for situations that sometimes changed daily had to be very challenging, but from the time that the pandemic first started last spring, they always found a way to keep the community connected, provide rich worship services, and keep us safe. They always came to the vestry with a solution, not just a problem to be solved. Like everyone, I long for the day when we can worship together as a parish family, when our choirs and formation groups can gather, and all of our outreach ministries resume as normal.

Dana -- What else can I add? My first meeting was held at St. Luke's and held promises to participate in a Vestry Retreat and a time to get to know each other, and left me ruminating about the devotion I volunteered to do the following month. From there it morphed into another Zoom meeting to have at home after a day full of Zoom meetings. The big difference being that on my little computer screen I was transported back to a place of such comfort and belonging for me, which I have sorely missed, that of my St. Luke's family. Vestry, in and of itself is such a great opportunity to collaborate with other members of the parish that you may know, may have "seen around" or are brand new to you, in order to keep the pillars and inner working of our spiritual sanctuary alive. I am always impressed by the rich fabric of parishioners and leadership that comprise our church community and it has been a privilege to have served in a small and humble way.

Faithfully submitted,

This Sunday at St. Luke's

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Click above for the lessons

Streaming Service of Morning Prayer.

Watch our worship service this weekend on our [Website](#), [Facebook](#) or on [YouTube](#).

[Click Here](#) to download a copy of the parish prayer list.

The Rev. Tanya Watt, assistant rector, preaching

St. Luke's Annual Meeting

The 186th Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church January 31, 2021 - 11:00AM

The annual meeting is an important way to bring the parish together, review the work of our many ministries, share our accomplishments, and sharpen our focus for the upcoming year. It is also the time when we review our annual budget and elect officers, new Vestry members and Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

In addition to the usual vestry slate, we also will be electing officers. The nominees for officers are: Gary Schweizer - Warden, Bill Warburton - Junior Warden, Michael Sullivan -Treasurer, and Deborah Collins - Clerk.

With the blessing of the Bishop, St. Luke's Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom in the spirit of good faith. We ask all parishioners to mark their calendars and join on Zoom, Sunday, January 31, at 11am.

[Click Here](#) to view St. Luke's Annual Report and stay tuned next week for your Zoom invite and agenda!

Meet Your New Vestry Members



Sally House - Vestry

About ten years ago I arrived at St. Luke's to check out the choir, which a friend had told me was good. Throughout my life the choir has been the central focus of any church I attended: Congregational as a child and young adult, Methodist for most of my adult life, and Unitarian for a few years. The doctrines and liturgy mattered less than the music-until I discovered that St. Luke's and the Episcopal church's three legged stool allowed my questions and deepened my understanding of and need for a solid framework of faith. Now St. Luke's has given me much more than music and a spiritual foundation. It has given me a home and a caring family, and I am

honored to be able to give back by being a member of the vestry.

In my previous life before I retired and moved back to the east coast, I was an elementary school counselor/child development specialist in Oregon where I lived for 32 years. I taught child development at Lewis and Clark for two summers, and was active in the Oregon Counseling Association and the Oregon School Counseling Association. I held various volunteer positions with AFS and the Girl Scouts which allowed me to travel throughout the state. While a large part of my heart still resides in Oregon, my daughter and two grandchildren now keep me firmly rooted in Rhode Island.

Again, I am honored to serve on the vestry and will do my best to carry out St. Luke's mission and welcoming spirit.



Holly O'Brien - Vestry

I have been a member of St. Luke's since 2013 and I am an active volunteer for the Godly Play Program. I am a graduate of the University of Rhode Island where I studied Textiles and Fashion Design, joined Sigma Kappa sorority and met my husband, Andrew. We now live in Wakefield with our two lovely children, Sloane and Parker, and our adorable dog, Indiana. I am a Product Manager for office products and unofficial party planner for all! Whether at the office, a committee meeting or a family dinner, I try to bring humor, fun and a sprinkle of organization.



Tracy Sampson - Vestry

My husband, Dave, along with our two children, Lindsey and Travis, arrived in Rhode Island with the Navy in 2006 after a tour in Naples, Italy. Our family lived in North Kingstown for over 13 years, where I worked at Wickford Middle School as the building substitute teacher. I was involved with the PTOs at the middle and high schools when the kids were students there. Our family also hosted Filippo, a foreign exchange student from Italy, for the year in 2012. This led me to get involved with AFS as a host family and then as a liaison for host families and the hosted students. Dave and I are now empty-nesters and enjoy all outdoor activities like hiking, cycling, camping- along with good wine and cooking good food. I now work at Sweet Berry Farm in Middletown which is feeding my soul in many ways.

Upon moving to Rhode Island, our family had to find a new church family. Relocating in July and finding a church "in full swing" was difficult to find, because folks were at the beach! We attended St. Luke's one Sunday, greeted by Evelyn Brchan, who immediately took us under her wing. We knew right away that St. Luke's was THE ONE. The breadth and depth of commitment

to serving both inside our walls and the greater community is amazing. I've been a choir parent when Lindsey sang in the choir. I have been involved with our feeding ministry, Mobile Loaves and Fishes. I headed up the Coffee Hour for a few years- took a break- and now I'm co-coordinator with Marcia Gladue. My husband and I joined the usher ministry a couple of years ago.



Bruce Stevens - Vestry

My wife and I moved to East Greenwich with our two young children in 1975. Being cradle Episcopalians, we joined St. Luke's shortly after our arrival.

I grew up on Long Island, New York. I attended public schools and after graduation from high school attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. My professional degree was earned at Thomas Jefferson Medical School in Philadelphia in 1968,. After additional training and service in the Navy, we settled in Rhode Island where I worked in the Radiology Department at St. Joseph's Hospital until 2002, at which time I began doing temporary work at hospitals in several different states until 2012.

I remember being active in our local parish as a child. My brother and I sang in the Junior choir and were active in the Youth group, and I was an acolyte. My wife Carol was also active in the parish, and during high school we developed a close relationship that eventually led to an enduring love, and marriage after college. We have benefited from membership in St. Luke's in multiple ways over the years. We both sing in the choir, and I served on the Vestry when Al Burns was Rector, and took an active part in training our acolytes for many years, as well as serving on the Properties Committee.

Pledge Envelopes

If you have requested pledge envelopes,
they are located in the atrium.

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap - January Meeting

The men of TOT plan to meet via Zoom on Monday Jan. 25 at 7:00. Mark your calendars.

We are looking forward to reconnecting after the holidays for some camaraderie and conversation.

If you'd like to join us and are not getting TOT emails, contact Brent Bostick at brentbostick1@gmail.com or 908-230-7569 and he'll get you added to the list.

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

It's 2021-- and Time for Joy!

The next adult faith formation offering has begun as we read The Book of Joy, an account by Douglas Abrams of 5 days spent with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. From these deeply faithful and profound leaders we hear such insights as, "The ultimate source of happiness is within us (His Holiness The Dalai Lama)" and "We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)."

Join us on Zoom Wednesday nights at 7:00PM to reflect on these pearls of wisdom and more.

While the entire book is worth your reading, we will focus our study by reading the section entitled "The Eight Pillars of Joy." Please come to class having read pillars 5 and 6.

We hope you'll join us.

Zoom Meeting Information is below. [Click Here](#) to join!

Meeting ID: 870 7406 9184

Password: 766492

Youth Faith Formation

Youth Faith Formation

Fr. Tim has put together an excellent group of people to thoughtfully consider how to offer formation in the safest way possible. As we move through this season of uncertainty, we continue to walk in faith and hope. So that we can continue to be in touch with you as our plans progress, please fill out a registration form for each of your children. The form is online only this year and can be found in our weekly and on our website. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Mother Tanya: tanya@stlukese.org or 684-2844.

St. Luke's RaiseRight Program

New Bonuses for You and St. Luke's!

The New Year and final weeks of the football season present new opportunities to shop safely and earn bonuses for St. Luke's! Purchase RaiseRight ecards and gift cards now to lock in bonuses for upcoming special occasions and football game-days. For example, every Wednesday this month, your purchases can earn increased bonuses on a surprise brand - just check the app for this, game-day and other special offers. With new bonuses every week, there are ample possibilities ...



11%



16%

TALBOTS
Established 1911

13%



10%

EST. 1942
UNO
PIZZERIA & GRILL

12%



14%

So, please, add the RaiseRight app to your phone today and help raise additional funds for St. Luke's! Scan the QR code below to get more details on the app. Most importantly, when downloading the app, please enter the following enrollment code to specify St. Luke's as your charitable organization of choice: FEB88LAC73L81



Create opportunities for what matters most to you—right from your phone. Buy gift cards from 750+ brands to earn on your daily purchases. It's simply the right way to fundraise.



Stay tuned for more information on this exciting opportunity to support St. Luke's!

Thank you,
Mark & Susan Cordle, Deborah Collins & Jeremy Stowe
Your Faithful RaiseRight Project Team

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Ministry

Prayer is a powerful way for us to support each other and build community. If you would like to add someone to our parish prayer list, please use the online Prayer List Request Form. It is available on our website under our Parish Life tab and here in our Weekly Newsletter. The prayer list is updated weekly. The Pastoral Care Ministry continues to pray for all on the prayer list and send cards to the homebound and those in the hospital. By filling out the information on this form, you will help us to keep in touch. [Click Here](#) for our Prayer List Request Form.

Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

St. Luke's Choirs

St. Luke's Choirs Sing for You!

As a special gift from the Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel Choirs to our St. Luke's family and friends, choir members compiled a special 'arrangement' of "How Can I Keep From Singing". The music is from an American folk song originally composed by Baptist minister Robert Wadworth Lowry in 1868 with the four-part arrangement published by Jeffrey Honoré in 1991. The choirs performed this piece at their 2019 Spring Concert and happily recreated that performance in this video (also available on St. Luke's website and Facebook page).



St. Luke's Choirs Sing For You!

Especially for Children

To watch Godly Play online please [Click Here!](#)

Looking for Helpers / Looking for Help

Several of you have already reached out, volunteering to help those in need. If you are healthy and in a low risk category, and would like to be added to a volunteer list please email our [Church Administrator](#). We are working on creating a team of individuals who can help out as the need arises.

With all of the precautions and guidance coming from the Governor, CDC, and the Department of Health, we are aware that some members of our community may have difficulty getting access to basics like food, medication, and other necessities. If you find yourself in need, please contact our [Church Administrator](#) for assistance.

Food Cupboard

Greetings from our Food Cupboard!

We are reaching out to update you on some of our needs during this challenging time. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our families that they are able to stay healthy and safe.

Please consider donating these items:

Canned mandarin oranges, canned pineapple, chicken and beef stock, hash, kidney beans, Italian dressing, ranch dressing, vegetable oil, regular instant coffee, and beef and chicken gravy.

Thank you!

EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

Food Cupboard - Volunteer Opportunity

Recently, due to the cold weather that comes along with the winter months as well as clients physical limitations, the food bank has received several requests for assistance in the delivery of their groceries. At this time this is not a service that is offered. If volunteers are available, we would like to try offering this assistance on limited basis to clients that cannot come in.

This assistance would consist of picking up the grocery order that has been pre-ordered and packed, based on a list provided by the client. When required you would receive a call requesting your assistance in delivering them to the client's home in East Greenwich or nearby. Typically, deliveries will be made once or twice a month. The Food Cupboard is open on Monday, Wed & Friday from 10:30am - 12:00am. Pickup would need to be made during these hours.

Let me know if you would to be part of this outreach. I can be reached at smcloughlin2@aol.com, 401-225-5540, or you can leave a message for me at St Luke's office 401-884- 4116.

Faithfully Yours.
Steve McLoughlin

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