

The 187th Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church East Greenwich, RI

January 30, 2022 - 11:00 am
Annual Parish Meeting for the year 2021



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH

2021 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
Deborah Collins, Clerk

Kenneth Fecteau ~ 2019-2021
Jonathan Jacaruso ~ 2019-2021
Sally House ~ 2021
Kate Golbitz ~ 2020-2022
Kathy Lynch ~ 2020-2022
Mark Cordle ~ 2020-2022
Tracy Sampson ~ 2021-2023
Bruce Stevens ~ 2021-2023
Holly O'Brien ~ 2021-2023

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

Proposed 2022 Lay Leadership

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

Bill Warburton, Senior Warden
 Deborah Collins, Junior Warden
 Dana Borgia, Clerk of the Vestry
 Michael Sullivan, Treasurer

Vestry Candidates (elected to a three-year term)

Kate Gressle ~ 2022-2024
 Judi Nichols ~ 2022-2024
 Jacob Trombino ~ 2022-2024

To Join

Kate Golbitz ~ 2020-2022
 Kathy Lynch ~ 2020-2022
 Mark Cordle ~ 2020-2022
 Tracy Sampson ~ 2021-2023
 Bruce Stevens ~ 2021-2023
 Holly O'Brien ~ 2021-2023

Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Narragansett Deanery

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

Reports *(Received with Gratitude)*

Report from the Rector	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich
Report from the Assistant Rector	The Rev. Tanya Watt
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, Pam Dresselhouse
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	Dotty Fleming
Property Committee	Dave Savage
Stewardship	Dave Sampson
St. Elizabeth's Community	Dotty Fleming
The Giving Tree	Judy Horton
Theology on Tap	Brent Bostick
Usher Ministry	Steve McLoughlin
Women of Grace	Deborah Collins
Youth Faith Formation	Michael Grady

2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

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ST. LUKE'S, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH, R.I.

Minutes of the 186th Annual Meeting

January 31, 2021

Pursuant to the By-Laws and to notice duly given, the Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Church on Peirce Street in East Greenwich, R.I.; was held on Sunday, January 31, 2021, via Zoom. Fr. Tim welcomed everyone with an opening prayer. Gary Schweizer, Sr. Warden, convened the meeting at 11:08 a.m.

Vestry Members Present: *Senior Warden, Gary Schweitzer; Jr. Warden, Bill Warburton; Mike Sullivan, Treasurer; Marcia Gladue, Clerk; Deborah Collins, Jon Jacaruso, Ken Fecteau, Dana Borgia and Kathy Lynch. Also in attendance was Mother Tanya Watt.*

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, this was an unprecedented Annual Meeting for St. Luke's. Also due to the pandemic, Zoom has become an integral part of our lives and we are grateful that we were still able to conduct the meeting and keep everyone safe.

A quorum was established. Approximately 61 parishioners were in attendance.

Statement of Purpose: Why are we here?

The Annual Meeting is required by the By-Laws. It is important to be a reflective body as we look at the year that's past and look forward to the new year ahead. It gives us the opportunity to make sure that everyone is informed, that good work is being done, and to realize that there is more work ahead of us. We are all part of the Body of Christ. With joy and anticipation, we celebrate the life we share.

Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 31, 2020.

A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 31, 2020.

I. A 2020 Review: Church in the Time of Covid

In the time of Covid, a big thank you to so many! Not being together, we had to make sure worship continued. Rodney made sure to keep music central to our services. Also, thanks to those who sang and the lay readers who have sent in videos. We hired a someone to help with the technical loops and hurdles. We could not have done all we did without the help of Rob Walsh and Deborah Collins and their expertise. We are looking forward to the day we can be together in person but until then we will continue our online presence.

Coffee Hour by Zoom has been great fun. We even had a Christmas Party! Adult Education, Women of Grace, and Theology on Tap have all had extended audiences. We are delighted in the ways we have stayed connected.

Outreach: Loaves & Fishes and CCK. Steve McLoughlin has been wonderful and has had great help. Meals have been taken to the Greenwich Hotel.

Pastoral Care: Donna Jordan, Dotty Fleming, and many others have been in our prayers; they have written notes to people who have felt isolated, keeping them part of our community.

Building and Grounds: Thanks to Mark and Susan Cordle we had corn growing outside. Dave Savage has kept our major projects going. Cindi and Ben Lovejoy have done a wonderful job enhancing our outside campus with plantings and being creative with putting up hearts and sayings, such as, Peace, Love, etc. Despite Covid we have miraculously continued our kitchen renovation project. Thanks to Gary and the design team. Who would have thought we could have a golf tournament, a thing of beauty remembering Ron Clement. With Sue's hard work, it was a hole in one! Bill Warburton and Jon Jacaruso were co chairmen of this very successful event.

Mike Sullivan, our treasurer, not only looks good in a tie, but he did so much work getting a PPP to help manage things financially.

Our combined meeting with the Vestry and Finance Committee revealed the culmination of a lot of hard work.

Dave Sampson works so hard on the Commitment Campaign.

Walsh Bros and the design team are great leadership.

Dotty Fleming provides statistics and tracks pledges every week.

In closing, without question, St. Luke's continues to be the great church it has always been. We have continued baptisms, weddings and funerals. We are all very grateful in all new ways to be part of St. Luke's.

Also, if you haven't yet seen it, a wonderful video "*How Can I Keep from Singing.*" was created by Deborah Collins and Laura Sullivan and includes our St. Luke's Choirs. It is a must see, and we truly believe it shows how St. Luke's represents a special song in all of our lives!

II. 2021 in View

Reopening: With the wisdom of our Reopening Steering Committee, Tim Rich, Margaret Clifton, Kathy Lynch, Steve McLoughlin, Gary Schweizer, Rodney Ayers and Tanya Watt, we have protocols in place. Schools and churches need to play it safe. Concerning another surge, we don't want to open and then have to close again. We will wait and see. Stay tuned...

Kitchen Renovation: Sr. Warden and Kitchen Improvements Committee Chairman, Gary Schweizer, shared the highlights of the past year's efforts.

Fundraising for the kitchen project kicked off at the 2020 Annual Meeting with the announcement of a \$300,000 founding gift from Al and Linda Potter. A fundraising golf tournament, originally planned for May, was held at the End of August due to Covid-19 safety concerns. A total of \$463,000 was raised for the kitchen project through the generosity of St. Luke's parishioners, community partners, grants, and the golf tournament.

In October, the Lofgren Architect company was hired to prepare contract documents and provide construction administration services on behalf of St. Luke's. They immediately went to work inspecting the existing kitchen and dining room conditions and preparing documents in coordination with a team of mechanical and electrical engineers and a foodservice consultant.

Contractor cost estimates based on the design documents came in higher than expected. Lofgren Architect is now in the process of working with another contractor to see where the estimate can be tightened, and the Kitchen Improvements Committee is looking to see where scope might be reduced to bring costs in line with available funds.

Money Matters: Started 2020 with uncertainty, flat income growth.

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Treasurer, Michael Sullivan, summarized the 2021 Budget:

This budget shows a 3-year average of where we are now.

Sunday School budget was reduced due to Covid-19 suspension of classes.

\$20,000 for property maintenance and repair

\$92,700 deficit-new PPP loan will affect us favorably.

No fundraisers scheduled at this time.

Difficult budget to write due to conservative guesses.

MOTION TO PLACE 2021 BUDGET ON RECORD WAS MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED TO ACCEPT BUDGET AND HAVE IT PUT ON RECORD AS PRESENTED.

III. Election of Officers, Vestry Members, and Delegates

Farewells:

Dana Borgia has completed her 1-year term and has been a great eye for the church. She has been to the DR three times. We hope to see her back.

Deborah Collins has been such a blessing. St. Luke's is indebted to her for her creativity, wisdom and thoughtfulness.

Joel Gardner has been a faithful, tireless and committed member. He has been involved in four different churches as senior warden and treasurer and has also been a great asset to us.

Marcia Gladue needed a little convincing to become our clerk three years ago but has done a marvelous job! She worked hard to make sure the minutes were complete and concise. And how about those scarfs!

A Special Acknowledgement to Fr. Tim for wisdom and guidance.

New Vestry Nominations are:

Vestry- Tracy Sampson- very involved with coffee hour, usher, St. Cecelia choir mom.

Holly O'Brien- has two children and is a highly active, Godly play storyteller.

Bruce Stevens- long time member of St. Luke's, choir member.

Sally House- One year term to finish out Beth Vollucci's term, choir member at St. Luke's for nine years.

Delegates to the Diocesan Convention -

Steve McLoughlin

Bill Warburton

Dick Kelly

Dotty Fleming

Gary Schweizer-alternate

Sr. Warden- Gary Schweizer

Jr. Warden- Bill Warburton

Treasurer- Michael Sullivan

Clerk- Deborah Collins

There being no additional nominations for vestry or convention delegates. **A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED TO CLOSE THE NOMINATIONS.**

A MOTION TO RATIFY THE SLATE FOR VESTRY AND CONVENTION DELEGATES WAS MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED.

IV. Concluding Comments from the Sr. Warden

Gary Schweizer gave concluding remarks in which he shared how impressed he was by the creativity and imagination of so many at St. Luke's over the past year. With no playbook to follow, we figured out how to keep our church running. While our buildings stood mostly empty, the warm and caring heart of our church kept beating and we never stopped being salt and light to each other and to our neighbors. With all the obstacles we overcame and all that we accomplished, Gary shared that he is confident that we will continue to thrive in 2021, and we will emerge from this pandemic with renewed mission and an even better way of doing things.

His final words of encouragement were those of St. Paul in his letter to the Hebrews (12:1), where Paul wrote, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us..." Gary reminded us that the race *is* marked out for us, it is the race we ran all last year, as we threw off so many hinderances. It is the race we run together as a church family – to be God's light to each other and to our neighbors.

V. Concluding Prayer, Hymn and Dismissal

A MOTION WAS MADE, AND SECONDED TO AJOURN THE MEETING.

Fr. Tim concluded with a prayer, a hymn, and dismissal at 12:45pm. He made the announcement for the Yearly Meeting of 2022, January 30, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcia Gladue - Clerk

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

I can be changed by what happens to me. But I refuse to be reduced by it.
-- Maya Angelou

As I've been doing some reading on resiliency lately, I came across this quote. It struck me as perfectly capturing our corporate experience of 2021—we were changed to be sure, but certainly not reduced.

We were changed in how we might gather for **worship**. And then changed again. And then again. But nevertheless, our worship continued to soothe what ailed us and celebrate what blessed us.

I am so grateful to *Brad Kleyla*, our video producer, and *Rob Walsh* and *Deborah Collins*, who made our on-line worship possible and available.

I also should say here that at the end of 2021 we were awarded a grant to purchase filming equipment that will improve the quality of our on-line offerings. Frankly, whether forced by Covid or not, we should have an on-line offering. Which is why I am thankful again to *Deborah* and *Tom Dresselhouse*, who researched various video options before determining our best way forward. Once trained, we will begin utilizing this equipment, leaving our overall worship offering not reduced but actually enhanced.

I am so thankful as well for *Rodney Ayers* and the choir members who first filmed from afar and then returned, ensuring that one way or another we would enjoy the beautiful music that has fed us for decades. I am so appreciative of the altar guild members, headed by *Lisa Johnson* and *Liz Fox*, who continued their faithful set up and clean up of our chancel, whether we were worshipping from home or in-person. Likewise am I appreciative of our ushers, led by *Steve McLoughlin*, who were on the “front lines” as we returned, welcoming worshipers and enforcing (respectfully but firmly) our changing protocols. And I want to add one more thanks: we all are indebted to *Andy Nota*, the East Greenwich Town Manager, who on more than one occasion allowed us to worship outdoors, behind Swift Gym. (Do you recall just how glorious those services were?!)

We were changed too in how we might gather for **faith formation**—both youth and adults. And yet, I have heard from many of you over this past year how our efforts were so helpful in not only deepening your faith but sustaining your well-being. *Theresa Deiters-Muscat* continued her ministry as leader of the Godly Play and Corporate Communion programs. My great thanks to her and *all of the teachers* who returned once we resumed in-person classes. Although the numbers of those attending were lower than pre-Covid times (this as we awaited vaccination approval for children), the effort and quality of what the teachers provided was as good as ever.

The same was true in terms of our offerings for the teens of the parish. Sometimes outside, sometimes just spread out, we resumed J2A and Confirmation classes, as well as our Rite 13 celebrations. I marveled over the energy with which the youth participated—especially knowing how much energy it was taking them to navigate their school weeks. And I delighted in watching the *adult leaders* engage them in a myriad of creative ways. We are so lucky to have all of the adults who volunteer for this ministry.

Finally, any mention of “faith formation” should include the adult faith formation of the church. Driven in 2020 to Zoom classes, this learning community grew in number and in faith. They met regularly, (see the report later in these pages), shared deeply, and, among many things, laughed frequently. I am grateful to *Betsy Fornal*, the entire *steering committee*, and all the participants for their efforts. Besides our Sunday worship, these classes were my week’s most spiritually moving hours.

We were changed in how we might **gather socially**, and yet wouldn’t we all agree that Covid has increased rather than reduced our appreciation for these opportunities. For a while, our coffee hours became evening social hours and the energy in those conversations was palpable. Then, when we resumed in-person coffee hours, the appreciation was so rich that people even enjoyed drinking our less-than-stellar coffee. (Let the record, show, mid-year we seriously upgraded the quality of our coffee!). I appreciate more than ever *Marcia Gladue* and *Tracy Sampson* for their efforts in organizing our coffee hours. (Just as I appreciate each and every one of you who has volunteered to help out from week to week.)

Our men’s and women’s groups also twisted and turned with the virus trends and yet they too seemed to grow in attendance and appreciation. My sincere thanks to *Deborah Collins* who convenes the Women of Grace and *Brent Bostick* who organizes Theology on Tap. I have heard from more than one of you how important these gathering have been in helping maintain your spirits throughout this pandemic.

Of course, St. Luke’s does more than just gather for worship or social purposes; and as I reflect upon 2021, I marvel at the many ways we continued to gather for a host of ministries—certainly changed but definitely not reduced.

Our various **outreach and “in-reach”** ministry teams continued to care for those in need, changed but undeterred by Covid. Those committed to our feeding and clothing ministries (too many to name here) met regularly to assess state-wide needs and develop mechanisms to meet those needs. They found new sites to visit and new organizations with whom they might partner, never allowing the Covid trends to stop their efforts.

In the same manner, our “in-reach” by way of the pastoral care committee continued to respond to the needs of parishioners. When it was not safe to visit those sick or grieving, they sent cards. When it was possible to host collations, they provided hospitality. On some occasions they helped with grocery or medical runs. And monthly they met to hold the entire parish in their prayers. These efforts and more represent their faith and commitment to this ministry. I will be

eternally grateful to *Donna Jordan*, the committee chair, who retired this year, for establishing such a vital ministry. Just as I am both grateful and relieved that the seemingly tireless *Dotty Fleming* has agreed to assume the mantle of committee leader.

Speaking of “tireless,” I want to thank a host of others who continued their ministries throughout 2021. The property committee continued to care for our grounds, and our gardens are the better for it. *Dave Savage* continued to tend to the material upkeep of our aging buildings with his usual commitment and care. Although projects big and small remain, I can say with all honesty, the overall campus has never been in better shape.

Dave Sampson remained chair of our Stewardship Committee and Commitment Campaign – thank you Dave-- and we are the richer for it. Ok, sorry for the pun-- just checking to see if you’re still reading! More seriously, because I feel that stewardship is more about faith than money matters, I do believe St. Luke’s, as a church, and each of us, as individuals of faith, have been made richer for Dave’s efforts and the work of the entire stewardship committee. A special thanks as always to *the Walsh Brothers* for their invaluable creative contributions to the annual campaign and to *Dotty Fleming* for her vigilant record keeping.

And while we are on the subject of “tireless” and “campaigns,” perhaps here is the best place for me to reflect upon our **kitchen campaign**, begun long before any of us had heard of Covid. It was a Spirit-filled and Spirit-guided journey beyond anything we might have imagined back when Gary first announced the plans and *the Potter’s* founding gift almost two years ago. Not that any of us should be surprised about this fact. So much of our corporate efforts are Spirit-led and any who know *Gary Schweizer* know that he is Spirit-filled.

Although Covid might have changed both the cost and completion date, no one who attended the December blessing would suggest that this project was in any way “reduced.” In fact, I would say, because of your immense generosity and the committee’s unwavering persistence (please see Gary’s report in later pages naming all the committee members), the sense of accomplishment and blessing as we looked for the first time upon the beautiful lettering, “St. Luke’s Community Kitchen” was only enhanced. I will cherish that day forever.

In truth, I cherish so much about the life I share with you— and none of it was reduced in 2021 by Covid. I cherish working with **the vestry**—faithful and discerning leaders, all of them. *Ken Fecteau*, *Sally House*, and *Jon Jacaruso* finished their time on vestry and I am so grateful for their service.

Likewise, am I grateful for the efforts of *Deborah Collins*, who concludes her role as our vestry clerk. The careful and clear minutes that she recorded month after month really were something to be cherished! Although her minutes will be missed, I am delighted that she has agreed to serve as our next Junior Warden.

And we will need a new Junior Warden in 2022 because *Bill Warburton*, faithful and devoted soul that he is, will be moving into the role of Senior Warden—this because *Gary*

Schweizer is completing his two year term. Gary took over as senior warden in February of 2020, a month after I had begun my sabbatical and a month before Covid would come to dominate so much of our energies. Almost immediately he was greeted by a blockage and back-up of our sewer line and he's been dealing with... the unexpected... ever since. We have been so blessed by Gary's leadership—just as we are so fortunate to have Bill succeed him.

In addition to cherishing my work with the vestry, I also want to say here how much I love working with our **finance committee**. The committee is so careful and thoughtful in managing our funds, ably led by committee chair, *Pam Dresselhouse*, and wonderfully informed by our treasurer, *Michael Sullivan*. Pam steps down this month as chair—this after being on vestry for what must have felt like an eternity. (I think it might have been close to 8 years, actually.) Her leadership as committee chair was so sound and steady, and we all owe her a great round of thanks.

So too should we make a point of thanking our treasurer, *Michael*—whose work load during Covid was not reduced but expanded! When we were not coming into church, he came in weekly. And for a while there he spent time doing the work of treasurer daily. Thank you, thank you, Mike! (Happily, he is not yet retiring from his position.)

Besides cherishing my work with so many of you, it is important I express how much I cherish my work with **the staff**. During the worst of the Covid lockdown, *Christina Imondi*, our parish administrator, continued to come in, ensuring that it was mostly business as usual at St. Luke's. She is so dedicated, so generous, and so competent in all that she does. I could not imagine a better administrator!

2021 represented *Mother Tanya's* second year at St. Luke's but in some ways her first year exposed to all that St. Luke's includes. It was a joy watching her weave her way into your hearts and our life. She so clearly embodies faith and kindness and compassion, and we have been a more grace-filled church because of her presence. She completes her contract with us in August, and I will miss working with her.

Perhaps no one's work was more "changed" but less "reduced" than the work of our sexton, *Tim Marnane*. Taking advantage of our reduced foot-traffic, Tim went about doing some deep cleaning and other projects long overdue, leaving the place looking so much better when we all returned. Thank you so much, Tim!

I mentioned *Theresa* earlier, but let me say again, both the youth and teachers of St. Luke's are so well loved and cared for by her. You know, she is a volunteer staff person, and I struggle to find words to convey how generous and gifted she is with her talents. We are so lucky to benefit from her ministry.

I spoke above of *Rodney* too, of how he has provided us such outstanding music throughout the reign of Covid. But truly he is a minister of so much more than music. For many he is a pastor. And for me, he is nothing less than a full partner in ministry.

After reading a bit about the staff, do you see why I so cherish working with them?!

Finally, let me say how much I cherish sharing **sacraments** and **services** with you all. I cherish **baptizing your children (and occasionally you)**. In 2021 I had the great joy of baptizing Lucas Fidrych, Samuel Thrall, Nathan Savory, Lyanna Bullard, Taylor Dugas, Henry Almon, Aurora Trombino, Maeve Hiller, Bryce Turbitt, Charles Roldan, and Evelyn Aliloo.

I cherish presiding at your **weddings**. In 2021 it was my pleasure to preside at the weddings of Andrew Vietch and Jessica Ricci, Matthew McGuire and Taryn Alexander, John Sherman and Hanna Brown, and Taylor Wilkey and Arielle Rogers (this was a special and long-awaited joy shared by all who attended that Sunday service).

And although this might sound strange, I cherish officiating at **the burial services** we share. In 2021 it was my distinct privilege to celebrate the lives of Kevin Gedney, Bryan Conti, Marilyn O'Brien, Peter Young, Alisha Daniels, Carolyn Mock, Alice Gardner, Jennifer Larkin, Anne Mackie, Evelyn Brchan, Joseph Travis, John Henneidy, Carol Barker, Meredith Sweet, Pierre Mali, Piero Biancani, Carolyn Kullberg, Arleen Gardiner, Seth Wilson, Richard Elliott, Roy Sylvander, and Willard Sweet. Rest eternal grant to them O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon them.

Well, once again, despite my hope to make briefer this report relative to previous year's, I have failed. There's just too much to say. Even though Covid changed what we expected for 2021, our corporate life was so full—and therefor my annual report is not at all "reduced."

As we all turn our attentions to 2022, let me share that for much of 2021 the vestry engaged in a long-range, strategic planning process, clarifying our core principles, identifying our critical ministries, and imagining our future. Given the global trends in church affiliation and the realities of our finite resources, the work was, in some ways, quite daunting.

But at the same time, given the health, vitality, and faith of St. Luke's, the conversations were also quite exciting—even inspiring.

We concluded our deliberations, understanding that not just in the far but also in the near future, we would be changed. Yet we also found ourselves convinced that, with equal amounts of courage, devotion, and God's grace, St. Luke's will not be reduced.

Rather, together we will write a new and wonderful chapter to our story. And more than that, together we will be a sign for those on the Hill, those throughout Rhode Island, and those watching wherever they might be, that God's story continues to be written anew—and, in part, written by the people who worship and work at St. Luke's.

I look forward to writing that story with you all!

Submitted by:

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich,
Rector, St. Luke's Church

REPORT FROM THE ASSISTANT RECTOR:
THE REV. TANYA WATT

It was such a joy to be together at our Christmas Eve services this year. The air was full of happiness and anticipation, and perhaps a little extra chill since we had the windows cracked in observance of our Covid protocols. Seeing Father Tim read to the children at the 4:00 service was a delight; one of our parishioners told me her three-year-old daughter puts on her new Christmas robe and pretends to be a priest, reading to her stuffed animals like Fr. Tim read to her and the other children on Christmas Eve. The choirs at each of the three services beautifully amplified our worship, and it was so good to be in the space together to celebrate the coming of Jesus, Emanuel, God-with-us.

The following morning, just before our smaller, more quiet Christmas Day service, Laura Sullivan pulled me aside to share that it was the 145th anniversary of the first worship service in the current church. St. Luke's had an earlier building, but as we gathered together in the space that morning, we were stepping into a special moment in time. I promptly forgot to mention it in the announcements for the day; but when we came together again the following morning for our Service of Lessons and Carols, I was keenly aware of the legacy of those who had stewarded the church for more than a century, the gift of the faithful gathered in the church in that moment, and the hope that we share for the future of St. Luke's. Looking up at the beauty of the building, I was aware of the gift of the church, which is so much more than the lovely wooden beams that followed my upward gaze. The church is us. I felt deep gratitude for the people whose insight 145 years ago allowed us to continue to walk in faith today.

When Father Tim first invited me to join St. Luke's as your curate, neither of us imagined the impact that Covid would have on my time with you. In the beginning of 2021, we continued to offer pre-recorded services even as we looked forward to a time that we could again re-open. Having been opened in August through part of November in 2020, I was acutely aware of how empty the space felt when we had to close the doors again. Without the Body of Christ - each of us - gathered together, the building felt as though it was holding its breath. The vitality of Sunday mornings was absent as we hunkered down in our homes. Recording sermons into my cell phone felt far removed from the intimacy of our worship. We are meant to be together.

I have such gratitude in my heart for the ways in which we have been able to connect with one another even as Covid has persisted. In January, we continued our Christmastide blog that had begun in Advent. Those who wrote for the blog shared insights that deepened our shared experience of the season. Lent began in February, and we offered the imposition of ashes outside in our parking lot. I also put together some baggies for ashes-to-go so that people could experience a prayerful imposition of ashes without physically coming to the church. While in the parking lot, I met so many people who told me: "You don't know me, but I know you from our online worship!" It was a unique joy to connect with people as we shivered outside in the chilly February air. I marked their foreheads with a q-tip dipped in ashes and the words: "Remember you are dust and to dust you will return." The weight of those words felt different in the midst of the pandemic.

We also launched our Lenten blog with thoughtful posts shared by members of our community. I deeply appreciated the wisdom in the reflections people wrote. Rob Walsh has taken on the task of beautifully producing our blogs on our website, and we benefit from his thoughtful work. To invite some of our younger members into the season of Lent, Angie Howard McParland and I collaborated to offer Kid's Compline, a prayer service in the spirit of Night Prayer, over Zoom once a week. The wisdom and faith of the children who joined us was a delight; I am grateful for the time we shared together.

In March, we began our confirmation class: Confirm, not Conform, which met through May. Fr. Tim, Tom Sprague, and I taught the classes in our auditorium, with chairs spaced out in a large circle and the windows opened. It was tricky to hear one another with our masks on, but it was wonderful to get to spend some time with our incredible youth. I love that our curriculum invites them to ask their own questions and come to their own answers. They are smart and thoughtful, and it is a privilege to be part of their faith journey. I also got to experience Corporate Communion and Rite 13 ceremonies, both unique to St. Luke's.

As we planned for the new program year, our hopes were high. Even as Covid has altered some of our work, we continue to benefit from the creativity and flexibility of the saints among us. Theresa Deiters offers wonderful leadership, especially with our Godly Play class. Stacey Nakasian, Mike Grady, Tom Sprague, and Ali Poirier have continued to work brilliantly with our youth. Their ministries are a truly wonderful gift to our community. Our Pastoral Care Committee has visited people as they are able and continues to offer care and compassion when members of our faith family have faced hard times.

In a curacy, a new priest is invited to learn and grow, and I'm so thankful to learn and grow alongside you. I have baptized new members of the communion of saints, married couples who are beginning their lives by making promises to God and one another, and celebrated the lives of those who have died and are now members of the saints expectant. I've continued to feel grateful for the ministries and discipleship of so many at St. Luke's. The vibrancy of our community comes from the love and care we share with one another.

145 years ago St. Luke's held its first service in our building, but the church is not just the building. The church is us. I am grateful for the faithfulness of those who have stewarded St. Luke's so well over these years. I am grateful for the faithfulness of those who steward our church today. I am grateful for those who gather together with spirits of gratitude for our past, love for one another, and hope for those who will gather together in generations yet to come. We are the Body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Mother Tanya

ACOLYTES

A team of 11 acolytes serve on Sunday and occasionally through the week whenever their services are required. All youth in the parish from fifth grade up to twelfth grade are invited to participate in this ministry.

Acolyte recognition has not occurred the past 2 years due to the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic, we have had no new recruits. The number of acolytes serving the 10:15 am service is down to 1 instead of the usual 3.

In 2022, 2 acolytes will be graduating.

The robes are cleaned 2 times a year but are getting worn and efforts to secure new robes were in the works but are also on hold.

The attrition rate is high with no new prospects at this time. We have had no new acolytes since 2018. When the pandemic subsides, new efforts will be made to reinvigorate this important ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie and Julie Cronin

BE THE
light
-MATTHEW 5:14

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

The pandemic has not been a gift at all in so many ways, but there have been some good fruits from some very hard times. One of the good fruits has been that our Adult Faith Formation classes have continued online this year, having begun to meet on Wednesday evenings over Zoom in the summer of 2020. This shift has allowed members of our community to join us who had not been able to when we met on Sunday mornings, and it has continued to connect us to members of our community who are traveling or sometimes have moved to new parts of the country. As the course of Covid has ebbed and flowed, as the physical church building has had to be closed at times, as we have had to be flexible in thinking through how we safely meet together, our continued Adult Faith Formation meetings on Zoom have been a gift.

We began 2021 with the continuation of our Christmastide blog, with reflections written by members of our community on the scripture assigned by the lectionary for each day through the Epiphany. Many posts were accompanied by pictures that amplified the words that were written. The Adult Faith Formation Committee was delighted that what had begun the year before in our Advent Blog continued through the Christmas season. In the middle of the month, we began a very timely reading of *The Book of Joy* by Douglas Abrams, written following five days he spent with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. It was a wonderful reminder of the reconciliation and hope that can come from actively living our faith. Lent began in February and following the success of the St. Luke's Advent Blog, we launched our St. Luke's Lenten Blog. We were again grateful for and inspired by the depth of insight shared by members of our community. The blog has become a continuing resource for prayer and reflection.

For our Lenten book, we discussed Fr. James Martin's *Seven Last Words: An Invitation to a Deeper Friendship with Jesus*. Through it we gained insight into the written accounts of Jesus' words on the Cross and how they can lead us in a deeper awareness of who Jesus is to us.

Following Easter, we launched into *Love is the Way* by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry. In it, we were reminded of the commandment to love God and love our neighbor, and how strongly love persists despite circumstances. When we love one another, we open ourselves to how God is moving among us.

During June and July, we read and discussed *Following Jesus: Finding our Way Home in an Age of Anxiety* by Henri Nouwen. In it we were invited to listen for Jesus' voice of love saying, "Follow me," and to how heeding that call impacts our lives.

In August, we gathered via Zoom to watch *Conversations on Hidden Bias, Part 1*, with Howard J. Ross. He tells us: "We see what we look for, and we look for what we know." In the video we were shown how our brains quickly work to distill information in our everyday lives. That process is often helpful, but as the complexity of our world increases some of our cognitive shortcuts are less helpful. We were given some tools to help us be aware of our own hidden biases. Later in the month we gathered in the sanctuary to watch the video *Traces of the Trade: A Story from the Deep North*, a fascinating exploration of the DeWolf family from Bristol, Rhode Island, and how their lives and the story of our own region were shaped by the Triangle Trade of slaves, rum, and sugar.

We began our program year in September with *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality can Change Everything we See, Hope for, and Believe* by Richard Rohr. Rohr reminded us that we believe that “one God created all things,” and he invited us to “reopen [the] ancient door of faith with a key, and that key is the proper understanding of a word that many of us use often...That word is *Christ*.” In November, we began *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. In it, she invites us to step away from “full solar” spirituality, where we imagine God is only with us when things are going well, and to become more fully attuned to the richness of God’s presence in the light and in the darkness.

In November we also gathered to view the documentary: *My Name is Pauli Murray*. Pauli was a Black, non-binary Episcopal priest, lawyer and civil rights activist who influenced Martin Luther King, Thurgood Marshall, and Ruth Bader Ginsburg as she advocated for full equality, regardless of race, gender, or sexuality.

In December we were again delighted by the wonderful posts written and pictures shared by members our community in our Advent blog. We are thankful that so many participated by writing and reading the posts. We are especially thankful for Rob Walsh’s continued dedication to beautifully producing our Advent and Lenten blogs on our website.

In the last year we have continued to explore ways of deepening our connection to hope and to the Holy. We are grateful to the members of the Adult Faith Formation Committee for their continuing wisdom, flexibility and commitment to our community as we continue to grow in our faith together: Joseph Gomes, Pam Gregory, Sally House, Angie Howard-McParland, and Patricia Warburton and for the excellent facilitation of our discussions by Fr. Tim and Mtr Tanya. We are most grateful for the group that gathers via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Our virtual doors are always open to you.

Betsy Fornal, Chair and Mtr Tanya Watt, Committee Member



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.

A special thank you to Jackie Hudson for her years of service.

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

Gardens

In 2021 our Garden Committee bid goodbye to Ellen Abell, who relocated to CT, and welcomed Steve Nichols, Chris and Darlene Picozzi. We also welcomed the members of our Youth Group who joined us for a rather rainy day of pizza and planting.

As our lives change so do the needs of the plantings and garden beds within our care. Tree and other growth has changed some of our planting beds from sun to shade, so some plantings suffered and needed to be removed or transplanted to a happier place.

We continue to meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month to work outside with (and eventually without) masks to keep our grounds a warm, welcoming place for all. The Twilighters met twice a month in the late afternoon for weeding and light planting.

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.

Our grounds offer us, and the East Greenwich community around us, a place of quiet contemplation, a place to sit and reconnect with each other and the Creator of all.



Columbarium

The original columbarium was dedicated in 1994, and expanded in 2014. Thus, for those parishioners who wish their ashes to be interred at the church, there are niches available in the cemetery. As an alternative choice, there is ample space in the memorial garden for interment of ashes inground. During 2020 there was one interment of ashes in niches in the cemetery.

Anyone desiring further information please contact Fr Tim, Christina Imondi, our parish administrator, or Jack Newton (884-3128).

Mark Cordle
Cindi Lovejoy
Jack Newton



CHRIST'S COMMUNITY KITCHEN - CCK

Christ's Community Kitchen has provided hearty meals to members of our community in a safe and welcoming setting for many years. 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 March of 2020, out of concern for public health and safety, we discontinued our monthly dinners. Renovation work put the kitchen and dining room out of service for much of 2021, so our ability to host any type of community dinner would have been limited, even without Covid concerns. The effects of the pandemic continue to surprise and challenge us as we consider how to conduct our outreach ministries in a way that is safe and healthy for our guests and our volunteers. We will need to be flexible and patient as we discover new ways to engage in outreach. With a beautiful new dining room and a modern kitchen, we now have facilities to support almost anything we choose to imagine.

CCK has provided a unique opportunity for service and for building connections within and between our faith communities. We've enjoyed great support from the First Baptist Church, the United Methodist Church, Christ Church, and Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church. It is my hope that these relationships will continue to grow in our new facility.

If you have any questions about how you might become involved with any of our feeding ministries, please speak with Paul Brookes or email him at phbrookes@cox.net. 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 2021 looked a little different than in the past years, due to Covid restrictions. After pausing Coffee Hour during the height of infections and following the RI Dept of Health guidelines, we reinstated it with safety measures put in place for everyone. Snacks were no longer allowed, just coffee and juice were served, and we held it out in the garden whenever possible to allow social distancing and good air flow. We had 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.

Kudos to Father Tim for coming up with the idea of hosting some Sunday evening Zoom Coffee Hours online in 2020 and continuing during 2021-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 continues to be blessed with an array of communication resources and talents. And, these opportunities often introduce many new developments. As we approached Easter 2021, we moved from online Morning Prayer to in-person worship services with all the requisite precautions. With that, our virtual Sunday worship pivoted from pre-recorded Morning Prayer via YouTube and Facebook to live streaming of in-person Holy Eucharist services on Facebook. Change and experience are instructive, and we quickly learned the limitations of a Facebook-only platform. As a result, the Communications Task Force began an exploratory of live streaming systems that would afford both Facebook and YouTube delivery along with tools for improving both our reach and 'look'.

Our live stream exploration was led by Tom Dresselhouse, Michael Sullivan, and Deborah Collins. After visiting four churches (Grace Church, Providence; St. Martin's, Providence; Trinity, Newport; and Our Lady of Mercy, EG), the team then identified two recommended vendors for installation of a live stream system. Given reports from the onsite visits and the vendor estimates, the team outlined a proposal for approval by the vestry in October. Given vestry approval, installation of the live stream system commenced in November. Next steps will involve the training of a small operational team for monitoring our live stream delivery. With this team assembled, trained, and in place, we hope to launch our new live streaming of services soon on both YouTube and Facebook simultaneously. Stay tuned!

Leadership, program leaders, and many of you have made use of our Website, Constant Contact, e-newsletter, and texting tools to share updates, news, and highlights of our parish life. This year's Lenten and Advent Blogs posted to the website provided the opportunity to share parishioner reflections widely via email alerts, Facebook posts, and our e-newsletters. With YouTube returning as a resource for sharing worship together, the reach outside our walls promises only to grow. In fact, other resources, such as Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat..., are on the horizon for increased options to connect and share our journey with all.

Again, St. Luke's communication resources and talents continue to develop and open up new possibilities for sharing our faith journey together and with others. Many thanks to those of you who have reached out with ideas, suggestions, and feedback – your experience is key to making us be and stay connected!

The Communications Task Force: Tom Dresselhouse, Elizabeth McNamara, Michael Sullivan, Stacey Ubelhoer, Rob Walsh, John Walsh, Deborah Collins

EPISCOPAL CHARITIES

2021 Episcopal Charities: Continuing to Give, Serve and Love



With the continuing restrictions, due to the pandemic, our activities and interactions within our Church building have precluded the Episcopal Charities parish kickoff of times past. Nevertheless, the faithfulness of St. Luke's Parish family has continued in supporting Episcopal Charities, both for its Annual Fund, - which provides sustainable, year-end program grants to scores of non-profit agencies in the State, - and Charities NOW, which issues immediate funds to agencies and ministries helping at-risk elders, children and families. One of those critical ministries, and recipient of Charities funds, is the East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard, operating out of our own Parish House.

Other than the annual Bishop's letter, received in our mailboxes early in 2021, the rest of the marketing and communications has been conducted via emails from the Diocese, under the direction of our own Canon Betsy Fornal, Charities Director. The effectiveness of this messaging, and convenience of online giving, continue to demonstrate positive responses, and establishes the model for future participation and generous results. Thank you, Betsy!

Whether via a check placed in the offering plate, the envelope mailed in, or the click online, the generosity of our St. Luke's family goes on! As of December 31, 74 of you have contributed \$23,880 to Episcopal Charities. \$5,665 of this total represents gifts to Charities NOW.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Dresselhouse & Laura Sullivan
2021 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, Steve McLoughlin, Stacey Nakasian, Judi Nichols, John Rannenberg, 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. Michael dedicates hours of his time preparing the monthly financial reports and providing commentary to highlight significant items. His efforts help the finance committee focus on the most important topics. Many thanks to Michael! 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. As we bade farewell to Jane Eaton in March (thank you Jane for your years of dedicated note taking!) Stacey Nakasian took on this role in April 2021 and did a terrific job capturing the monthly discussions. Active participation from every member of the finance committee makes for a robust analysis of the church finances. Thanks to the entire committee!

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Dresselhouse
Finance Committee Chairperson

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

While COVID may have altered our fundraising plans in 2021, it certainly did not dampen our spirits! This spirit was demonstrated by the tremendous support of parishioners bringing in donations and all the work that went into setting up the Yard Sale. The "old kitchen" served as ground zero for the sorting of books, clothes, electronics, toys, furniture and much more. We received so many donations we had to expand to numerous other rooms throughout the church. The sorting was the first time that many of us came out of our COVID hibernation and welcomed the human interaction! We then turned our parking lot into a grand show room. While there were too many people to thank, enough cannot be said about Deborah Collins who helped organize this chaos into a \$4,186 profit!

RaiseRight mobile shopping app lead by Susan and Mark Cordle along with Deborah Collins and Jeremy Stowe raised about \$500 to date.

This past year the committee started the process of planning a dinner dance and auction. It soon became clear that COVID made that venture too volatile to continue and was tabled.

Currently the committee is focused on our Golf tournament to be held on May 9th at Potowomut Golf Club. This will include a dinner and silent auction. We look forward to seeing you there!

Submitted by:

Bill Warburton
Jon Jacaruso

KITCHEN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

2021 saw the long-awaited substantial completion of the kitchen and dining room renovation project. On December 5th, Bishop Knisley joined us for the Blessing of our new facilities. It was a joyful day of celebration as we honored the hard work of so many, and the incredible generosity and support of our parish and community partners. Bold new letters across the new kitchen entrance proclaim “St. Luke’s Community Kitchen”, reinforcing the longstanding purpose of these spaces to serve not just our parish, but our community. Our new facilities allow us to build upon the faithful efforts of those before us who developed robust feeding ministries and growing partnerships of service with our neighbors.

We started out the year in a difficult place with a cost estimate from a contractor that greatly exceeded the funds we had raised. Through repricing with a new contractor and cutting the scope of the renovation (mostly in the dining room), costs were brought down substantially. Having come so close, and facing the prospect having to cut even further by postponing the elevator restoration, we re-opened the kitchen fundraising campaign. The response from parishioners was overwhelming, and along with a grant from the Diocese, we were able to not only keep the elevator in the project, but also reinstate most of the dining room improvements.

Our contractor, Holdenworks, began work in June. Supply chain delays that were so widespread in the construction industry this past year affected our project too, and an anticipated September completion extended to an early December substantial completion. Holdenworks is finishing up their work now and plans to turn over occupancy of the kitchen and dining room to us by the end of this January.

There are so many to thank for the success of this kitchen and dining room renovation. Not least, the parishioners of St. Luke’s. You have given so thoughtfully, generously and faithfully, and supported the vision and mission of this project through all its delays and challenges. Your steadfast commitment is a testament to what we can do together in God’s love. I am so deeply grateful for all your support, and so proud of what we have accomplished together.

Gary Schweizer

Kitchen Improvements Committee Chair

And on behalf of the Kitchen Improvements Committee: Paul Brookes, Steve McLoughlin, Lois McLoughlin and Bill Warburton

“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 eighth year of supporting this statewide mobile ministry dedicated to feeding and clothing the homeless and needy of Rhode Island. Until March 2020, 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. 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 in early 2020. We tried delivering pre-bagged items in March 2020, but then decided this was not safe to continue, and essentially put the ministry on hold. In December 2020, we delivered over 100 large bags stuffed with winter clothing and toiletries to a group of homeless in Woonsocket and a women’s/ family shelter, also in Woonsocket. Since then we have attempted various approaches to delivering food to those in need. We tried coordinating with the Community Care Alliance in Woonsocket to deliver “Bags for Buddies” on several occasions last summer, but this was not sustainable. Since September, we have been dividing our food delivery efforts between a small Saturday gathering in West Warwick and locally at the Greenwich Hotel on Main Street here in East Greenwich. We have also been working closely with the women’s/family shelter on Sayles St. in Woonsocket. They have been giving us lists of needs and we have delivered items ranging from clothing, backpacks, linens, hygiene products, and even DVD players!

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. Over the past year, the partner churches have all taken different approaches to reach out locally to neighbors in need. The LFRI organization has been recognized for its tremendous efforts, and just last month received \$40,000 in grants from The Rhode Island Foundation and CVS.

We have a St Luke’s steering committee that meets every 1-2 months to discuss logistics, and ways to overcome the challenges of the pandemic to carry out our mission. Anyone interested in participating should contact us. We will continue to post our monthly endeavors in the bulletin and needs on Sign Up genius. At this time, the only clothing donations that are being accepted is for refugees involved with Dorcas. Specific clothing needs are detailed in the weekly bulletins.

Thank you all for your continued support in this time of great need.

Faithfully submitted,

Dana and Caroline Sparhawk on behalf of the St. Luke’s LFRI Steering Committee

LUNCH ON THE HILL

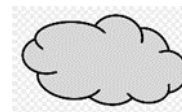
(St. Luke's and the East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard (EGIFC))



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...

As we look back on 2021 in the rear-view mirror it's hard to believe that we continue to see the grey cloud of COVID remaining in our field of vision. When we embarked on the year, we were optimistic that by spring we would be gathering again in our newly renovated kitchen and dining hall. The cloud of COVID stubbornly continued to hinder our progress. Out of concern for the safety of our guests we were not able to resume our community gatherings. Progress on the Kitchen Improvement was complicated by COVID and supply chain issues.



Fortunately, looking forward, we see brighter days ahead. In December, we gathered in our newly renovated dining hall and joined Bishop Knisley as he blessed "Saint Luke's Community Kitchen". We are now in the final stages of completion and certification. Heading into 2022, we are excited about the possibility of finding creative ways to safely resume our lunches with our partners and exploring new opportunities to serve our community and neighbors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have continued to provide support and encouragement thru these difficult times.

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.
Steve McLoughlin/Steve Bartlett

Even though 2021 was full of the constant challenges of living through the Covid 19 pandemic, lots of beautiful music still resounded throughout the St. Luke's community. While rarely "business as usual," our incredibly dedicated choristers and musicians made certain that musical praises and prayers were a core part of our corporate worship together, whether that was in person or virtual.

We began the New Year in the midst of a major surge in Covid cases. In-person rehearsals for our choirs were suspended along with in-person worship services for the congregation, but our dedicated choir members kept a feeling of connection and community through numerous Zoom check-ins and regular email chains. A variety of soloists recorded anthems and hymns for the St. Luke's Virtual Morning Prayers services each Sunday.

By mid-February the Covid numbers were coming down the curve, so the St. Cecilia Choir (grades 3-12) resumed careful weekly rehearsals. At that time young people were considered less at risk than older folk. Masked and greatly social distanced, we met in St. Luke's large auditorium with windows opened no matter how cold it happened to be outside. Sometimes our vocal warm-ups included "Jumping Jacks" so that we could literally be warm! Beginning with the Sunday, February 28 Virtual Morning Prayer service, the St. Cecilia Choir was always featured in a hymn or anthem each week through Sunday, May 9 ("Mother's Day"), our final pre-prepared worship video.

As Covid numbers continued to decline and vaccine shots began to be administered, St. Luke's resumed in-person worship on Sunday, March 21, in addition to our pre-recorded Morning Prayer. Even though it was the Fifth Sunday of Lent, we all wanted to shout "Hallelujah!"

Small groups continued singing through Holy Week and Eastertide. April 4, Easter Sunday itself, the 9am service was held outside behind Swift Gym complete with Trumpet, Timpani, vocal quartet and two congregational hymns...the first in-person full congregational hymns sung at St. Luke's since Sunday, March 8, 2020...again we all wanted to shout "Hallelujah," and this time we did!

By mid-May, most Adults were now fully vaccinated, teens were beginning to get shots, and Covid numbers were on a fast decline. At long last the Canterbury Choir (Adults) resumed in-person rehearsals. And Pentecost Sunday, May 23, St. Luke's celebrated outside behind Swift Gym with full Canterbury and St. Cecilia choirs singing and a full slate of congregational hymns and service music. Finally, we were arriving at some sort of "light at the end of the tunnel."

Following CDC and state of Rhode Island updated guidelines, our choirs continued singing indoors through the third week of June. Full congregational singing was now back to stay, and fully vaccinated individuals no longer had to wear masks. St. Cecilia had a wonderful end-of-year pool & pizza party at the beautiful home of Charlie and Julie Cronin. As we broke for our usual summer choral hiatus, we all looked forward to resuming rehearsals in September celebrating this "new normal."

Summer continued with an array of soloists and congregational singing. Sunday, July 11, we were able to return to Goddard Park for our service at the Carousel with inspiring music led by the Three Amigos: Brad Logan, Bruce Dearnaley, and Rob Walsh. But as the season progressed,

breakthrough infections and the Delta variant entered our evolving reality. As we approached Labor Day, it became clear that our hopes of a “new normal” weren’t going to be quite what we hoped.

None the less, we celebrated “Kick Off Sunday” on September 12 with the full resumption of choir rehearsals...albeit with a return to masks as a requirement for everyone. What a joy it was to begin Angel Choir (preK-2nd grade) again for the first time since March 11, 2020. I am so thankful for the leadership and musical inspiration that all of our choirs – Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel – bring to our Sunday morning worship experience and other special occasions.

A few of those special occasions included a glorious Evensong on November 14 at Grace Church, Providence. Our Canterbury Choir and older St. Cecilia members joined the Grace Church choirs for a truly magnificent and moving service. Saturday, December 4, members of the Canterbury and St. Cecilia choirs sang at the East Greenwich town tree lighting. And Sunday, December 19, all of our vocal choirs, the Three Amigos, and the Jubilate Ringers offered a joyous holiday concert attended by parishioners and many members of the surrounding communities.

At the end of 2021 the latest Covid surge in cases was becoming quite alarming. Fortunately, we completed the year with beautiful Christmas Eve and Day celebrations and a wonderful Lessons and Carols on the last Sunday of December.

As we turned the calendar to January, unfortunately the Epiphany pageant was cancelled and we have delayed the start of choir rehearsals for a few weeks in an abundance of caution as we wait for this Omicron surge to slow down. I am heartened, however, that we are still worshipping and singing together in-person on Sundays while taking as many precautions as possible.

Now for a few specific acknowledgements. Thank you Bruce Dearnaley for all of your amazing music playing the tower bells each Sunday, during the week, and on many bell videos...a real gift to St. Luke’s and the entire East Greenwich community. Thank you Sally House and Ben Lovejoy for all your phenomenal teaching in the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) program with our St. Cecilia Choir. Thank you Anna Pilkington and Christine Scarber for creating a wonderful Christmas holiday party for St. Cecilia even when things couldn’t be the same as usual. Thank you Geo Borgia, Catherine Pilkington, and Caitlyn Holmstedt for all your tender leadership with the Angel Choir. Thank you Sally House for all your care in maintaining the Canterbury Choir folders. Thank you Laura Sullivan for keeping me on track as we honor each individual Canterbury member on her or his birthday. As it is often said, “it takes a village.”

As I said at the beginning, life has been full of challenges during this past year, but it has also been full of many, many blessings. The choirs and all the individual choristers at St. Luke’s are such a blessing to the parish community and to me personally. I am so thankful for their immense dedication, beautiful music, and contagious enthusiasm.

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 2022 at St. Luke’s.

Faithfully,
Rodney

NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

Our 2021 started off with all virtual services, which helped to connect parishioners locally as well as engage those who moved into our area over the year or found St. Luke's remotely. By March, the doors opened with caution, but by the summer both the choirs and parishioners were singing and taking communion at the rail. We were also blessed with new people in our midst – 32 new adults representing 20 households. Even more exciting is that most of these families came in as active members, joining the choir, enrolling their children in youth faith formation, or joining a small group activity from Theology on Tap to ushering.

Challenged by our physical distancing, our team did reach out as we could to many of these new members – greeting new faces with warmth and welcome, answering questions or sharing information, or simply passing the peace with smiles and grace. With the opening of our St. Luke's Community Kitchen, we look forward to re-launching our Welcome Brunch for newcomers and new members in 2022.

With towns and businesses opening in late spring/summer, the team was once again able to participate in the East Greenwich Main Street Strolls. Having missed the entire summer of 2020, the Strolls resumed with the Three Amigos, Newcomer Team, clergy, and parishioners once again at their post next to Walsh & Associates. We danced, sang, greeted community members (and their pets!), enjoyed the parade, and soaked up the sweet sounds of people simply enjoying a summer evening together.

Looking forward to more new faces, more gathering, and new relationships in the year to come!

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 and the Rev. Tanya Watt. The committee members are: Ellen Abell through September 2021, Anne Mackie deceased June 2021, Jane Brockway, Donna Dufault, Dotty Fleming, Donna Jordan, Sharon Pickering, Nancy Rudicil, Carol Stevens, Kathy Denny-Brown and Harry Waterman. This year we have added three new members, Mimi West, Marcia Gladue and Martha Baker.

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.

As the Covid 19 pandemic continued into 2021, we held our monthly meetings via ZOOM. We were restricted by Covid protocols, many of the things we usually do had to be curtailed, such as in-person visits, providing meals, funeral collations. During 2021, our function of sending cards was more important than ever. We continued to reach out with cards and phone calls. During the summer months, we were able to provide collations for funerals when requested by families. As winter cold weather and the Omicron variant of Covid rapidly increased, we could no longer provide that service.

We 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." 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.

In a recent discussion with one of our new members, she was telling me about a parishioner that was having some health issues. She called him a "pew buddy" as an explanation of how she knew about him. It reminded me that we are all pastoral caregivers to each other. Please continue to reach out to your "pew buddies", and I thank you for being part of the Pastoral Care Ministry of St. Luke's Church.

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 for 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 end soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy L. Fleming



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.

2021 was a year of increased activity. We completed our 2-year exterior painting project by doing the Loggia. We also resurfaced the flat roof over the Sacristy and had mold remediation work done on the anteroom adjacent to the Sacristy. We have been experiencing plaster deterioration in the lower Sacristy and front Vestibule and had re-work done there to resurface the walls, as required.

We have done considerable work this Fall to assess the condition of our sewer line and to examine alternative corrective actions. This as a result of continuing problems with the line over the past several years.

Re-lining the sewer line will be our major project for 2022. This is a very costly procedure, but necessary given the feedback received from three contractors and videos of the system. We will also resurface our deteriorating parking lot, an item on our “wish list” for some time, and finish work on the anteroom next to the Sacristy.

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

Dave Savage



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee serves the Church by organizing the annual Commitment Campaign. While this campaign helps the Finance Committee and the Vestry establish a budget grounded in fiscal reality, it also serves as an annual period of reflection and introspection as we continue our faith journey. This fall, Bob and Elaine Carbone graciously donated the succulents the Stewardship Committee and Vestry delivered to the congregation as a living reminder of the hearty, growing St. Luke's community.

The 2022 campaign raised awareness of the many ways St. Luke's Gives:

- * By creating, building, and fostering a safe and inclusive community
- * Through outreach, service, and sharing the wealth and spirit
- * Through worship; nurturing the soul-touching divine; music
- * Through lifelong and life-wide Christian formation
- * By encouraging justice and human rights for all

St. Luke's service to the community is only possible through the generous donations of our parishioners.

Let me express a sincere Thank You to everyone who has committed to share their treasure with our faith community. As of early January, we had received 178 pledges for a total of \$457,794. Sixty-three individuals or families increased their pledges for 2022. That combined with the twelve new pledges, indicates a healthy trend in our parish's giving.

I'd like to thank the committee members for their work in organizing various campaign elements and for engaging the congregation in a conversation that tends to be an uncomfortable topic for most of us. 2021 Stewardship Committee members included: Father Tim, Mother Tanya, Dottie Fleming, Deborah Collins, Holly O'Brien, Anna Pilkington, Mike Grady, Rob Walsh, Dick Kelly, and Steve Mcloughlin

I'd also like to recognize the creative efforts of John and Rob Walsh in developing the committee's communications products.

This year, we even got the Youth Faith Formation Class involved. The Middle School Faith Formation Class planted a Thankfulness Tree in the atrium and invited parishioners to write personal expressions of gratitude on its leaves. Gratitude for the gifts we receive is at the heart of stewardship.

If you haven't gotten around to sending your 2022 pledge, it's not too late; today's a good day to pledge! If you don't usually pledge, but tend to give as you are able, thank you as well! But please try a manageable commitment this year. Start this expression of your faith somewhere comfortable just to see how it feels.

Yours in Christ,
David Sampson

ST. ELIZABETH'S COMMUNITY WORSHIP

During 2021, COVID 19 continued to limit this ministry. Late in the spring many people were vaccinated and St. Elizabeth began to allow visitors to return. When limited volunteers were invited back, we were allowed to resume the worship service on a limited basis, every other Saturday. Many of our team of volunteers decided that they would not return until Covid was less problematic. However, when allowed, Laura Sullivan and I provided the support for the clergy person doing the worship service. We have had to adhere to strict protocols such as testing, masking (St. Elizabeth's provides) and a check-in screening process. We continued because it is so meaningful to the residents. As of this writing (January 13, 2022), we have been informed that we are on pause until further notice. We are hopeful that this will be a short pause.

ST. ELIZABETH'S COMMUNITY WORSHIP—Under the leadership of Dorothy Fleming, St. Luke's 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 2:30 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 3:30 pm. The opportunity to provide this service to the residents of St. Elizabeth's is a very rewarding experience.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Fleming



THE GIVING TREE

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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 family that were evicted from their apartment 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, once again we gave gift cards from Walmart that could safely be distributed to those in need. The outpouring of kindness, generosity and love 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.

The Giving Tree committee members are a special group that showed compassion and love to those in need. Many thanks to Mimi West, Sue Clement, Lois McLoughlin, Helen Biancani, and Nora Hall.

Special thanks to everyone!

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Horton



THEOLOGY ON TAP

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As the men's group of St. Luke's, Theology on Tap (TOT) is focused is on Christian fellowship and service. We are a casual group of St. Luke's men, who enjoy meeting monthly for occasional service projects, guided discussions and mostly good conversation and fellowship. Everyone is welcome and we all leave feeling enriched.

Our monthly meetings, on the last Monday of the month (7:00 pm), started the year via Zoom, but by June we were able to enjoy the camaraderie of meeting face to face (with masks) in the Blackburn room. It appears that now, at least temporarily, we'll go back to Zoom meetings, until the current wave of Covid subsides.

We have been extremely fortunate to welcome a number of new guys to TOT this year and the new, diverse experiences and opinions have fostered some fascinating discussions. We've experimented with discussions around some book excerpts, where we've been able to explore men's spirituality in a friendly, welcoming setting.

TOT has historically had engaged with St. Luke's food ministries by supporting Christ Community Kitchen and Mobile Loaves & Fishes where we can help with food insecurity. Covid has placed some limitations on us again 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. We hope that in 2022, particularly with our new Community Kitchen, we can find ways that we can contribute and participate in programs to help those who need.

Unfortunately, this year, we lost one of our long time TOT friends – Tim Barcott Schwartz or “TP” as we all knew him. While it was sad for all of the TOT guys to sit together, reminisce and tell TP stories, the meeting brought back together many old friends, some who have now reengaged in our monthly meetings . . . an unbroken circle.

Thanks to Father Tim for preparing and facilitating a very special TOT Christmas Service. It was quite a scene to see the men of TOT, dressed up in their holiday finest for the occasion, enjoying each other's company and sharing 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

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 ten teams of over 40 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.

Like the world around us the Usher Ministry has become adept at adjusting to change. We continue to play an important role in creating a welcoming, safe, and reverent space for all to worship within the evolving guidelines of the State and Diocese of RI.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend thanks to the ushers, office staff, and clergy 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

Women of Grace started their year on Zoom only to be blessed with in-person gatherings by year's end! Our programs ranged across a wide number of topics from prayerful reflection to music and poetry. Read below to appreciate the intent, talents and faith that graced us throughout our times together.

January – Pam Gregory introduced Mark Nemo's *Finding Inner Courage* and his application of spiritual frameworks to approach life more positively, increase our ability to experience gratitude, and to be kind and generous.

February – We recognized Black History Month through the writings of Isabel Wilkerson, Howard Thurman, Amanda Gorman and Mary McLeod Bethune, whose influence spans 90 years and continue to inspire hope and courage as we seek to understand and address ongoing issues of racism.

March – Doreen Putnam's comprehensive and compassionate presentation on *What I Still Don't Know about Alzheimer's and Dementia* focused on 10 warnings signs of dementia and risk factors that affect all involved.

April – Sally House and her daughter Kelly House shared their experience with and knowledge of Sacred Harp music, introducing us to shape-note music and its deep roots in American history.

May – Pam Gregory led a discussion of the *Listening Hearts* program for lay discernment – sharing simple reflections and exercises to help make spiritual practice of discernment accessible to everyone...not just clergy.

June – WoG returned to gathering in-person with a pot-luck dinner, sharing, and hugging!

Summer break until October -- We continued our in-person gatherings to enjoy the unveiling of a poem comprised of reflections from WoG in 2020 and artfully pulled together by Jen Cormier.

November – Mtr. Tanya led us in an Examen, a prayerful reflective on the day and God's presence in it. After the Examen, she shared an array of prayer practices and resources that encourage prayer-filled mindfulness.

December – Susan Aitcheson, head of EG Affordable Housing Commission, discussed new affordable housing opportunities in East Greenwich, the complications around affordable housing, and how we might come together to support our new neighbors.

These programs were the result of thoughtful planning on the part of what we lovingly call our WoG 'brain trust' – in the persons of Nora Hall, Ellen Abell, Donna Dufault, Pam Gregory, and Laura Sullivan. Together, they generated ideas, reached out to speakers, and shared their time both for planning and memorable moments of laughter and companionship. No wonder Women of Grace continues to be a dwelling space for us to refresh and rekindle our spirits! Looking ahead, we are exploring Celtic worship, a book exchange, being Easter people, and continuing to learn about and reach out to our neighbors in need. Please join us as you can!

Faithfully submitted on behalf of WoG by Deborah Collins

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION/GODLY PLAY

Youth Faith Formation at St. Luke's consists of three grade-level programs: Godly Play (Pre-K through Grade 5), middle school (Grades 6-8) and high school (Grades 9-11). Due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation, all in-person YFF activities were suspended for the winter 2021 term. St. Luke's resumed regular YFF programming in September 2021 while adhering to state health protocol.

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.

Grades 6-8. Mike Grady and Stacey Nakasian continue to lead our middle school faith formation class. The middle school curriculum uses the *God Talks*, an engaging set of lessons that focus on the fundamentals of youth spiritual formation often supplemented with modern music and video. The cornerstone of the middle school years is the Rite 13 program in which the parish welcomes these new teens into young adulthood. In May 2021 we officially reopened the middle school YFF program with the celebration of Rite 13 for six of our students. This involved a Rite 13 preparation program on four consecutive Sundays, a family dinner and celebration at the completion of the preparation phase, and the ceremony itself on Sunday, June 6. With the other YFF classes, the middle school group resumed in-class lessons in September 2021. We devoted much of the fall to a unit on stewardship which coincided with the parish-wide commitment campaign. This led to the planning of a series of activities for our class to support parish life. In 2022 the middle school class will take up a unit on prayer, Lenten preparation and participate in St. Luke's many outreach ministries.

Grades 9-11. Led by Ali Poirier and Tom Sprague, the high school faith formation program spent the better half of the year focusing on the importance of stewardship and how each one of these young adults can contribute not only to St. Luke's but also the broader community. The class's enthusiasm for service has been fantastic, as shown by the number of students who have dedicated time, outside of class, volunteering for Mobile Loaves and Fishes. In 2022 we will continue this thread of outreach and community service working with the students on the numerous causes and activities that interest them.

Michael Grady

