



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

weekly

January 16, 2022

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Greetings!

A few years ago, a classmate and I launched a summer chapel on Hatteras Island in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. We were kind of pioneers out there, on the last island connected to other islands by bridge, about an hour away from the closest Episcopal church. It was a remarkable experience. At first, we had imagined a sort of vacation chapel; but as we got to know people, we realized dozens of Episcopalians lived there year-around. We offered Morning Prayer on the beach by a lifeguard stand and Evening Prayer once a week at the Catholic Church where a cool old priest who had been a missionary in South America was happy to let us set up. My classmate collaborated with the Methodist minister in youth group activities, and I found myself at the farmers market introducing our ministry and setting up lady's luncheons to connect some amazing women I had met. The work had begun slowly, with one family regularly coming for Morning Prayer, but by the middle of July we had gained some traction, built some solid relationships, and gotten the word out about our work. It was so exciting- things were happening! And then the flood came.

Every time it rained on the island, we became aware of how it was really a glorified sand bar. The island is very narrow- maybe a mile across, and the water table was already so high that it flooded every time it rained. The extra water had nowhere to go, nowhere to drain away, and so it just became deeper. A couple of times it had rained so much that we couldn't go anywhere for a few days because the roads had literally been washed away by the water and sand. But then it flooded. It rained hard and long and the puddles became ponds. There were fish swimming in the water that flooded the sidewalk outside our house. We were less than a half mile away from the grocery store, but there was absolutely no way to get there. It took almost two weeks for those waters to subside, and by that time we were about two weeks away from heading back to seminary.

The bishop in the Diocese of East Carolina, where our chapel had been dreamed up, came to meet with us and hear about our experiences. He took us out to lunch and asked how things were going. I told him about how excited we had been, how we had just gotten the wheels under our ministry, and how many people we had met who were glad that we were there. And I told him how the flood seemed to wipe that all away.

Bishop Skirving has a gentle joy about him. He smiled as I spoke, and when I was through, he told me that he had grown up around farmland. As a child, he had learned that the rhythm of nature is often out of our control. We are responsible for doing our work the

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best we can, for planting and sowing in their seasons, but so much of life is beyond our control. We do our work trusting that God is already present and that the Holy Spirit will move in ways we cannot imagine. A flood may halt our work, but a flood does not halt the work of God.

I've been thinking about that a lot the last several weeks, as Omicron has ripped its way through our state. So much of life has felt outside of our control. We have started and stopped, pivoted and regrouped, popped up and then hunkered back down. We have learned and adjusted, been flexible and creative. We have experienced things that are out of our control. We have experienced that control is an illusion. We have experienced the presence of God in our lives. We have shared community with one another. We have supported one another and our neighbors. Whatever is happening around us, God continues to love us. The Holy Spirit continues to speak and move and call to us.

The seasons may change. The floods may come. The work of God continues.

Blessings today and always,
Mtr Tanya

This Sunday at St. Luke's

[The Second Sunday after the Epiphany](#)

Click above for the lessons

7:45am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

10:15am Holy Eucharist with Sermon

We are glad to offer a Facebook livestream for our 10:15 am Sunday services. To access the livestream, please follow the instructions below:

1. Our Facebook page can be accessed by [Clicking Here](#).
2. You do not need a Facebook account to access this page. If you do have an account, 'liking' our page ahead of the service will allow Facebook to send you a notification when the livestream begins.
3. The livestream will be accessible from St. Luke's Facebook page near the time the prelude begins. If you have liked our page, simply click on the notification you will receive from Facebook when it starts to view the video.
4. If you have not liked our page, you may have to scroll down the page to find the livestream while it is happening due to the way Facebook works. Once the livestream concludes, the video of the service will be available at the top of our page, (so you will not have to scroll to find it).

Please contact our Assistant Rector, Mother Tanya, with any questions. She can be reached at tanya@stlukeseg.org.

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

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, rector, preaching

Reopening Announcement

[St. Luke's Has Reopened!](#)

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to St. Luke's!

[Click Here](#) to view Fr. Tim's message regarding updated COVID protocols.

As of Sunday, August 1, we have resumed our mask-wearing and contact tracing practices.

We are using a QR Code for our Sunday Bulletin which can be scanned by using a SmartPhone!
This
will give worshipers the option to view our bulletin on their phone during Sunday Service or to
print the bulletin and bring it to the church. We will provide hard copies as well.

Healing Services Resumes

Every Tuesday at Noon St. Luke's will be offering a healing service with Eucharist. All are invited to attend. Like for the Sunday services, we ask that you wear your mask.

Here Is The Sunday Bulletin QR Code:



OR

[Click Here](#) to view our Sunday Bulletin!

St. Luke's Annual Meeting - One Service Only

ST. LUKE'S ANNUAL MEETING - ONE SERVICE ONLY

Sunday, January 30th, at 9 am

Followed by St. Luke's 187th Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Notes

From the Treasurer

December Month End

Dec-21	2021 YTD	Budget	Var	2020 YTD	Var
Pledge Income	\$450,083	\$435,000	15,083	\$416,321	\$33,762
Loose Plate	\$44,230	\$25,000	19,230	\$19,920	\$24,310
Other Personal Inc.	\$84,654	\$74,325	10,329	\$78,143	\$6,511
Total Personal Inc.	\$578,967	\$534,325	44,642	\$514,384	\$64,583
Total Other Inc	\$140,662	\$151,885	(11,223)	\$128,938	\$11,724
Total Income	\$719,629	\$686,210	33,419	\$643,322	\$76,307
Staff Expenses	\$443,900	\$450,774	(6,874)	\$421,668	\$22,232
Facilities Expenses	\$108,974	\$122,114	(13,140)	\$118,278	(\$9,304)
Program Expenses	\$27,938	\$37,750	(9,812)	\$24,493	\$3,445
Outreach Expenses	\$13,498	\$14,000	(502)	\$16,776	(\$3,278)
Total Expenses	\$674,277	\$704,534	(30,257)	\$675,854	(\$1,577)
			0		
Net Income	\$45,352	(\$18,324)	63,676	(\$32,532)	\$77,884

Overall, the year was financially positive. And here comes the but:

- When you combine **last year's loss** and **this year's profit**, we **net +\$12,820**
- We were able to do this mainly because of **\$120,000 in PPP money**. Take away that, and the Church would have been a **combined \$107,180** in the red. **That's how the pandemic hit our bottom line.**
- We have also been conservative in our spending – **we should take a moment and acknowledge the staff and leaders that worked within their budgets**, controlling expenses whenever possible.
- Rental income is still experiencing a slump due to Covid – while some groups can work with our layouts and provide proper spacing, groups like the music school really can't do much in a small classroom while being in closer confines with students.
- We also used ALL the income from the invested funds – some \$43,000 more than usual for the two years.
- In short, we're not quite where we need to be.

Michael Sullivan
Treasurer

Vanco and PayPal QR Codes If You Would Like To Donate



Vanco



Here are some other options available if you would like to donate to St. Luke's!



<p>Online Banking Bill Pay – with online bill pay, you add St. Luke’s Church as a payee, enter our address of 99 Peirce St. East Greenwich, RI 02818 and schedule your payment. Benefits: Ease of use – if you already use online bill pay, then you are familiar with making payments this way. You can schedule single payments, or set up regular payments in advance. No cost to you or the Church.</p>	<p>Zelle Transfer Zelle Payment – with Zelle payment transfer, you can add St. Luke’s Church by using the giving@stlukeseg.org address. Benefits: Ease of use – if you already use Zelle, then you are familiar with making payments this way. This only makes one payment at a time, so you have to initiate each payment. No cost to you or the Church</p>	<p>VANCO Payment Solutions VANCO Payments – With VANCO payments, you create your individual account on the VANCO site, set up how you want to pay, and the funds are deposited in the Church’s account Benefits: If you like points or miles, then this is your site! VANCO is the only option that accepts credit cards. Like Online Banking, you can set up recurring payments or make single payments Transaction Fees for the Church</p>	<p>Direct Payment From IRA Direct Transfer – If you are 70 ½ or older, you can instruct your IRA provider to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution directly from your IRA. Benefits: Any funds paid this way are not reported as taxable income to you. You can make your entire yearly pledge with one payment, help satisfy your required distribution, and incur no tax on the income. No cost to you or the Church</p>
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Pledge Envelopes

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

Adult Faith Formation

Adult Faith Formation

The AFF class is reading Barbara Brown Taylor’s *Learning to Walk in the Darkness*. In this book Taylor writes, "Darkness is shorthand for anything that scares me-- either because I am sure that I do not have the resources to survive it or because I do not want to find out. (But) I have learned things in the dark that I could never have learned in the light, things that have saved my life over and over again, so that there is really only one conclusion. I need the darkness as much as I need light."

About the author, Time magazine writes, "Few souls are as synched to the world's mysteries as Barbara Brown Taylor's... Taylor writes spiritual nonfiction that rivals the poetic power of C.S. Lewis and Frederick Buechner."

Please join the AFF class as she guides us through a spirituality of the nighttime and teaches us how to find God even in darkness.

This week we will continue our discussion of chapter 7, The Dark Night of the Soul, and move into chapter 8, Working with Darkness.

[Click Here](#) to join the meeting! Zoom information is below:

Meeting ID: 867 3899 9469
 Passcode: 427552

Nursery and Godly Play

Nursery

We are happy to welcome your children back! Our nursery has reopened for both services. Please sign-up on our Sign-Up Genius page found [Here](#). We are limited to six children per service.

Godly Play

Godly Play has begun!

We’re excited to welcome your children! We have a 10:15 session in the auditorium. To join us, you need to complete two steps:

1. Please complete the youth registration form [Here](#) or pick up a hard copy form from the atrium at

the church.

2. Please sign up for the dates your children will attend using our Sign-Up Genius - [Click Here](#).

Questions? Contact Theresa Deiters, Director of Youth Formation, at (415) 233-0761.

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves & Fishes

Covid has made our society adapt to many changes, and the year 2022 is proving to be no different. The mission of our Loaves and Fishes ministry is to prepare and deliver food and clothing to those in need. We adapted our work in 2021 and after a delayed start, were able to do that work with your generous assistance. In 2022, we need to continue in that vein.

For our run on January 22, 2022, we will be asking for forty bag lunches to be prepared at your home and delivered to St Luke's by 12:00 PM on that date. The SignUp Genius details the needs for each bag. These bags will be delivered to the West Warwick site and our neighbors at the East Greenwich Hotel.

[Click Here](#) to sign up for January!

Our efforts at the Women's Shelter in Woonsocket have been well received and most helpful to their residents. As we have seen throughout this past year, many people have offered support to such organizations and the Women's Shelter finds that they do not have any requests for us for the month of January. We will continue to be in touch with them for their future needs. Your generosity is most appreciated and allows us to continue forward. Thank you.

Save The Date!

Community Embrace
Golf Classic
...
Potowomut Golf Club
...
Monday
May 9, 2022



.....
SAVE THE DATE!

And Help Prepare for our SILENT AUCTION!

How might you make the auction a HUGE success?

You can donate your tickets to a sports event, concert or the theater. If you have a family cottage--consider donating a week or weekend stay. Or, offer up a special item such as a beautiful lamp, artwork, or a family heirloom. Consider donating a service -- a chef to prepare a small dinner party, music or computer lessons, photography or artist renderings of your family, home or pet ... or, an outing to one of our nearby vineyards, garden tours, or other local attractions

Contact Silent Auction Co-Chairs Marcia Gladue (401-241-1821) or Mimi West (401-480-8022) to discuss your possibilities. If there is a need to reach out to a business, please let them know so that these efforts can be coordinated with our sponsorship outreach. Marcia and Mimi welcome all suggestions that you might have to make this a successful and fun event!

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*For further information about the Embrace Golf Classic,
contact Tournament Co-Chairs:
Bill Warburton (bill.warburton@cox.net)
Jon Jacaruso (jonjacaruso@live.com)*

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree

Thank you all for your kindness and generous giving of gift cards to the Christmas Giving Tree. We know you gave from the heart to families less fortunate. We had 17 families that needed our help this Christmas season. Three families had five children and four families had four children. A grandmother told me she was adopting her grandchildren because of awful circumstances. A family with five children got evicted from their apartment. Lois, thinking quickly, asked the mother for an address of where they would be located. We mailed gift cards to Ohio so that this mother with five children could buy the children presents.

Thank you everyone that contributed to make this such a wonderful Christmas for our community families. Special thanks to Mimi West, Sue Clement, Lois McLoughlin, Helen Biancani, Cathy Rezendes and Nora Hall.

Sincerely,
Judith M. Horton

Theology on Tap

Monday, January 31 @ 7 pm

All Men of St. Luke's are invited to a Zoom Meeting this month!

St. Luke's men's group – Theology on Tap – have decided that we'll shift our meeting plans and meet via Zoom for the next few months while this wave of Covid passes. We don't expect this to last long but want to be careful and prudent about everyone's health. So this month you are invited to join us via Zoom on Monday, January 31, at 7 pm for conversation and community. I plan to send out a written piece to those on the distribution list for discussion.

TOT is 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. If you have questions, suggestions, or want to be added to the email distribution list, contact Brent Bostick at 908-230-7569 or brentbostick1@gmail.com

[Click Here](#) to join the meeting! Here is the Meeting Info:

Meeting ID: 885 7635 1422

Passcode: 454036

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

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour has been put on hold for the moment with hopes of returning soon.

Dorcas Donations

Dorcas Donations

We are now collecting donations for our Dorcas Ministry! We are looking for better sportswear and clothing suitable for job interviews. Please drop off in the atrium under the mosaic and label as Dorcas. Thanks so much for your support!

St. Luke's Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Special Days of Thanksgiving

St. Luke's Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Special Days of Thanksgiving

Would you like to celebrate your birthday, anniversary, graduation or other special day with St. Luke's?

We are compiling a list of parishioners' birthdays, anniversaries, and other important dates. If you would like to have a thanksgiving offered during the weekly Prayers of the People, **please complete this form**. An appropriate thanksgiving will be included during the prayers.

Any questions? Please email Christina (cimondi@stlukeseg.org) or call the parish office (401-884-4116). Happy Celebrating!

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).



Big Brothers and Big Sisters

Big Brothers and Big Sisters Donations

In our continuing efforts to be a good neighbor and serve our local community, we have added a new addition to the St Luke's parking lot! The clothing bin is a result of joining in a new partnership between the Episcopal Diocese and Big Brother Big Sister of Rhode Island. It will serve as a collection point for community donations of clothing, shoes and other cloth items. Please drop off your bagged items at your convenience.



Especially for Children

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

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:

Kidney beans, cannellini beans, baked beans, pasta sauce, rice/pasta sides, ramen noodles, cooking stock, canned pineapple, hash, chili, yellow cake mix, Italian or ranch dressing, ketchup, juice (64 oz), crackers, cookies and mayonnaise.

Thank you!
EG Interfaith Food Cupboard

St. Luke's Episcopal Church | (401) 884-4116
cimondi@stlukeseg.org | <http://stlukeseg.org>
99 Peirce Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818

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