

The 188th Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church East Greenwich, RI

January 29, 2023 - 10:00 am
Annual Parish Meeting for the year 2022



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH

2022 Leadership and Staff

Clergy

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, Pastoral Associate

Current Members of the Vestry

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

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

Current Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Narragansett Deanery

Deborah Collins - Junior Warden
Steve McLoughlin ~ Dorothy Fleming ~ Dick Kelly
Bill Warburton - 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 2023 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)

Margaret Clifton ~ 2023-2025
 Shareen Knowlton ~ 2023-2025
 John Lukens ~ 2023-2025

To Join

Tracy Sampson ~ 2021-2023
 Bruce Stevens ~ 2021-2023
 Holly O'Brien ~ 2021-2023
 Kate Gressle ~ 2022-2024
 Judi Nichols ~ 2022-2024
 Jacob Trombino ~ 2022-2024

Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Narragansett Deanery

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

Reports *(Received with Gratitude)*

Report from the Rector	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich
Acolytes	Charlie & Julie Cronin
Adult Faith Formation	Betsy Fornal
Altar Guild	Lisa Johnson & Liz Fox
Building & Grounds	Doug MacPherson, Jack Newton, Cindi Lovejoy
Christ Community Kitchen	Paul Brookes
Coffee Hour	Tracy Sampson, Marcia Gladue
Episcopal Charities	Laura Sullivan, Pam Dresselhouse
Finance Committee	Judi Nichols
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
Social Media	Emma Peterson
Stewardship	Dave Sampson
The Giving Tree	Judy Horton
Theology on Tap	Brent Bostick
Usher Ministry	Steve McLoughlin
Women of Grace	Deb Lukens
Youth Faith Formation	Theresa Deiters-Muscat

2022 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE 187TH ANNUAL MEETING St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich February 6, 2022

Pursuant to the By-Laws and to notice duly given, the Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church on Peirce Street in East Greenwich, R.I., was held on Sunday, February 6, 2022, both in-person and via Zoom.

Vestry Members Present: *Sr. Warden, Gary Schweizer; Jr. Warden, Bill Warburton (via Zoom); Treasurer, Michael Sullivan; Clerk, Deborah Collins; Mark Cordle, Kate Golbitz (via Zoom), Jon Jacaruso, Ken Fecteau, Kathy Lynch, Holly O'Brien (via Zoom), Tracy Sampson, Bruce Stevens, and Mother Tanya Watt (via Zoom).*

Due to ongoing COVID concerns, the Annual Meeting was held both in-person and via Zoom. Technical difficulties with Zoom, however, limited delivery of the full meeting content as virtual access was lost just as discussion of the stained-glass window began (see last bullet under section VI of minutes).

I. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Fr. Tim opened the Annual Meeting with prayer at 10:37 a.m. in the St. Luke's sanctuary. He thanked parishioners for attending the meeting both in-person and online, acknowledging their persistence given postponement of the meeting due to a major snowstorm the week prior.

II. Determination of Quorum and Appointments

The church By-Laws require that a quorum of at least 25 or more persons be in attendance to proceed with the Annual Meeting. Per a count by the Treasurer, there were 71 persons in attendance and the required quorum met. *Note: approximately 20 additional persons were viewing the meeting via Zoom.*

Joining Fr. Tim at the head table to lead the meeting were Gary Schweizer, Sr. Warden and Michael Sullivan, Treasurer. Bill Warburton, Jr. Warden, was attending via Zoom. Deborah Collins, Clerk, was also at front to take the minutes.

III. Statement of Purpose: Why Are We Here?

Fr. Tim explained that the Annual Meeting is both a requirement of the Bishop and our By-Laws. The meeting is held to elect Vestry, nominating committee members, and officers of the church, and to discuss matters of church business. Fr. Tim also spoke to the role of the Holy Spirit in all we do. Citing Paul's Letter to the Corinthians, he reminded us that while there are many parts to the body, in Christ we are one. The Annual Meeting, therefore, gives us the opportunity to look back and celebrate all that we have done together. This is our time to share leadership, discernment, and hear each other's thoughts as we pause to celebrate the amazing work of St. Luke's.

IV. Celebrating the Work and the Workers of 2021

Pointing to the size and content of St. Luke's Annual Report, Fr. Tim quoted Maya Angelou in describing of the sum total of amazing work performed by parishioners. Celebrating this work demonstrates how we lived fully throughout 2021. First, there were no transmissions of the virus by virtue of being at St. Luke's — this is not to brag but, rather, a testament to our care and attention to protocols and our respect for each other. Fr. Tim thanked everyone for their understanding regarding the efficacy of vaccines, for masking, and for being helpful and patient as we dealt with open windows and tried to mitigate risk. Throughout, parishioners were respectful of what was asked of them to help us journey this time safely.

Pointing to page 6 of the Annual Report, Fr. Tim thanked Marcia Gladue for her 'marvelous minutes'. Asking for any amendments or edits to the minutes, none were raised. **Fran Gammell-Roach made a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted, Dotty Fleming seconded the motion, and all approved.**

Fr. Tim proceeded to outline highlights for 2020-21:

- * *Live streaming — challenge and opportunity.* Live streaming was one of the things that the virus brought to us where other churches have been doing this for a while. From now on, we will always be streaming our services. Fr. Tim thanked the live stream team for doing site visits, research, and getting our system up and going. He noted that a portion of the system was paid for through a diocesan grant. Once fully set up and launched, the quality of stream will be better and more consistent/dependable.
- * *Campus facility.* Dave Savage resides over repair and maintenance of our campus. He works so hard, and, with his guidance, we continue to chip away at all things material: painting of the loggia, re-roofing, plaster work (to come), securing multiple bids for projects, and meeting with people to assure the best for St. Luke's. Fr. Tim acknowledged how glad we are with where we are in the ongoing care of the campus thanks to Dave.
- * *Kitchen/Dining Room.* Our biggest capital project in the past year was the kitchen—a blessing and miracle at the same time. Paul Brookes, Steve and Lois McLoughlin, Bill Warburton, and Gary Schweizer, the chair of the project team, were devoted and tireless leaders of this project. After the blessing of the kitchen, we experienced the resurrection of a Tupperware party with the shower orchestrated by Lois, Sue Clement, and others — the whole celebration was a great day. Fr. Tim thanked all who made this happen, saying that one day soon, we will be cooking up some meals and seeing it work for us.
- * *Pastoral Care.* There are some works of the church that are less tangible but no less important. The Pastoral Care team deals with the strains and challenges facing parishioners — volunteering their support, bringing food to families, buying groceries, providing rides to appointments, sending cards, and sharing prayers. Fr. Tim reported that Donna Jordan is retiring as chair of this team and thanked her via her virtual connection to us on Zoom. Dotty Fleming will be taking on the leadership now.
- * *Finance Committee.* Admittedly, this is a thankless job—there is nothing sexy or fun talking about money, bills, and transactions. Fr. Tim expressed our gratefulness to the whole committee. The current Chair, Pam Dresselhouse, has retired. With her tenure as chair, it might be said she moved from the frying pan to the fire...vestry member, to warden, to

finance committee, and then chair. Fr Tim extended our thanks to Pam for her service. Judi Nichols will be taking over as chair of the Finance Committee. As a newcomer to St. Luke's, she came to us eager to engage and has thrown herself into the work.

- * *Treasurer*. Our Treasurer is in this building more than anyone—tracking and recording our finances, preparing weekly and timely messages about our financial health, and, most importantly, caring for us. Thank you Michael Sullivan!
- * *Retiring Vestry Members*. Fr. Tim acknowledged the contributions of and our gratefulness for the work of retiring vestry members: Jon Jacaruso, Ken Fecteau, and Sally House (who served out the 3rd year of Beth Vollucci's term after she moved to Utah).
- * *Vestry*. This year of vestry might be described as its 'dog years'. For months they worked beyond their vestry meeting time, discerning our strategic plan in light of St. Luke's mission, vision, resources, and future. We are grateful for their efforts and their leadership.

After his summation, Fr. Tim invited retiring Sr. Warden, Gary Schweizer, to share his thoughts. Gary opened by referencing the example of a 5-tool player (throwing, speed, fielding, average hits, power). In Fr. Tim, he maintained that we have a 3-tool asset—a rector who leads with heart, mind, and soul. That is what we love about him...his heart is so good and encompassing, his wisdom informs all with excellence, and his mind is thoughtful and serves us completely. Gary thanked Fr. Tim for all he does for St. Luke's.

Gary went on to say that leaders are only as strong as their team. He thanked Bill Warburton for his support and advice, Michael Sullivan for his financial guidance, the Vestry for their hard work and accomplishments, and the Finance Committee for their wise counsel. He thanked parishioners for their kindness and support during the past two years. Final thanks went to the Kitchen Improvement Committee for their tireless efforts, noting that what they did went beyond the pale.

Continuing with the kitchen, Gary reported that it is basically done. With some final punch list items ongoing, the final inspections will be scheduled, after which we can get our certificate of occupancy. Given that, we can get back to work! Our beautiful blue chairs are on a truck somewhere approaching the eastern seaboard and we look forward to receiving them. Heartfelt thanks were extended to everyone for their patience with all the challenges of supply chain, delivery, and unanticipated surprises.

This was not the warden experience that Gary expected, just as the past two years were not what anyone expected. Lives were disrupted--frustration and heartbreak prevailed. Yet, there were unexpected blessings. We learned new ways of reaching out to each other and to take stock of what is truly important. Gary learned something wonderful about the human spirit...that is, how people learned to smile while wearing masks! Instinctively we learned how to make our eyes and face convey our emotions; we learned how to connect when it was most difficult. We did both at a distance and at church. Gary is grateful for how we as a church stayed together, helped each other...and he is ever grateful to be in community with all at St. Luke's.

V. Election of Officers, Vestry Members, and Delegates

* Report of Nominating Committee

Jon Jacaruso gave the report of the Nominating Committee:

New Vestry nominations for a three-year term: Katie Gressle, Jacob Trombino, and Judi Nichols. With no additional nominations, Mark Cordle moved to close new vestry nominations, Bob Batchelor seconded, and the motion was passed by all.

Nomination for Position of Clerk: Dana Borgia. With no additional nominations, Rob Walsh moved to close nominations for Clerk, Kathy Lynch seconded, and the motion was passed by all.

Nomination for Treasurer: Michael Sullivan. With no additional nominations, Laura Sullivan moved to close nominations for Treasurer, Mark Cordle seconded, and the motion was passed by all.

Nomination for Jr. Warden: Deborah Collins. With no additional nominations, Nancy Borden moved to close nominations for Jr. Warden, Judy Stenberg seconded, and the motion was passed by all.

Nomination for Sr. Warden: Bill Warburton. With no additional nominations, Carol Stevens moved to close nominations for Sr. Warden, John Walsh seconded, and the motion was passed by all.

Nominations for Diocesan Delegates: Deborah Collins, Steve McLoughlin, and Dotty Fleming with Bill Warburton as Alternate. With no additional nominations, Bob Batchelor moved to close nominations for Delegates, Pam Dresselhouse seconded, and the motion was passed by all.

* Election

A motion was made by Marie Hennedy to accept and ratify the election of all nominees as submitted by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded by Bruce Stevens and passed by all.

In closing the election, Jon Jacaruso asked that the congregation ratify two nominees, Mike Grady and Ali Poirier, for service on the 2023 nominating committee. **A motion was made by Judy Nichols to ratify the nomination of Mike Grady and Ali Poirier for the 2023 Nominating Committee. Nancy Borden seconded, and the motion was passed by all.**

VI. 2022 and Beyond

* Strategic Planning for the Next Chapter of Vitality at St. Luke's

Fr. Tim – Opening Comments

While the vestry was considering last year's budget, Dennis Burton, Chief Financial Officer of the Rhode Island Diocese of the Episcopal Church, was invited to help us look at our finance in context of churches similar to St. Luke's. At the same time, Fr. Tim noted that finances rather than vision occupied most of vestry's time. This realization initiated several

months of strategic planning to clarify our vision, provide focus on where we are, and determine how we look and live into the future.

Michael Sullivan – Operational and Endowment Finances (*Handout distributed to attendees.*)

Michael described some highlights from his review of our two sets of finance – operational funds and endowment funds. In the endowment portion of his review, he noted the balance of \$419,056 in 2012. Since that time, he reported that St. Luke’s has realized roughly \$263K in additions, \$203K in dividends, \$27K in transfers, market gains totaling \$247K, and withdrawals totaling \$362K for a new endowment balance of \$738K in 2021. This constituted a 93% increase over a 9-year period. Michael reported that this trend line is in line with what represents a well-managed portfolio.

Referencing the 12-Year Summary handout, Michael observed that our operational finances demonstrated some years of surplus and other years with no surplus. With our endowment funds, we could continue along indefinitely. However, looking back to five years ago, we experienced a deficit and had to let staff go. In the following year, we were fortunate to have a group who contributed to funding of a curate position in 2017. Thus, he noted, the jump in the budget to pay for that position. Expenses showed parallel trends. When the pandemic hit in 2020, we actually had a deficit of \$93K, but we were awarded the COVID related PPP funds for two years in a row. Thankfully, Michael stated, parishioners made up the difference by continuing to give. In addition to pledge, parishioners supported the kitchen at \$350K—during a pandemic! For these reasons, Michael concluded, it is only fitting to compliment the congregation on their efforts during this timeframe.

Gary Schweizer – Overview of 12-Year Summary of Operational Finances

Bottom line—we had some good and bad years. What is not apparent, Gary reported, is that this situation is not sustainable, and it was masked by several conditions. In 2014, we depended on the low salaries of staff at that time. In 2015, we moved into a large deficit period due to funding new appropriately salaried positions, which necessitated a tough decision to eliminate our 2nd priest and youth formation director. By 2016, our spending was brought back into line. But, with only one priest, our staffing was not sustainable given the work of this church. In 2017 and 2019, our budgets were balanced due to contributions from a group of parishioners to fund a curate, and the emergence of a volunteer for youth faith formation. Our 2020 and 2021 budgets were buoyed by PPP loans to cover staff positions. For the 2022 budget year, Gary noted the end of our two-year clergy position. While our PPP loans are forgiven, they are not an option for the future and we are back to one fulltime clergy position. If we want to keep the level of church that we currently have and want, this model of staffing is not sustainable.

In another handout provided by Dennis Burton, Gary summarized comparisons regarding the proportion of endowment versus pledges in supporting the work of the church. In a comparison of St. Luke’s with other churches of similar size, we learned that St. Luke’s relies heavily on pledges for income. While comparison churches get 23% of their annual income from their endowment, St. Luke’s draws only 5% from its endowment. Looking at pledges, 56% of funding at comparison churches come from pledge income while St. Luke’s relies on 73% of its income from pledges. This, in short, tells the story of our endowment situation.

Pledging at St. Luke's is great, but we do not have the advantage of a robust endowment to keep us running. Average pledge amounts are growing, but pledges cannot keep pace in the long run. According to Burton's research, it will take 5-6 pledges in the future to replace those that end. In short, our financial situation is not sustainable if we want to maintain our current level of church, much less grow it.

Fr. Tim opened the discussion to questions following Michael's and Gary's presentation. Questions and responses are outlined below.

- * Rob Walsh asked if there is a strategy to grow endowment...what is on the table? At the Town Meeting, it was said that we need to up communications about all the options that exist -- bequeaths, planned giving, etc., including sale of window.
- * Fr. Tim responded that a lot has been communicated, but we hear that people have not gotten it. How do we build a better bridge between communicating what we are doing and what parishioners hear or understand on a monthly/annual/regular basis? To help bridge this gap, Fr. Tim said that we will have another Town Hall to go deeper into this discussion and continue to build messaging and understanding among us all. In response to the options of bequeaths or Planned Giving – this is not an easy subject. Fr. Tim asked everyone to understand that this happens when someone dies...who is ready to take one for the team? Thinking about such a campaign takes knowledge, careful planning, and thought. Moreover, there is no one solution. Another suggestion has been to ask everyone to pledge 10% or more. We have asked for increased pledges, for people to make St. Luke's the biggest charity to which they give. But, as Michael made clear, parishioners are giving! A focus on pledging is not sustainable in terms of how we live into financing for the future. Pledging is not where our challenge is—our challenge is how to build and grow our endowment and manage that effectively to support our mission together and our life with God.
- * Brent Bostick stated that the information shared is helpful and he feels knee-deep into this. Today was an important starting point for him and he feels we have work to do in figuring out how we come to a shared sense of purpose. He urged that leadership think about how to bring us along as decisions are made.
- * Fr. Tim responded that this has been an eye opener all around, adding that he/leadership needs parishioners' help in building this bridge and bringing everyone closer in the process. What does helpful communication look like? While we can message and report out repeatedly, neither he nor leadership can make anyone 'click' on any given message.
- * Fran Gammell-Roach loved the charts and numbers—it helps to see our results against comparison churches. She suggested that we share information on what we need to fund or should be doing. While the bottom line looks great, what does it do for us?
- * Diane Rich noted that there have been two occasions where we have reacted with 'wow – we didn't know'; two times when we had crisis decisions to make. Communication regarding what is at stake was key then and now.
- * Stacey Nakasian observed that even if the window sale had not come up, we would still be talking about the endowment. Given Dennis Burton's presentation, leadership was dumbstruck and knew that we would need to do something.

- * Paul Brookes asked what a fully staffed St. Luke's would look like.
- * Fr. Tim responded that based upon his experience and reading, Fr. Tim said that in a church with 175-200 active families, staffing would include 2 fulltime clergy, 1 fulltime sexton, a fulltime youth administrator, and a fulltime parish administrator. That configuration is just to maintain the work of the church.

Distributing a handout on the vestry's 6 to 7-month strategic planning process, Fr. Tim next spoke about St. Luke's being at an inflection point regarding its mission and what the Holy Spirit is calling us to do. He stressed that this is something we need to know from the bottom of our soul and the depths of our faith. Describing the planning process, he pointed out the guiding premise and questions that shaped the vestry's work together. Through brainstorming, prayer and discernment, the vestry outlined the five major elements shown in the handout; bullet points under each element outline a sampling of examples clarifying each element. Leadership also recognized that part of our mission requires us to be responsible stewards of our campus, resisting deferred maintenance. Resourcing our plan and material efforts led to the project outline at the end of the handout. The current material projects were organized by those <\$50k and those >\$50k. As shown, Fr. Tim confirmed that our sewer project has to get done and cannot be further delayed—an example of being both responsive to mission and our bricks and mortar.

One of the things that come to mind as we look to a future Town Hall – the focus on money is great, but we also need to focus on mission. This comes out of the hard work of the vestry over the last year. Fr. Tim affirmed that we need to know where we are going to spend money and what we are about. The last step in our strategic planning process was to create a budget consistent with mission and priorities, inclusive of staffing. Reminding attendees that Mtr. Tanya's contract ends as of August 1, the decision was made not to renew funding for a fulltime assistant clergy position. With our greatest challenge or opportunity being to connect with our neighborhood and take care of parishioners, a new staffing configuration was conceived. This configuration would include a part-time youth/family minister, a part-time priest associate, and we have already hired a part-time (6-8 hours/week) digital evangelism person to help us tell our story. This configuration aligns with the strategic priorities outlined in the handout. Fr. Tim then introduced Emma Peterson, our Digital Evangelist, who will help develop our digital strategy, work with Rob Walsh to capture assets, and coach us as we expand our digital presence. Saying that he is hopeful that vestry discernment of our mission and priorities will be fruitful for us in making ongoing decisions about our work together, Fr. Tim suggested that our next Town Meeting may raise the need for repeated conversations and response. Questions?

- * Ruth Batchelor suggested that as communications continue, it would be nice to receive alerts regarding a list of small and large things the church needs. Parishioners can contribute as able.
- * Sarah Curtis shared that in thinking about both the issues of mission and money, it might be useful to have a Town Meeting first on mission followed by a Town Meeting on finances.

*** The 2022 Budget**

Michael Sullivan presented the 2022 budget, describing it as 'not pretty'. We continue the need to fund staffing, salary increases, higher utility costs, and all with no PPP loan this year. Overall,

the budget was constructed with a potential shortfall of \$74K. Michael confirmed that we do not always spend out our full expense items and we often get bequests. Historically, we used to create a zero-balance, line-item budget, which forced us to review each item to create a healthy cash flow. However, this did not tell the story of who we are and what we are doing. Now we budget for what the church hopes to do for the year, moving from what can we do to what we want to achieve, committing our financial resources to what we say we are about. Questions/comments?

- * Steve McLoughlin asked how this budget lines up with the pie chart presented earlier regarding percentage of income coming from pledges now?
- * Michael said that he will update per the 2022 budget and share the pie chart for distribution.
- * Brent Bostick asked that given a \$74K shortfall, how do we fund that?
- * Michael responded that we go to our endowment. Fr. Tim added that going to the endowment is not a long-range sustainable strategy.
- * Mike Cerrullo asked how many pledging units there were for 2022?
- * Fr. Tim responded that there were 185, which is down from last year but, the average pledge went up. We had 255 pledges in 2015 with decreases over time—a trend happening in all faith denominations. Millennials do not tend to pledge but will give, yet another reason we need to assure that our income flow is not so dependent on pledges.
- * Paul Brookes asked if whether we managed not to touch the principal in our endowment?
- * Michael confirmed that we have drawn from principal.
- * Mike Cerrullo asked if plate income has increased in light of millennials giving habit?
- * Fr. Tim noted that every year we have exceeded our plate offerings.
- * Diane Rich commented that loose plate contributions are not going to fill the gaps.

Fr. Tim closed the discussion agreeing that we can and will talk more. Together, we will make sure the conversations are creative and informative. He asked parishioners to email questions ahead of time so that we can plan appropriately and have the information we need readily available for the Town Hall. Noting that the Vestry approves the budget, Fr. Tim asked for a motion to place the budget on record.

Fran Gammell-Roach made a motion to place the 2022 budget on record. The motion was seconded by Paul Brookes and passed by all in attendance.

VIII. Concluding Prayer and Dismissal

Announcing January 29, 2023, as the date for the 188th Annual Meeting, Fr. Tim closed with prayer.

Gary Schweizer made a motion to close the Annual Meeting, Deborah Collins seconded the motion, and all in attendance approved.

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

Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable—the art of the next best thing.
Otto von Bismark

Although no one would characterize the recent politics in our country as art, I was drawn to this quote by the 19th century Prussian/German statesman because we have spent the last several months at St. Luke's surrounded by banners reminding us of what's possible - possible not because of politics and politicians but because of faith and all of you. This report is a celebration of all that you made possible in 2022.

As always, our faith formation efforts helped make **discovery** possible for youth and adults alike. I continue to be profoundly grateful to *Theresa Deiters Muscat* for the faithful and thoughtful way she presides over our youngest youth and their many experiences. (Please see the Youth Faith Formation report in the following pages.) The love that she brings to these offerings is obvious and infectious—just ask her *Godly Play* teachers, who also benefit from her dedication. (And thank you, teachers, for your dedication and efforts as well.) Likewise am I grateful to the teachers of our *Journey to Adulthood* youth: *Mike Grady, Stacey Nakasian, Ali Poirier, and Tom Sprague*. All of them have gone above and beyond the Sunday hour, creating volunteer and play opportunities that are essential to the formation and sustained engagement of our teens.

Lest you think that learning is reserved for the children alone, let me say that our Adult Faith Formation classes continued throughout the year to provide discovery (and community) for numerous adults. (Please see the Adult Faith Formation report in the following pages.) Over the past three years our adult offerings have grown dramatically and covered a wide range of themes. None of this would be possible without the Adult Faith Steering Committee, chaired by *Betsy Fornal*.

Besides our faith formation classes, discovery also has been made possible by our expanded social media efforts. For years now we have been developing our web site so that it fully and accurately tells our story—both for current parishioners and seekers looking for a church. There are not adequate words to convey how indebted we are to *Rob Walsh* for his ongoing efforts. But in 2022 we created a digital evangelism position and hired *Emma Peterson* to build our digital footprint. (Please see the Digital Evangelism report in the following pages.) Emma has done an amazing job at developing our Instagram following, posting there at least three times a week. (If you haven't yet followed us on Instagram, please do!) Because of the work Rob and Emma are doing more people are discovering the wonders of St. Luke's. And even longtime members are discovering a bit more about the parish too. All of which helps make possible the community we want to be.

When I ask parishioners what is most special about St. Luke's, the frequent answer is, "Community." 2022 found us celebrating **community** in a number of ways. Again, the women and men of the parish enjoyed the gift of community as they gathered for Women of Grace and Theology on Tap meetings. (Please see their reports in the following pages.) These two groups make a more intimate sense of community possible in our relatively large church. I am so grateful for the planning and invitation provided by their respective conveners, *Deborah Collins and Deb Lukens (WoG)* and *Brent Bostick (ToT)*.

Something else that helps a church our size function as a connected community is the pastoral care and attention we provide individuals who are either struggling or celebrating. And when I talk about providing pastoral care, I am not just talking about the ministry of the clergy. *Dotty Fleming* and her Pastoral Care Team are so critical to maintaining attentive connections within the parish, and I could not be more grateful for all that they do. (See the Pastoral Care Committee report in the following pages.)

In addition to the ongoing efforts which maintain our community, several one-off events further build that sense of connection. The summer parish picnic is one of my favorite annual "celebrations of community," and I want to thank *Lois McLoughlin* who, as our lead organizer, once again made sure that a good time was had by all. I should also thank the *many men* who "manned" the grill to make sure a good burger was had by all as well.

A new celebration took place as we gathered for brunch in the dining room to conclude our 2022 Commitment Campaign (a campaign, I hasten to add, once again attentively managed by *David Sampson*. Thank you, David!). *Paul Ruggieri* captained that kitchen crew and the event was so seamless and fun that it felt like a long-standing tradition. Hopefully it will become one! No doubt *Anna Pilkington's* collaboration helped—she who has shepherded so many meals out of our kitchen. Thank you, Paul and Anna, for what you did this year in the kitchen. And thanks also to any and all who were a part of the various kitchen crews. Truly, these gatherings help make community possible.

Actually, just a few weeks before the Commitment brunch, our newest members were invited to a brunch hosted by the Newcomers Committee (See the Newcomers report in the following pages.) *Deborah Collins*, Newcomers chair, and her team provided a combination of new members and church leaders with a fabulous meal—a meal which not only fed our stomachs but, even more importantly, fed our relationships.

Deborah and her committee have had plenty of work to do over the past several years. Just in 2022 alone we welcomed thirty-three new members into our community—and those are only the ones who specifically asked to be registered as members! In part because of the addition of so many new members, Deborah and a number of collaborators

organized a new edition of the St. Luke's Pictorial Directory. So many people signed up for photos that we had to add an additional day of sittings—a tribute to Deborah's organizational efforts and a testimony to our ever-changing community.

Welcoming and integrating new members is so important to making a healthy community. We all owe Deborah and her committee our great thanks.

I want to mention here another relatively new way that we experienced community in 2022. Over the span of the past twelve months the community gathered for a series of town hall meetings. Some were to discuss our ministries. Some were to discuss our finances. And all left us not only better informed but better formed as the community that is St. Luke's. I so appreciated those conversations. My thanks to those who attended. My thanks to those who presented. The wardens, *Bill Warburton and Deborah*, did such a terrific job discussing the vestry's recent deliberations regarding mission priorities. *Mike Sullivan, our treasurer, along with Judi Nichols, our Finance Committee chair*, provided us with a clear picture of our finances. And, most recently, *Mike, along with Jacob Trombino, presented a narrative budget, created by John Walsh, Holly O'Brien, and Stacey Nakasian*, that helped make the church finances clear and transparent for all—especially for those who glaze over at the sight of pie charts and balance sheets. I also should add that *Stacey*, doing double duty as our lawyer, helped make the deliberations regarding the proposed sale of the Tiffany window equally clear and transparent.

It's important to note that, whether the subject matter was joyful or challenging, easy or hard, the conversations were rich and fruitful. They all left me so grateful for the healthy and faithful community we share. And you make that community possible.

You also make **outreach** possible. In 2022 our outreach efforts continued the post-pandemic return. Mobile Loaves and Fishes resumed runs to Woonsocket. (See the MLF report in the following pages.) *Dana Sparhawk* figuratively and literally drove this effort. *Joyce Harvey, Caroline Sparhawk, and Linda Wegryzn* made sure that we were providing our friends in Woonsocket clothing as well as food.

Lunch on the Hill also resumed providing midday meals to those in our wider community. (See the Lunch on the Hill report in the following pages.) Getting these lunches out was no easy task. *Steve McLoughlin* had to work so hard to re-engage restaurant and other church collaborators, but ultimately, who can refuse Steve?

Finally, in September, by the grace of God and *Paul Brookes'* hard work, we resumed our Christ Community Kitchen suppers. (See the CCK report in the following pages.)

The atmosphere in the room that first night was so joy-filled. And I am not sure who was more delighted—the volunteers or the diners.

On the subject of delight and outreach, here would be a good place for me to mention our two major fundraisers from 2022—both of which gave us much opportunity for delight and considerable funding for our outreach. (See Fundraising report in the following pages.) In May, we held our second St. Luke's Golf Tournament, organized brilliantly by *Bill Warburton, John Jacaruso, and Deborah Collins*. This year's golf was paired with an amazing *auction, organized by Marcia Gladue, Deb Lukens, and Mimi West*. What a great day it all was; what a great number of people involved; and what a great number of days it all took to plan! Then in September we gathered in the auditorium for the first St. Luke's Comedy Night. *Deb Lukens, Holly O'Brien, Tracy Sampson, and Jacob Trombino* shepherded the team for this comedy/auction event. Again, it was a lot of work but good fun for a good cause.

It is truly hard to find the words which capture just how grateful I am to these outreach and event organizers, to all of you who have volunteered, and to all of you who have contributed to our fundraising efforts. You not only make outreach possible; you make the gospel possible.

Speaking of the gospel, finally in 2022 most of us were able to hear the gospel and celebrate the Eucharist, (i.e., to **worship**) back in church and with little interruption. Although, wonderfully and because of the relentless efforts of *Deborah Collins, Tom Dresselhouse, and Michael Sullivan*, we began live-streaming in a new and improved way just in time for Easter. Thank you, three, and thank you to *the team which takes turns producing our worship videos*. Truly, thanks be to God for both our in-person and live-streamed worship offerings!

Thanks also to *Charlie and Julie Cronin* who continued to organize our acolytes for these celebrations. (See the Acolyte report in the following pages.) They know better than any what it's like to herd cats!! Although it's not quite as challenging as herding cats, thanks to *Steve McLoughlin* and his team of ushers who welcome worshippers each Sunday. (See the Ushers' report in the following pages.) And thanks to the altar guild, directed by *Lisa Johnson and Liz Fox*—I'd be lost on Sundays without all that they do. (See the Altar Guild report in the following pages.)

While on the subject of our Sunday worship, let me also say a word of thanks to the three choirs. (See Choir reports in the following pages.) You all come out for rehearsals every week. Some of you take private lessons as well. You sing on Sundays, at special services, and seasonal concerts. Not only do you make **song** possible but you make worship

possible. Thank you for being so generous with your time and talent. It is a joy and privilege to worship with you.

Perhaps I also should add here that over the course of 2022 we gathered for a variety of worship occasions besides the Sunday Eucharist. Celebrating weddings last year were Brooke MacDonald and Conor O'Brien, Lauri Saunders-Messier and Thomas Utterback, Ashley Thomas and Sam Solomon, Laura-Hope Gammell and Daniel Velasquez, Jaime Nixon and Alexander Hiller, Sarah Bateson and Cameron Bushway, Kaela Neale and Mathew Huxel.

Celebrating baptisms were Gavin Hankins, Madeline Massey, Kit Peterson, Harper DeValkenaere, Hayden DeValkenaere, Robert LaPlante, Daniel Almon, Karl Jenkins, Mihkel Jenkins, and Astrid Jenkins.

Celebrating confirmations were Casey Carlson, Caitlyn Fleming, Emily Karlson, Arthur Sloan, Caitlyn Holmstedt, Rachel Presbrey, Robert Sprague, Toby Johnson, Henri Messier, Ethan Utterback, Nathaniel Utterback, Tucker Endicott, Ella Yates, Caroline Cronin, and Donna Dufault.

And celebrating lives, some long-lived and some lived too briefly, were Glenn Kullberg, Earl Henry, Ruth Ogden, Prentice Cockrell, R. Peter Henrikson, Ramonita Pinney, Susan Cabana, Joan McGuire, George Dresselhouse, Maureen Hurd, Kenneth Ehrett, Lori Clifton, Richard McCormack, Mark Gee, Charles Follansbee, J. George Reed, Virginia Livingston, and David Craig. Rest eternal, grant to them O Lord. And may light perpetual shine upon them.

As I re-read my report, I am awe-struck by how 2022 at St. Luke's has revealed just what is possible when a group of committed, faithful, and generous people come together in one community. It's been an amazing year.

And while I recognize that this report is of an equally amazing length, it really wouldn't be complete with mentioning some particular leaders and staff, without whom none of 2022 would be possible.

I am so grateful to share church and leadership with our officers and vestry. *Bill, our Senior Warden*, is ever-attentive and so very reliable. He helps me sleep easy at night! *Deborah, our Junior Warden*, is so creative and dedicated and generous. *Mike is incredibly diligent and devoted as your treasurer*. (Anyone who can make numbers make sense to this liberal arts major is invaluable!). *Dana, our clerk*, with her careful and thorough minutes, keeps me in the know despite my receding memory! And the entire vestry has served this year in such an engaged and thoughtful manner.

We will miss greatly outgoing vestry members, *Mark Cordle*, *Kate Golbitz*, and *Kathy Lynch*. All three of them have brought perspectives and suggestions that have made vestry discussions richer and St. Luke's a better place.

Finally, let me say, St. Luke's is a better place because of *the ministry team* with whom I serve. If you have been around for more than a minute, then likely you know *Rodney Ayers* is not only an amazing Minister of Music but also the most attentive of pastors. Song, worship, and community are possible because of him. Likewise, all of those things and more are possible because of *Christina Imondi*, our parish administrator. I often say that she is the brains of the operations—which is true—but she also is the heart of the church.

Heart was one of the big things *Mthr. Tanya*, our former Assistant Rector, brought to St. Luke's during her stay here. In just her two brief years, she warmed our hearts and lifted our spirits. I am grateful to have shared time with her and excited to imagine how all that she learned at St. Luke's might be woven into the talents and new ministry she brings to Trinity, Cranston. Good luck Mthr. Tanya.

After Mthr. Tanya left, *the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone* joined the ministry team as our pastoral associate. Jonathan had long been my valued colleague as the pastor of a neighboring American Baptist church, but even still I wasn't imagining that he would become so quickly a gift not only to me but also all of St. Luke's. With us only twelve hours a week, he enlivens our Sundays with his preaching, comforts our weekdays with his pastoral presence, and even moves us on occasions with his musical gifts. More is possible at St. Luke's because he has joined our staff.

More is what *Theresa Deiters Muscat* seems to be doing every time I turn around. Besides presiding over our Godly Play offering, she organizes our Corporate Communion classes, our Rite 13 retreats, and teacher appreciation celebrations. She is not only what I imagine as the perfect person for this role but who I would want as the right person to nurture the faith of my children.

Emma Peterson, our newly hired digital evangelism person, also seems perfect for her role at St. Luke's. Despite the fact that she is very part-time, she is thinking about how to tell our story on line all the time. She is so creative and curious, with such a great eye and ear for communications. I have marveled at how quickly she "got" our brand and how skillfully she conveys that brand to others. Welcome aboard, Emma!

Lastly, let me give thanks for all that *Tim Marnane* does at St. Luke's. In at all hours and almost every day, Tim sets up and cleans up to make possible the myriad of meetings and events that take place every week. He is a true and an invaluable part of the ministry team. If you happen to see him, please pass along your thanks for his devoted efforts.

Whew! Every year when I sit down to write my annual report I think to myself, “Ok, this time make it shorter.” But apparently that’s just not possible. It’s not possible because of all that you do, because of all that you make possible year after year at St. Luke’s.

Lewis Carrol, the author of *Alice in Wonderland* wrote, “*The secret, Alice, is to surround yourself with people who make your heart smile. It is then, and only then, that you’ll find wonderland.*”

I feel so blessed that I am surrounded by all of you. You not only make **smiles** possible, you make my heart smile too. Truly, my brothers and sisters, **you make St. Luke’s possible.** And because of all that, you make it possible for me and others to find wonderland.

Submitted by:

The Rev. Tim Rich, Rector, St. Luke’s Church

ACOLYTES

A team of 6 acolytes serve on Sunday and occasionally through the week whenever their services are required. The numbers have decreased greatly over the past couple of years and have not recovered as we emerge from COVID. Adults have filled in for several services over the past year. Some of the 6 acolytes are also in the choir which limits their participation. All youth in the parish from fifth grade up to twelfth grade are invited to participate in this stewardship.

New acolytes traditionally have a training session and then shadow the veteran acolytes before they assume the full responsibilities of an acolyte. All acolytes are invited to participate in the training of the new recruits and this serves as an opportunity to sharpen their skills. There have been no training sessions other than shadow opportunities due to the lack of new acolytes. Charlie will review things prior to the 10:15 am service to make sure they have the correct sized cross for their size, protocols for the service, etc.

The robes are cleaned 2 times a year but are getting worn and efforts to secure new robes should be taken. Previously, we were unable to find the same style robes that we currently have. Crosses are assigned based on years of service. These also need to be updated as many have gone missing.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie and Julie Cronin

BE THE
light
-MATTHEW 5:14

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

We began 2022 with the great hope of being able to return to ‘normal’ with the pandemic receding from our everyday life. While we know now that this is a process in which we will continue to adjust and adapt to a ‘new normal,’ we are grateful to our participants for their continued commitment to gather together to learn and share our spiritual journey. Because our adult faith formation meetings are held online on Zoom, all interested participants wherever they may be are welcome to join. We are pleased to have some who have moved away from Rhode Island continue to sign in from their new homes and we welcome many who are traveling once again to join us from their travel destinations.

Our first 2023 offering was a continued discussion of our Advent book, ***Learning to Walk in the Dark*** by Barbara Brown Taylor, where we became more attuned to God’s presence in our lives both in the light and in the darkness. In late January, we offered two videos by Rob Bell for discussion – ***Breathe*** and ***Lump***. Rob Bell is a former evangelical pastor and a NYT bestselling author of books and videos that make you think more deeply about God.

Our Lenten and Eastertide book discussion was on the work written by the late Peter Gomes, ***The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus***. The Rev. Professor Peter Gomes was an American preacher and theologian, the Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard Divinity School and Pusey Minister at Harvard's Memorial Church — in the words of Harvard's president "one of the great preachers of our generation, and a living symbol of courage and conviction."

Feeling the need to provide a different pace in the summer, we selected the book, ***Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal and Delight in our busy lives***, by Wayne Muller. Meeting three times during June, July, and August, we met in person to discuss how we find time to rest and renew in our busy schedules.

In the fall we began discussions of sermons preached at the National Cathedral in Washington and compiled in the book, ***Reconciliation, Healing and Hope***. We were able to read, view videos, and reflect on sermons preached in the early days of the pandemic by preachers including our presiding bishop, The Most Rev. Michael Curry; The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, the Bishop of Washington; and the Dean and Canons of the National Cathedral.

We began our Advent book a bit early, ***Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope***, written by Sister Joan Chittister, a Benedictine nun and nationally-known author. This book focused on the reality that struggle and hope are intertwined as we face changes to our world and our own circumstances.

A word about our Lenten and Advent Blogs...

During the Lenten and Advent seasons, parishioners of St. Luke’s give a gift to all of us by participating in our blogs. This past year, more than 40 parishioners offered to write a brief blog post on the scripture of the day which is then shared with all who are interested. Each blog post revealed the writer’s reflection on the daily readings and each was a unique and humbly offered

gift to all of us. We are grateful for the efforts of everyone who took the time to reflect and write this year. Thanks also to all who worked to make this possible, particularly Rob Walsh for his masterful tech skills and to Pam Gregory for her wise guidance and enthusiasm. We look forward to beginning our Lenten blog on Ash Wednesday, February 23.

Adult Faith Formation Committee,
Betsy Fornal, chair
Joseph Gomes
Pam Gregory
Sally House



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.

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 & Grounds

As our lives change, so do the needs of the plantings and garden beds within our care. At the end of last year, we met for a farewell luncheon and for a discussion of the ways we as a group can live into these needs, going along with suggestions from this year's Creation Care Conference.

In 2022 we bid good-bye to Bob Brockway who moved closer to his family.

This past year we were able to plant some new bushes outside the Blackburn Room which will bring us some much-needed color in the spring and fall. We were able to completely empty our memorial pond, clean out the bottom, re-berm the sides, and rebuild the waterfall. We have procured a new pump and look forward to its installation in the Spring. One tree was removed from Peirce Street, and a few others trimmed to a more manageable size. The large tree in the Memorial Garden was professionally trimmed to provide a more balanced appearance.

Gardens and Grounds continue to meet monthly on the third Thursday of the month to work indoors and out to keep our building and grounds a warm, welcoming place for all. The Twilighters meet twice a month in the late afternoon for weeding and light planting. We welcomed Fran Anforth this year to our merry band of weeders.

Thank you to all who came and helped us keep our grounds looking wonderful. If you love being outdoors and getting your hands dirty, please join us! We will begin meeting again in March or April, depending on the weather.

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. We look forward to another year of peace and beauty in this place.



Columbarium

Since ancient times, Christians have considered it appropriate to be buried in the consecrated grounds of the church. Thus, for those members of St. Luke's who wish their ashes to be interred at the church, there are Columbarium niches available in our historic cemetery. As an alternative choice, there is space in the Memorial Garden for interment of ashes inground. During 2022, there were three interment of ashes in niches in the cemetery and two interment of ashes inground in the Memorial Garden.

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

Doug MacPherson

Jack Newton

Mark Cordle

Cindi Lovejoy



CHRIST'S COMMUNITY KITCHEN - CCK

The goal of Christ's Community Kitchen is to provide hearty meals to members of our community in a safe and welcoming setting. We also hope to provide a warm and caring community. Saint Luke's hosts these dinners in our beautiful new dining room with the help and support of many volunteers from our own parish family and other local faith communities. After the pandemic imposed a two and a half year pause on our dinner plans, we decided that we could safely restart our outreach in September 2022.

The men from St. Luke's *Theology on Tap* enthusiastically hosted our kickoff dinner; and while we routinely served between 80 and 120 guests in the days before Covid 19, our numbers were a bit smaller in September. Guests and volunteers were well fed, and leftover food was sent to the Hotel on Main Street and the House of Hope in Warwick. The October and November dinners were also hosted by volunteers from St. Luke's, and each month the number of guests increased. We are grateful for the culinary skills of Paul Ruggieri, who cooked a delicious chicken dish in October. The November dinner was provided by Ross DiSegna, who manages Tio Mateo's Restaurant. Ross has been a faithful supporter of CCK for many years, and we're always grateful for his contributions.

It took many years to establish the reputation of CCK in the community we serve, and we recognize that it will take some time for the word to spread that we are once again committed to hosting these dinners every month. It also takes time to reestablish relationships and we recognize the need to find new ways to extend our invitation to anyone who may be suffering from food insecurity or the need for a caring community.

CCK has a long history in East Greenwich, and we are blessed by a great sense of shared responsibility by the other faith communities and civic groups who have volunteered to support these dinners. The December dinner was hosted by the great folks of the United Methodist Church of East Greenwich and the women of the First Baptist Church of East Greenwich will be hosting in January.

Each dinner requires a group of at least ten volunteers to set up the dining room, prepare and serve the meal and clean up afterwards. Hearty and healthy meals are prepared, including appetizers, salads, a main course and dessert. Dinners are served at tables set with silverware, tablecloths and centerpieces. We are grateful for the work of the local chefs who prepare complete dinners each month. Kathy Yorston and women of the First Baptist Church have remained faithful supporters of CCK for many years – they host the dinner each January and provide baked goods every month. Desserts have been faithfully supplied by the women of the Greenwich Bay Women's Club for many years. Our own Steve McLaughlin provides tremendous support through his knowledge of food preparation and food safety.

CCK is generally held on the last Monday of each month. Schedules are posted in the church and in the Sunday bulletin. All the members of our parish family are invited to attend and work as volunteers or simply enjoy dinner while making new friends. The level of volunteer support

required from the Saint Luke's community varies from month to month, since other church groups often provide volunteers to prepare and serve the dinners. As hosts of the event, we always have some responsibility for setting up the dining room. Set up usually begins about 3:00 pm, and cleanup is completed by 6:30 pm. Dinner is served at 5:00 pm. If you have any questions about how you might become involved with CCK, please speak with Paul Brookes, or email him at phbrookes@cox.net.

Hebrews 13:2

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.

Paul Brookes



COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY

“At its best, a church coffee hour is a venue for the Holy Spirit to work.”

Traditionally, coffee hour is a time to further welcome newcomers, deepen friendships, and allow the Holy Spirit to nourish all of us. Here, it is held in the atrium which allows for more conversations to take place before leaving church. During the summer months, many hosts served coffee and cheer in the garden when the weather allowed.

The Coffee Hour ministry has had a faithful group of wonderful hosts after the 7:45am service over the last year. However, we need more hosts-especially during the first half of the year when many early service hosts are away for extended periods! Please consider helping out.

The 10:15am Coffee Hour has seen many new hosts over the last few months and we are extremely grateful, but we need more! There is a quarterly sign-up sheet in the atrium across from the office. Many slots in Feb/Mar still are open. You can also call Christina Imondi in the office during the week to sign up for a Sunday or two.

Participation is simple! Bake or buy some goodies, set-up and greet! It doesn't need to be anything fancy! Coffee is always made by the sexton, so the host simply brings a baked treat or snack, coffee creamer and some juice for the kiddos. Marcia or I would be happy to run you through the very simple process of hosting. Host solo, host with a friend, host as a family - just host!

A friend succinctly summarizes her take on Coffee Hour: “Put some effort into it. Show it's important.” We agree with her; the little things do add up, drawing us toward a higher ground and a spirited Christian fellowship!

Joyfully submitted,
Tracy Sampson 401-447-0472
Marcia Gladue 401-241-1821



EPISCOPAL CHARITIES

2022 Episcopal Charities: Continuing to Give, Serve and Love

Marking over seventy years of bringing hope and responding to statewide communities whose needs are the greatest, Episcopal Charities continues to connect with nonprofit agencies and ministries, which serve in a myriad of ways. Despite ongoing restrictions, due to the pandemic, Episcopal Charities has its proverbial ear to the ground to provide assistance, whether via annual grants, or Charities NOW, - immediate and time-sensitive support for at-risk elders, children and families. Many of us receive periodic emails from the Diocese, detailing situations where Charities' dollars have made a difference.



While kickoff campaigns and in-house fundraising have phased out since the pandemic, the faithfulness of St. Luke's Parish family has continued in supporting Episcopal Charities. Once again, we highlight one of those critical ministries, and recipient of Charities funds, - the East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard, based here in our own Parish House. We also maintain our connection with The Sharing Locker, operating out of the Westminster Unitarian Church, - another recipient of a Charities grant. Just this past Fall, the Women of Grace delivered its surplus of health, household and hygiene supplies from its Blessing Bags project to The Sharing Locker.

Following up on the Bishop's Episcopal Charities Letter to all the Parishes this past Spring, inserts were placed in our e-weekly newsletters and Sunday leaflets, highlighting the impact of Charities, and the need for financial support. Our response, and generosity throughout the Diocese play major roles in determining how many of the agencies that apply will receive the much-needed grants, and how much funding those grants will include. The needs are great, and ever-growing.

Even as our in-house campaigning and solicitations have subsided, we applaud the marketing and communications that have continued from the Diocese, under the direction of our own Canon Betsy Fornal, Charities Director. Thank you, Betsy! The messaging is impactful, current and convenient to stay informed, participate, and make that gift to make a difference, and continue St. Luke's legacy as a leading Diocesan supporter.

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, 2022, St. Luke's has contributed 122 Gifts from 53 Donors, totaling \$19,120 to Episcopal Charities. \$4,905 of this total represents gifts to Charities NOW.

THANK YOU!

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Dresselhouse & Laura Sullivan

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, George West, Greg de Groot, and Michael Sullivan (Treasurer). Also participating in the monthly meetings are Fr. Tim Rich, Senior Warden Bill Warburton, Jr. and Junior Warden Deborah Collins.

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 (and 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. Our thanks and gratitude to Michael! Another function of the finance committee is to establish, under the Vestry's oversight, an audit team to examine the books and records of the church. This year's audit team comprised Judi Nichols - Chair, Jane Eaton, John Lukens, and Diane Benoit. The team performed its examination, clocking in over 90 hours, collectively, and submitting its report to the Vestry over the summer. The Finance Committee is at work addressing the audit findings, which were minimal. One of the findings in the 2021 audit was the church's records retention policy. As a result, with the approval of the Vestry, the Finance Committee established an ad hoc committee to review the St. Luke's record-keeping process, with the goal of the ad hoc committee to draft a Best Practices policy on record retention. In regard to best practices, the Finance Committee spent much of 2022 reviewing and editing the St. Luke's Best Practices Document, initially drafted by John Rannenberg. Most of the editing has been performed by Stacey Nakasian—our minute-taker and document-keeper extraordinaire! Thank you, both, John and Stacey, for your excellent writing and drafting skills.

In 2022, Jeremy Stowe resigned his position on the committee after many years of diligent and thoughtful contributions to the committee. The committee welcomed back Greg de Groot, whose expertise in wealth management and general finances are important skills to add to the committee's successful work. Thank you both for your hard work!

The Finance Committee looks forward to 2023, overseeing the finances, records, audit findings, budget, and any other tasks or projects with which the Vestry tasks it. Thank you for the opportunity to serve St. Luke's in this critical role.

Respectfully submitted, Judi Nichols, Finance Committee Chair

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

The 2022 Fund Raising Committee exceeded last year's total netting \$51,059!!!

On May 9, 2022, over 100 golfers sliced and hooked their way around Potowomut Golf Club. Deborah Collins did an amazing job tracking all the golfers and sponsors as well as numerous other volunteers. Special note of gratitude to Grand Slam sponsor Pam Dresselhouse in honor of her parents Everett & Priscilla Wilcox, Pro sponsor Dick & Pam Kelly in honor of his father Jim Watts as well as all our other generous sponsors.

The golf was followed by almost 130 that enjoyed dinner and a world class auction. Thanks to the hard work of Mimi West, Marcia Gladue and their mighty team of volunteers the auction was a huge success. The auction included live and silent auction items. The night's highlight was Father Tim auctioning off not 1 but 2 dinner parties at his house (thank you Diane). The committee would like to also thank all who donated items to the auction.

In total the event netted a profit of \$46,261.

Our second fund raiser was a Comedy Night on September 24, 2022, in St Luke's Auditorium.

Holly O'Brien, Tracy Sampson and their team of volunteers had us rolling on the floor. The night featured 3 comedians, auction items and beverage sales. Over 100 people left with smiles on their faces!

In total the event netted a profit of \$4,798.

Respectfully submitted by Bill Warburton & Jon Jacaruso
Co-Chairs Fund Raising Committee

KITCHEN IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The St. Luke's Community Kitchen and Dining Room has been in use for nearly a year now, and it is so gratifying to see it return to serving our community and our church. The first major event held in the new space was Maundy Thursday dinner, last April. Throughout the year our feeding ministries (Lunch on the Hill, Christ's Community Kitchen and Mobile Loaves and Fishes) have returned. Women of Grace, Theology on Tap, Adult Faith Formation and other church groups have met in the new dining room. Members of our Youth Faith Formation made Christmas cookies to hand out at LFRI. A Celebration Sunday Brunch was held this fall. Twelve-Step meetings, Rhode Island Children's Chorus and other community groups have returned to using our space. And our newly-renovated facilities even attracted an outside feeding ministry, Love Lauren, to use our kitchen to prepare meals which they deliver throughout Rhode Island. Our new kitchen and dining room are humming with the life and work of our church and our community!

The Audio Visual installation was completed this year. And the long-awaited wood panels around the kitchen door finally arrived, and were installed by Steve Nichols and Doug MacPherson. Many thanks to Steve and Doug, who have given so generously of their time and skill to help us complete many final project tasks. And many thanks to my fellow Kitchen Improvements Committee members, Paul Brookes, Steve McLoughlin, Lois McLoughlin and Bill Warburton, who have tirelessly tended to the many details of setting up operations in our new facilities.

Finally, it never gets old to thank you, the members and partners of St. Luke's. Your deep generosity and your belief in the work and ministry that our kitchen and dining room support, made this bold endeavor possible. Let us continue together to fill these fresh new spaces with works of compassion, kindnesses to one another, learning, sharing, fellowship, laughter and love. This is what these spaces were made for.

Gary Schweizer

Kitchen Improvements Committee Chair

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

LOAVES & FISHES RHODE ISLAND (LFRI)

“With kindness and compassion, we serve food and provide clothing to our neighbors in need, while honoring their dignity”. That is our mission at LFRI. We are now in our ninth year of supporting this statewide mobile ministry dedicated to feeding and clothing the homeless and needy of Rhode Island. Until March 2020, on the 3rd 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 came to a sudden stop with the pandemic in early 2020. We attempted a number of different approaches to deliver food and clothing to those in need both in Woonsocket as well as at the Greenwich Hotel in East Greenwich. Last June, in coordination with other participating churches at LFRI, weekly Saturday runs to Woonsocket started again and our St. Luke’s volunteers have been going on the 3rd Saturday of the month since then. The number of clients waiting for us has increased every month, and in December we delivered 80 pre-bagged meals to Woonsocket and 20 meals to our neighbors at the Greenwich Hotel. We also delivered 75 holiday bags with hats, gloves, sweatshirts, and blankets to those waiting for us in Woonsocket. In addition, we have continued to work closely with the Blackstone women’s/family shelter in Woonsocket, helping supply them with items they need including blankets, sheets, diapers, clothing, window fans, and gift cards from the Christmas Giving Tree. These have been greatly appreciated.

During the COVID pandemic, one of our sister Loaves and Fishes churches recognized there were families in schools in East Providence that did not have enough food on weekends when the children were not receiving free meals at school. They started a program, “Adopt a School”, where they delivered 15-25 bags of enough food for 5 meals on a specified Friday of each month. This was extremely successful and two other churches set up similar programs. Last spring we reached out to the East Greenwich school department social workers to see if there was such a need in East Greenwich. They were thrilled about this idea and identified 16 families who desperately needed such support. We developed our own version of the Adopt A School program, “Food for Backpacks”. Through the generous support of We Share Hope in East Providence, and our St Luke’s volunteers, in October we started delivering 16 bags of food containing enough ingredients for 5 meals for 5 people on the first Friday of every month. These bags of food have been greatly appreciated. We also love the fact that we are now working not only with those in need in Woonsocket, but between the Greenwich Hotel and the local school department we are supporting our local community much more than ever before.

At St Luke's, our Loaves and Fishes ministry is part of a state-wide organization, LFRI, which is comprised of 11 partner churches who share resources, including the food truck. Last year LFRI conducted over 200 vehicle delivery runs, including 30 runs with the food truck to Woonsocket, over 140 car drop deliveries to soup kitchens and homeless shelters, 15 runs delivering a total of 4800 pounds of frozen soup to shelters, and over 20 deliveries of 15-25 bags of food and books to schools throughout Rhode Island for needy school children. The LFRI organization has been recognized for its tremendous efforts, and last month we received a \$25,000 grant from The Rhode Island Foundation.

We have a St Luke's steering committee that meets every month to discuss logistics, and ways to overcome the challenges of carrying out our mission. Our major challenge at this time is having enough volunteers. Anyone interested in participating should contact us. We will continue to post our monthly endeavors in the bulletin and needs on the Sign Up genius.

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

Faithfully submitted,
Dana and Caroline Sparhawk

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...

This Spring along with the Sun and Flowers we saw the return of Lunch on the Hill. In April we resumed lunches on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday every month in collaboration with OLM, Wild Harvest and The Interfaith Food Cupboard. It is a real pleasure to prepare and serve meals to our community in the newly renovated Saint Luke's Community Kitchen. We have also provided lunch to our neighbors at the East Greenwich Hotel on a regular basis, including a full Turkey meal the day before Thanksgiving. Looking forward to 2023 we hope that other Hosts and restaurants will resume their involvement allowing us to add additional Wednesday lunches on the 1st and 3rd week

At a recent lunch one of guests remarked, "Lunch is a special time, such a welcoming space, companionship and especially the volunteers. It is unlike any of the others". The "Special" time we provide is possible because of all the wonderful people that volunteer and support this outreach. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you along with the restaurants and organizations that volunteer their time and services to make these delicious lunches available.

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

New volunteers are always welcomed and needed.

Each week six to eight volunteers are needed (9:30 AM – 12:30PM) for setup, serving, cleanup, and greeting our guests.

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

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

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



MUSIC

2022 was a vibrant musical year at St. Luke's even as we continued to evolve into our "new normal" practices during these Covid times. Through congregational singing, choral music, vocal groups and soloists, organ, piano, guitar, harp, rhythm instruments, trumpet and timpani, music has been a vital part of the St. Luke's community as we worship God together and seek the grace and inspiration to be agents of transformation in the world.

During the course of the past year, our choirs – *Angel Choir* (Pre K - 2nd grade), *St. Cecilia Choir* (3rd - 12th grades), and *Canterbury Choir* (Adult) – wonderfully fulfilled their primary responsibility of providing and leading music at our Sunday morning 10:15AM celebrations of the Eucharist. I cannot imagine our worship without these fine groups. Please note that all the choral ensembles are always ready to welcome new singers. Please give this prayerful consideration if you and/or your children can offer your musical gifts.

We also had several special musical occasions during 2022.

Sunday, March 27, the Canterbury Choir and members of the St. Cecilia Choir offered a moving Choral Evensong at St. Luke's. Mid-April brought a powerful series of Holy Week services – Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Taizé Service, Easter Vigil – culminating in a glorious Easter Sunday celebration on April 17. June 5, our St. Cecilia and Canterbury choirs and the Four Amigos performed a spectacular "end of program year" concert. A wide variety of music was sung, and many soloists were featured.

All Saints' Sunday, November 6, the Canterbury and St. Cecilia Choirs combined with the Choirs of Grace Church, Providence, to offer a stunning Evensong. Then on December 18, the choirs and the Four Amigos joined together at St. Luke's to present a joyous Christmas concert. A very special treat this year were the tremendous instrumental solos played by Micah Malone, French horn, and the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone, bassoon. The church was full as we welcomed many people from the wider community, and all enjoyed a delicious holiday cookie reception following.

A week later, the choirs sang for Christmas Eve – St. Cecilia with several alums at 4pm, a wonderful group of St. Cecilia alums at 7pm, and the Canterbury Choir with a few St. Cecilia choristers for a special 10:30pm choral prelude with harp and 11pm Eucharist. New Year's Day the choir sang a lovely service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

Sunday, January 8, 2023, we capped off the celebration of Jesus' birth with our annual Epiphany Pageant...the first time we've been able to offer this beloved tradition since January 5, 2020, due to Covid concerns. What a joy it was to present this song filled tableau that so beautifully tells the Christmas/Epiphany stories. A big thank you to Caitlyn Holmstedt for directing the pageant, and to Geo Borgia and Christine Scarber for their invaluable assistance.

Now for a few other specific acknowledgements. Thank you Bruce Dearnaley and Bruce Stevens for all of your glorious music playing the tower bells...a real gift to St. Luke's and the town. And a huge thanks to the Four Amigos (they grew in number last year!) – Brad Logan, Rob Walsh, Bruce Dearnaley and Tom Dresselhouse. I'm so grateful for their amazing music making both at St. Luke's and beyond our walls into the wider community.

Thank you to Anna Pilkington for coordinating receptions after all our Evensongs, concerts, and other special events like the Easter Vigil and the St. Cecilia Christmas party dinner. Your incredibly generous ministry of hospitality touches and enriches the lives of so many!

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. As we completed the program year in June, Sally retired from many years of loving, passionate, and dedicated service. I can never thank her enough for all that she brought to this special ministry. I include myself with the current choristers and the many alums from recent years who are forever made better by the immense wisdom, knowledge, care, and spirit that Sally shared with us. I'm thrilled that she is still cheering us on and is willing to sub for a small group class when needed. Sally House is truly a great saint among us!

As we resumed RSCM classes in September, I was honored to welcome a new team of teachers to join Ben Lovejoy and me in offering the *Voice for Life* curriculum. Welcome aboard Judy Stenberg, Bruce Stevens, and Laura Sullivan. You are amazing!

Special thanks also to Catherine Pilkington for all her tender leadership with the Angel Choir. As it is often said, "it takes a village." The Angel and St. Cecilia Choirs are truly graced by a marvelous village!

As I said at the beginning, it has been a vibrant year of music making. The choirs and all the individual choristers and musicians at St. Luke's are such a blessing to the parish community and to me personally. I am so thankful for their deep dedication, beautiful music, and contagious enthusiasm.

It is my joy and privilege to serve as Minister of Music in this dynamic community under the inspired leadership of Fr. Tim. I look forward to a hopeful, song-filled 2023 at St. Luke's.

Faithfully,
Rodney

NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

It was a joy to have the Newcomers group so engaged and active over the last year! Ever vigilant in welcoming newcomers in the pews or at coffee hour, the team dove into plans for hosting the St. Luke's booth for the East Greenwich Main Street strolls, revisiting plans for our traditional Welcome Brunch, and leading the effort to prepare a long-awaited church directory.

The Newcomers team, clergy, and a host of parishioners gathered at the St. Luke's booth last summer for three of East Greenwich's Main Street Strolls: Dog Parade in June, Music on Main in July, and Taste of Main in August. We handed out treats, talked to our EG neighbors, welcomed visitors to East Greenwich, and shared stories of the community we have at St. Luke's. All the while, we enjoyed the pleasure of each other's company and delighted in a community-wide celebration of being back on the street!

What had been an annual event in years past, our Welcome Brunches were put on hold during those long COVID months of distancing. Finally, in 2022, we revived this event to celebrate the 45+ families new to or returning to St. Luke's in the last three years. The Newcomer team was supported by the vestry, Pastoral Care Committee, and various big-hearted souls in preparing a sumptuous brunch and lovely setup in our new dining room. Welcome bags with St. Luke's swag and a book on the Episcopal church were distributed to 19 families in attendance. Our thanks to the clergy, staff, vestry, and program leaders who made for both a welcoming and spirited morning of fellowship!

Yes, we will have a new church directory in 2023! Over 130 families participated in photo sessions (or contributed photos) during the first week of December. Special thanks go to Jan Burch for spearheading this project and to Dotty Fleming for supporting verification of parishioner information. Sincere thanks, as well, to the gracious volunteers who gave their time to assist our team in the process: Helen Biancani, Ruth Haynsworth, Katie Gressle, Donna Dufault, Judy Horton, Marcia Gladue, Tracy Sampson, Carol Stevens, Judy Ireland, Lisa Johnson, and Deb Lukens.

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

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



PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Care Ministry meets monthly under the guidance of the Rev. Timothy Rich and the Rev. Jonathan Malone. Pastor Malone (fun fact: he is a Baptist Minister) was hired during the summer of 2022 to assist Father Tim with the pastoral needs of our congregation. This includes overseeing and guiding the Pastoral Care Ministry. Since September when he began, Pastor Malone has visited all of our homebound several times and others that Father Tim has requested. The members of Pastoral Care are extremely blessed and grateful to have his wisdom and guidance.



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.

During 2022 our ministry has grown in membership to 17 members. That has allowed us to have 4 people sharing the responsibility of mailing cards each month and enough people to visit more homebound people on a regular basis. Clergy or the Office Administrator informs the committee of who needs our assistance.

I am grateful to report that a new member of our committee, Margaret Clifton, has volunteered to oversee the prayer shawl ministry. She will be reaching out soon to offer assistance and guidance to anyone interested in making shawls. Watch for a notice in the Weekly Newsletter. Our shawls will be blessed in church by clergy and then given to our parishioners in need.

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 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, Pastor Jonathan, or a committee member if you know of someone that would benefit from our ministry outreach.

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.

Our membership presently consists of Laraine Leech, Paul Brookes, Bruce Stevens, Doug MacPherson and Tom Dresselhouse, who meet as necessary to review progress on projects, assign responsibilities for action, and evaluate and initiate new projects.

We were able to complete seven major projects this year, most planned, several not so. The biggest was a relining of our sewer lines, following several years of on and off problems. We also had to replace an exterior door to the parking lot, caused by age and an absence of replacement parts.

Our choristers received a well-deserved bonus in the addition of air conditioning to the choir loft. We all got a bonus in the replacement of the floor in the auditorium and the resurfacing of the parking lot. Finally, we completed refurbishing of the anteroom next to the Sacristy, and upgraded our fire alarm system, per mandate from the Town of EG.

We are not expecting that heavy a workload, or expense, in 2023, but have been reviewing potential projects, with several in mind. At the top of the list will be replacement of carpeting in the first floor hallway.

If something around the property catches your eye that needs help please relate that to one our members. We'll take a look and see if we can add it to the list.

Dave Savage



Before I dive into 2022's social media data, I would first like to start by saying what a pleasure it has been to be welcomed into the St. Luke's Faith Community. Becoming a part of this church and working with so many wonderful people has had such a positive impact on my life and the life of my family, and I feel so fortunate to be doing the work that I am. This work has been a bit out of my comfort zone, but it has been challenging and rewarding, and I'm eager to dive into 2023 with new goals and the help of everything that I've learned from the last year.

When I came on board in February of 2022, my social media goals for St. Luke's were to **reach younger families** and **build a digital presence** through social media, as well as **establish a clear brand** on social platforms, and **create a strong digital assets library** for future marketing and communications materials.

To reach a younger audience and establish a stronger digital presence, I began with a goal of 2-3 social media posts on both Facebook and Instagram each week. While Facebook remains the platform with the most followers worldwide, Instagram has the highest engagement rate and a more sizeable audience of young adults. Weekly posts included one 60-90 second reel with a sermon reflection, and 1-2 posts keeping our current and prospective audience up to date on what is happening in the community and at the church. Throughout the year, we also created multiple series of reels, including series like Meet our Rector, Meet our Minister of Music, and a series about the stories of Advent. These reels have reached a much wider audience than a standard video would, and the sermon reflections specifically have drawn thousands of people to our page. Our boosted event on Facebook to spread the word of our Christmas services also reached an additional 14K+ people!

Our most viewed reels of 2022:

[Let us go forth and love likewise](#) (Tanya sermon) – 6,651 view

[Hope requires a leap of faith](#) (Tim sermon) – 6,410 views

[Why we think you should join us at St. Luke's](#) – 5,833 views

Boosted Event Data:

Christmas at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

\$300 spent over 25 days

86 Event Responses

434 Post Engagements

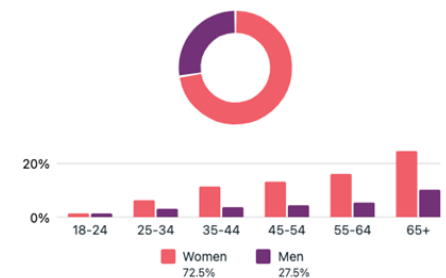
275 Link Clicks

150 Post Reactions

Facebook Page likes ①

840

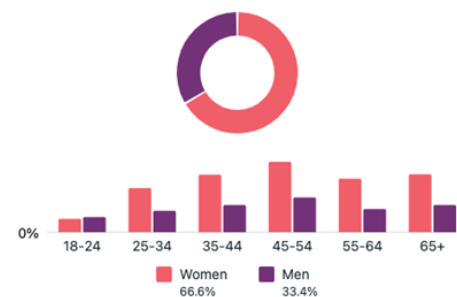
Age & gender ①



Instagram followers ①

331

Age & gender ①



Additional Social Media Data:

Facebook Page Reach: 27,506 (+62.8%)

Instagram Reach: 51,807 (+18.7K%)

Regarding establishing our brand on social media and building a library of digital assets, I can't thank everyone at the church enough for their help in gathering the necessary resources. This has been so helpful in creating fliers and postcards and keeping our community up to speed on what's happening at St. Luke's. Everyone has been very diligent about sending photos from events that I have not been able to attend, and we have built a photo and video library that will make marketing and communications material creation in 2023 much easier!

Our live stream ministry is also making great strides in sharing our worship and services with the community. In 2022, we moved our live stream effort exclusively to YouTube, simplifying access and improving our reach. Since we started posting to YouTube in 2013, we have realized just over 3800 views – 3379 of those views were in 2022 alone! As well, the average online view has increased from one or two minutes to over 10 minutes per view. How gratifying to know that our worship, our community can embrace so many no matter where or when they choose to connect with us. We hope that you will check out our St. Luke's YouTube channel and, if you have not already, subscribe and share with your friends and neighbors. Many thanks to the team who have graciously given their time and talents to making all this possible: Taylor Wilkey, David Clifton, David Sampson, Geo Borgia, and Jean Cross.

Soft Goals and Tasks for 2023:

- Continuing a strong social media presence with weekly sermon reflection reels and news/ photos to give people a look into what is happening within the St. Luke's Community
- Capturing more photos and videos of ministries and youth programs to create more dynamic and engaging social media content
- More boosted Facebook events to invite the community to join us: Taizé Service, Easter Sunday Service, Final Chorus Concert, Kickoff Sunday, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services, Misc. Events (fundraisers/auctions, ticketed dinners, yoga, other community events)
- Holding a one-off yoga class with light brunch/mimosas at St. Luke's in the spring, as a way to invite locals to the church and meet the community
- Additional research of local churches, and working with the other members of the St. Luke's community to develop the content needed to draw in new families

I am looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2023!

Emma Peterson

Social Media Specialist & Digital Evangelist

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Your pledge makes St. Luke's possible

Let me express a sincere Thank You to everyone who has committed to share their treasure with our faith community! As we pointed out in the letter to our parishioners early in the campaign, nearly 75% of our budget depends upon our pledge income. Your commitment funds St. Luke's programs, compensates our fabulous staff, cares for our beautiful campus, and pays our utilities. Your pledge makes everything we stand for as a faith community possible.

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

This year we returned to the tradition of sharing a meal together. Paul Ruggieri and Anna Pilkington ran the kitchen, Deborah Collins organized, and the Vestry and Stewardship Committee contributed food.

As of December 30, we had received 181 pledges for a total of \$456,075.00. Sixty-seven individuals or families increased their pledges for 2023. That combined with the 11 new pledges, indicates a healthy trend in our parish's giving.

While the formal campaign is over, it's never too late to make or increase your pledge.

Yours in Christ,
David Sampson

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving tree project was changed again this year. We asked parishioners to purchase gift cards from Walmart, Stop & Shop, and Target. For those that were comfortable to return to stores we added about 30 toys or books to be purchased and wrapped. Due to St. Luke's warm hearts and kindness to others, we were able to do both.

Soon the calls started to come into the office. Christina did a wonderful job taking these calls so we could contact the people. The committee called all these people at least twice to find out their particular needs. The majority of them did not know how they would do Christmas and pay for heat and buy groceries. Some were single moms, others were grandparents trying to raise grandchildren and still others were working families that were falling short of money for the holiday.

The outpouring of kindness, generosity and love was overwhelming. Within two weeks we had 33 families in need of anything we could give them. The Giving Tree was a huge success. Every family received Walmart cards plus Stop & Shop cards or Target cards due to St. Luke's parishioners' willingness to share their love and joy of the season with others less fortunate.

The Giving Tree Committee members are a special group that showed compassion and were so pleased to help those in need. Thank you very much to all the families of St. Luke's that made our journey to help others a wonderful experience!

Respectfully,

Judy Horton
Deborah Lukens
Pamela Dresselhouse
Helen Biancani
Lois McLoughlin
Sue Clement
Kathy Rezendes



THEOLOGY ON TAP

As the men's group of St. Luke's, Theology on Tap (TOT) is focused 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.

We have been fortunate to welcome several 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, but truthfully, the most interesting meetings have been those without an agenda.

We ventured out more this year – post Covid – with service projects including helping a neighbour in need to clean up her overgrown property. Good fun in the hot, August sun!

TOT has historically supported St. Luke's food ministries by staffing Christ Community Kitchen and Mobile Loaves & Fishes, where we can help with food insecurity. Our guys volunteered to help restart CCK in September and assisted CCK to provide a warm Thanksgiving holiday meal to the residents of The Greenwich Hotel. We plan to prepare and deliver another warm meal to the Hotel residents in January. Many thanks to all the folks who contributed their time and generosity in helping to make this happen.

We wanted to understand the origin and history of the St. Luke's Chapel and Jack Newton hosted an incredible seminar downstairs, in the chapel, highlighting the fascinating WWII memorial story. Many thanks to Professor Newton.

We were delighted this year to restore a long-standing tradition, after years of Covid delay, of TOT Christmas gathering at the De Groot's home. Our holiday meeting included an intimate Service and Eucharist delivered by Father Tim, followed by an evening of Christmas camaraderie and cheer.

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



TOT helping a neighbor



Jack Newton's history lesson on the St. Luke's Chapel



Revisiting the TOT Christmas tradition

SAINT LUKE'S USHER MINISTRY

48

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 serve 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.

Ushers are needed for both the 7:45 and 10:15 services. Additional information on requirements is detailed below.

Please reach out to Steve McLoughlin or any of the ushers if you would like to know more or would like to be an usher. 401-225-5540/smcloughlin2@aol.com

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.
- * 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 began the year meeting via Zoom. By March, we were able to once again gather in person to share fellowship with our sisters in Christ. At our June meeting, I was given the gift of taking on the leading role for WofG. Thanks to the leadership of Deborah Collins, a program planning group had previously been created which helped the transition. The group (Nora Hall, Donna Default, Laura Sullivan, Pam Gregory, Ruth Haynsworth, Deborah Collins, and I) met in August 2022 to plan our programs for the year. The following is a summary of our meetings in 2022.

January – via Zoom:

An informal meeting to reconnect and share New Year's greetings, resolutions, and news.

February 2022 via Zoom:

Presentation by Doreen Putnam. Her topic, *Alzheimer's, and Dementia Behaviors... What Can We Do to Help?*

March 2022 – Blackburn Room:

Book exchange/share.

April 2022 – Dining Room/Sanctuary:

The Rev. Susan Carpenter introduced us to the Celtic worship tradition and then lead WofG in a Celtic service in the Sanctuary.

May 2022 – Dining Room:

Laura Sullivan led us in a discussion of Anne Lamott's *Dusk, Night, Dawn: On Revival and Courage*.

June 2022 – Home of Deborah Collins:

A lovely end of "year" potluck dinner where women then shared their ideas for topics, speakers, and activities for the coming year.

October 2022 – Dining Room:

Nora Hall and Laura Sullivan invited women to read/share their favorite bible passage or verse, poem or short stories that praised God.

November 2022 – Dining Room:

Women of Grace designed 22 canvas tote bags, many with a biblical theme that were filled with personal essential items. The bags were then distributed to women at the food bank at St. Luke's.

December 2022 – Dining Room:

Patricia Warburton led WofG in Taking Care of The Spiritual Self. Using the Celtic Tradition as a foundation, we explored tools that could be used to facilitate emotional well-being during the holidays and how to be fully present to the love, peace, and holiness of Christmas.

Women of Grace meetings continue to be a great time of sisterhood as we share our faith in glory of God. We laugh, we learn and most importantly, we are moved to honor and serve. We meet the first Monday of the month in the parish dining room. Next year we continue to focus on taking care of the body, the spirit, and others. We will engage in outreach providing the CCK dinner in February, a Celtic service is planned for March (open to the parish), Fr. Tim will facilitate a program on communication in April (TOT will be invited) and a women's retreat is planned for May. Women of Grace is open to all women of the parish, and we would love to have you attend.

Faithfully submitted on behalf of Women of Grace,
Deborah Lukens



Women of Grace

YOUTH FAITH FORMATION/GODLY PLAY

"The youth is the hope of our future." Jose Rizal

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).

Godly Play includes a mighty following. We have a dedicated team of 10 leaders who consistently show up and serve the Pre-K through Grade 5 children of St. Luke's. The Godly Play program continues 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 manage the room with love and grace each Sunday. This year we added to our stories another 'saint' by the name of Harriet Tubman. We continue to look for ways grow our program with the children to include, more women, and all minorities. Each year we offer a 5-week Sunday class called ***Corporate Communion*** for those in Grade 3 and 4 who are interested in learning more about the Eucharist. This class is typically held in the spring.

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 2022 we held a beautiful celebration for our three Rite 13 students and their families. This involved a Rite 13 preparation program on four consecutive Sundays, a family dinner, retreat, and celebration at the completion of the preparation phase, and the ceremony itself on Sunday, May 29.

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 2023 we will continue this thread of outreach and community service working with the students on the numerous causes and activities that interest them.

Respectfully, Theresa Deiters Muscat

