

The 189th Annual Meeting of St. Luke's Episcopal Church East Greenwich, RI

January 28, 2024 - 10:00 am
Annual Parish Meeting for the year 2023



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH

2023 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

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

Current Delegates to Diocesan Convention and Narragansett Deanery

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

Parish Staff

Rodney Ayers ~ Minister of Music
Christina Imondi ~ Parish Administrator
Theresa Deiters-Muscat ~ Godly Play Coordinator
Amy Weigand ~ Youth Faith Coordinator
Lisa Paolino ~ Bookkeeper
Clarissa Montero ~ Housekeeping

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH IN EAST GREENWICH

Proposed 2024 Lay Leadership

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

Deborah Collins, Senior Warden
 Jacob Trombino, Junior Warden
 Dana Borgia, Clerk of the Vestry
 Michael Sullivan, Treasurer

Vestry Candidates (elected to a three-year term)

Katie Anderson ~ 2024
 Jan Burch ~ 2024-2026
 Bill Clement ~ 2024-2026
 Corie Jacaruso ~ 2024-2026

To Join

Kate Gressle ~ 2022-2024
 Judi Nichols ~ 2022-2024
 Jacob Trombino ~ 2022-2024
 Margaret Clifton ~ 2023-2025
 Shareen Knowlton ~ 2023-2025
 John Lukens ~ 2023-2025

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, Steve Nichols, Jack Newton, Cindi Lovejoy
Christ Community Kitchen	Paul Brookes
Coffee Hour	Tracy Sampson, Marcia Gladue
Digital Evangelism	Emma Peterson
Finance Committee	Judi Nichols
Fundraising Committee	Bill Warburton & Jon Jacaruso
Loaves & Fishes RI	Dana Sparhawk, Rob Walsh
Lunch on the Hill	Steve McLoughlin, Steve Bartlett
Music Ministry	Rodney Ayers
Newcomers	Deborah Collins
Pastoral Care Committee	Dotty Fleming
Property Committee	Dave Savage
Stewardship	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich
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 and Amy Weigand

2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

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MINUTES OF THE 188TH ANNUAL MEETING St. Luke's Episcopal Church, East Greenwich January 29, 2023

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, January 29, 2023 in person.

Vestry Members Present: *Sr. Warden, Bill Warburton; Jr. Warden, Deborah Collins; Treasurer, Michael Sullivan; Clerk, Dana Borgia; Mark Cordle, Kathy Lynch, Holly O'Brien, Tracy Sampson, Bruce Stevens, Katie Gressle, Jacob Trombino, and Judi Nichols.*

I. Welcome and Opening Prayer

Fr. Tim opened the Annual Meeting with prayer at 10:39 a.m. Fr. Tim acknowledged the newly designed kitchen, dining area, and audio/visual technology and thanked all that made the space possible.

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 90 persons in attendance and the required quorum met.

Joining Fr. Tim at the head table to lead the meeting were Bill Warburton, Sr. Warden; Deborah Collins, Jr. Warden; and Dana Borgia, 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. The meeting is an opportunity to reflect upon the last year, imagine the year that awaits, celebrate, and ask questions.

IV. Celebrating the "Art of the Possible"

Fr. Tim shared a quote from Otto von Bismark "*Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable—the art of the next best thing.*" The work of the church is Art, and then business, and then from year to year working to do the next best things. He provided thanks to Deborah Collins for scribing the notes of last year's meeting, and to all who wrote reports, and Christina Imondi for putting everything together.

Marie Hennedy made a motion to approve the Minutes as submitted, Robert Bachelor seconded the motion, and all approved.

- * *Capital Improvements:* We have been working hard to provide time and resources to this endeavor, most of which were proceeded over by Dave Savage. Many thanks to him for all of the work that he does. Fr. Tim discussed where money came from. There was an anonymous donation from a family to provide lighting for the church parking lot. Another for lot painting. Some of the funds from projects were provided via fundraising. It is due to generosity that it is possible. There is more work to do next year which is included in a list created by the Vestry. This work might not be “sexy” but is exciting and integral to the working of the church.
- * *Fundraising:* Golf Tournament – This was made possible by the hard work of Bill Warburton, John Jacaruso, and Deborah Collins, with Mimi West, Marcia Gladue and Deb Lukens organizing the auction. Tracy Sampson, Holly O’Brien, Deb Lukens, and Jacob Trombino spearheaded the Comedy Night. Fr. Tim thanked all that worked hard to make these events successful and fun.
- * *Livestreaming:* Michael Sullivan, Deborah Collins and Tom Dresselhouse all helped with site visits. Taylor Wilkey began collaborating with Deborah Collins to start and recruited Jean Cross, David Clifton, Dave Sampson, and Geo Borgia as the behind-the-scenes filmmakers. Bill Clement is in the queue to join this group. Fr. Tim sited receiving emails from Colorado, South Dakota, and Wisconsin to name a few, all from people stating that they watch the livestreams, and some sending donations. We are committed to continuing livestreaming. Anyone interested in being trained is asked to please reach out to Deborah Collins.
- * *Digital Evangelism:* Emma Peterson was hired to assist with social media marketing. She is full of great ideas, understands branding and is uber talented. We share Emma with Rocky Hill Country Day, with her hours being bundled to create a full-time position. Emma Peterson presented and talked about the church’s goal to reach a wider audience. She has worked on developing consistent 60-90 second Instagram reels. Instructions were distributed on how to sign up for Instagram and access YouTube feeds and subscribing. One to two postings per week are happening to keep people up to speed on what is happening in the community. A weekly sermon reflection is posted with one snip-it on what to expect from the content, and a link to watch the whole service. In addition, there are a series of stories, like meeting the Rector, Music Director, Advent, Community offerings, Youth Ministry, etc. Where the Divine meets the Daily highlights Christ Community Kitchen (CCK), Mobile Loaves and Fishes, upcoming events, and prayers. Participants were asked to reach out to Emma with anything happening or going on via email at Emma@StLukesEG.org. A question was asked about getting a QR code to get the program. Fr. Tim stated that we tried QR codes during COVID and that was not effective, but that we can try this again to have some hard copies and QR codes to balance both.
- * Fr. Tim made another note about the subject of technology regarding issues with himself and Rodney being able to get online. Michael Sullivan, Deborah Collins, and Tom Dresselhouse worked on trouble shooting, and due to an anonymous donation, we were able to rewire and remedy internet connections.

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- * *Feeding Ministries:* Paul Brookes re-initiated CCK where we feed people who are hungry, create community with the church, and bring together other community partners. On the second and fourth Wednesday of the month, the church hosts Lunch on the Hill, which is facilitated by Steve McLoughlin. Mobile Loaves and Fishes is made possible with Rob Walsh, Dana and Caroline Sparhawk, as well as Linda Wegrzyn, Caroline and Joyce Harvey who help with clothing. Thanks to all who make these ministries possible.
 - * *Transition:* We bid farewell to Tanya Watts who is now the priest at Trinity Church in Pawtuxet. Thanks was given for her Ministry at St. Luke's.
 - * *Finance Committee:* Steve McLoughlin and Pam Dresselhouse, and George West coming off of the Finance Committee. Finance Committee is working on archiving currently.
 - * *Retiring Vestry Members:* Fr. Tim acknowledged the contributions of, and our gratefulness for, the work of retiring vestry members: Kate Golbitz, who brought awareness of needs of family and Sunday School; Kathy Lynch, full-time Nurse who guided COVID protocols; and Mark Cordle with his creative thinking.

V. Election of Officers, Vestry Members, and Delegates

* **Report of Nominating Committee**

Michael Grady gave the report of the Nominating Committee:

New Vestry nominations for a three-year term: Margaret Clifton, John Lukens, and Shareen Knowlton. With no additional nominations, Fr. Tim 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, Fr. Tim moved to close nominations for Clerk.

Nomination for Treasurer: Michael Sullivan. With no additional nominations, Fr. Tim moved to close nominations for Treasurer.

As a point of order, both our senior warden, Bill Warburton, and junior warden, Deborah Collins, are beginning the 2nd year of their 2-year term so no action is required at this time.

Nominations for Diocesan Delegates: Deborah Collins, Steve McLoughlin, Dotty Fleming, and Pam Dresselhouse, with Bill Warburton as alternate. With no additional nominations, Fr. Tim moved to close nominations for Delegates.

Nominations for the at large nominating Committee: Kate Golbitz and Michael Grady.

* **Election**

A motion was made by Nancy Arnold to accept and ratify the election of all nominees as submitted by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded by Bob Batchelor and passed by all.

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

o **Fr. Tim – Opening Comments** Continuing outreach and ministries. Need to continue to put money and budget to work. Looking for Youth Minister and asking for congregation to help identify candidates. Will provide more information on banners that are the guiding principles for the church. Focus on mission and then we will do our work on money matters.

* The 2023 Budget

Michael Sullivan was not present, but his statement was read by Fr. Tim. There was a \$32,000 shortfall in 2022, which was covered by overage from prior year's PPP loan. This was made possible by good creative, sound, financial management. The 2023 budget is hard to swallow due to increasing costs and inflationary effects caused by the economy. A break on apportionment that the Diocese granted will not apply in 2023. Discussed that the sale of the Tiffany window would yield \$90,000 in investment income which could fund positions that are currently in deficit, including a 2nd full time clergy, and balance the budget. Support of parishioners continues to be generous. Fr. Tim stated that we need to continue to focus on the financial stability of the church. Will continue to have fundraiser on Sept. 29th, 2023. Working on the balance of renting out space at the church. Interfaith Counseling utilizing space five days a week.

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.

* Stained Glass Window Update

Stacey Nakasian has been working through contract with Bonhams. Stacey is a blessing to St. Luke's and appreciation was given for all that she does. Stacey presented and gave background of process starting with surprise email regarding request to sell the window. The original offer of \$2 million would via Church Services include sale of window and replacement window. Original buyer did not pan out and Bonhams stepped in. St. Luke's received a sample of replacement window from Church Services, which was underwhelming. We are now exploring other options for a replacement window. The hope is to get the same revenue and result without netting any additional economic deficit.

Questions:

Would window be a direct replication? Sample was not stained glass.

How much time for replacement? Time for replacement is dependent upon the type of process involved in creating new window.

Bruce Stevens – What about status of replacement window? Bill Warburton reported that we are in process of discussing options with three separate stained glass studios.

Sarah Curtis – Are we considering new commissions and donations? We will look at replica first and may need to explore other options if needed. Future Town Halls will be held for future updates.

Need to try to honor legacy gift from the Goddard's.

Are we looking for local artisans? Tiffany is a special process that is very specialized.

Theresa Deiters Muscat stated that she has a friend in CA that does this type of work.

Does any of the money go to the Diocese? If we take any monies from the DIT then the Diocese would get more.

Is there a top limit of cost the church is willing to pay for replacement window, if needed? The thought is that the current deal will cover the cost.

- * **Renewing the Eldredge Society Campaign:** Planned Giving initiative asks parishioners to remember the church while writing your will, if willing, to share a little of your treasure with St. Luke's.
- * **Church Directory:** Thanks to Deborah Collins for putting together the pictorial directory and bringing it to fruition. Deborah thanked everyone for participating, and it was discussed that 33 new families joined St. Luke's last year.
- * **Ministry Team:** Fr. Tim thanked Jonathan Malone for his ministry, along with Emma Peterson for all of her work, as well as Rodney Ayers as Minister of Music. It is an example of sharing of strength whether with music, and coordination. Christina Imondi is the brains of the operation and much appreciated. There was a shout out to Tim Marnane, Sexton, to let him know how fortunate we are to have him. Thank you to Dottie Fleming with Pastoral Care. Theresa Deiters Muscat continued to nurture our youth even during a time of medical issues. Fr. Tim thanked the Wardens, who he speaks with daily, and who provide vibrancy to the church. Thanks to Michael Sullivan as Treasurer and his accounting and telling the story. Thanks to Dana Borgia as Clerk for taking good minutes. Thanks to Tracy Sampson and Paul Ruggeiri for assisting with brunch, and Diane Rich assisting with cleanup, and Deb Lukens who provided centerpieces. Thanks to all the parishioners for their participation.
- * Rob Walsh mentioned the Lenten Blog and asked for volunteers. Sarah Curtis thanked everyone that picks up the little things that need to be done.

VII. Concluding Prayer and Dismissal

Announcement of date for 2024 Annual Meeting: January 28, 2024. Fr. Tim closed with prayer.

Holly O'Brien made a motion to close the Annual Meeting, Bob Batchelor seconded the motion, and all in attendance approved at 12:05pm.

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

Our 2024 annual commitment campaign focused on experiencing the Divine. To my way of thinking, we glimpse the Divine in beauty, in reflection, in generosity, in relationships, in celebration, and even in struggle. As I consider this past year, I am struck by the many ways it seems the Divine moved in and through St. Luke's.

Beauty can be found in so much of the life we share at St. Luke's but nowhere does beauty better capture the Divine than in our worship. I am so grateful to the choirs—all three of them—led lovingly and expertly by Rodney. And this year, to our singing choirs we added a choir of steeple ringers, inspired and instructed by Bruce Dearnaley. He's done such a nice job of passing on his love for the bells to ringers of all ages.

Likewise, I am grateful to Lisa Johnson and Liz Fox, the altar guild chairs, and the entire altar guild team for their dedicated service. They come at all hours of any given day to set up and clean up for worship. They launder the linens, they organize major events like the greening of the church, and they stand ready whenever we have the unexpected funerals. They work mostly when no one is around but our worship is beautiful because of their efforts.

And let me add here, a particular thanks to Pat Savage who has arranged for our altar flowers for years. She's stepping down from that role, to be replaced by a team of women led by Deb Lukens. Certainly, because of Pat's good eye and equally good taste, our worship has been more beautiful.

Besides finding the Divine in beauty, I also find the Divine in reflection, and I couldn't be happier over the way our faith formation classes invite participants of all ages to think, to wonder, to question, and to reflect. Theresa continues to preside over our Godly Play offering, and it has been so exciting to see our numbers in that classroom grow. She does such a good job of caring for not just the kids but also the parents who serve as storytellers.

While that element of our youth faith formation has remained constant, we undertook a major review and overhaul of our approach for youth, ages 5th grade on up. After meeting with teachers and parents, we decided to move to a more theme-based, module approach, where our offerings would be subject and time specific, usually spanning 8 weeks, each ending with some kind of culminating celebration. Amazingly, just after coming to this conclusion, we were fortunate to find (thank you Shareen Knowlton) and hire Amy Weigand as our Director of Youth and Family Ministries. Amy developed an entirely new curriculum and I encourage you to read her report in the following pages. I am so excited to see how this approach and Amy's creativity will give our teenagers an experience of the Divine.

But as I have said on many occasions, faith formation is not simply for our youth, and truly one of my favorite things about St. Luke's is the learning community that has emerged from our adult

faith formation efforts. These experiences are filled with the Divine, and if you need proof, consider the Advent and Lenten blogs that are now cherished parts of these seasons. I am thankful to Betsy, Rob, and Pam who organize these blogs. Just as I am profoundly moved by the contributions of so many of you.

You also move me deeply in the ways you give so generously of your time, talent and treasure. Let me start the recap by naming several contributions which several of you have made quietly but generously. We received an anonymous contribution to install new windows in the choir room. Likewise, we have benefited from an anonymous gift to upgrade both our sound and live-stream technology. (I should also thank the live-stream team here, organized by Deborah Collins, who works so hard to put these gifts to good use.) It's been exciting to see the progress in this area. And just recently, Kim Peterson gifted to us both her expertise and some beautiful fabric to help us refresh the atrium sitting space. Thank God Kim was around to make choices about fabrics and carpet color! These contributions might go unnoticed by some, but they are a benefit to all.

St. Luke's has a long tradition of being generous when it comes to our feeding ministries, and it has been such a joy to see the full return of these ministries (and to watch as more of you volunteer to help). Steve McLoughlin continues to organize our Lunch on the Hill offering, and I appreciate how attentive he is to both the volunteers and the guests. He really is such a wonderful example of hospitality and generosity.

Likewise, our Loaves and Fishes outreach captures the generous hearts of this congregation and provides experiences of the Divine with each run. I am so grateful to the mainstay participants like Dana and Caroline Sparhawk, Rob Walsh, Joyce Ives, and Art Hall. One of the other beauties not to be overlooked with this ministry is how it has provided volunteer opportunities for both the youth of the parish and individuals who aren't even worshippers at St. Luke's. I just love the notion that people of all ages, whether they be members or not, can experience the Divine in this ministry.

CCK similarly offers volunteer opportunities for both parishioners and members of the wider East Greenwich community, and whenever I attend, I marvel at the interaction that goes on. Of course, it is sobering to realize how many of our diners live with the constant struggle of food insecurity, but it is heartwarming to hear the conversations and feel the joy everyone experiences - at least for that one hour.

I think a big reason the experience feels so special can be attributed to CCK's leader, Paul Brookes. He presides over that ministry with such warmth and respect, his deep faith so evident, that it infuses the entire effort with the Divine. Paul will be stepping down as CCK leader, and both the St. Luke's Community and the wider EG community owe him a debt of thanks. Happily, Paul Ruggieri, Margaret Clifton, and Rob Walsh have agreed to assume leadership of this ministry, so the gift of CCK will continue!

Also an amazing example of faith, dedication, and generosity is Dave Savage, who has presided over the care of our campus for years and years. He has chased down bids for projects small and large. He has thoughtfully staged the work projects to address deferred and new needs for

maintenance. He has been the example of a generous steward of his time and talents, and the result is that our campus has never been in better shape. Dave is retiring as our lead trouble-shooter, to be succeeded by Doug McPherson, so let me say here, “Thank you Dave!”

Let me also add here a big thanks to the property crew, guided by the gardening talents of Cindi Lovejoy and the dedication of Jack Newton. Week after week Cindi and her team can be found tending to our grounds, generously sharing their talents and considerable green thumbs. They’ve removed shrubs, relocated shrubs, and added new plantings. I don’t want to even imagine what the place would look like absent their dedication and effort.

Finally, no discussion about the generosity of this parish would be complete without mentioning our 2024 commitment campaign. Although there’s a full report in later pages, I thank the Walsh brothers, as always for being so generous with their time and talents, and I thank so many of you for being so generous with your pledges. Our pledge income continues to rise and that is a tribute to your generosity.

It seems your faithful generosity permeates so much of not only what we do together but also how we are together. Perhaps that is why I experience the Divine so often in the many ways we share relationship. Surely the Divine can be glimpsed as the Pastoral Care Committee, led by Dotty Fleming, cares for those in need—whether they be parishioners or not, I might add. Do take a moment to read her report. And then consider how, whether they are hosting a funeral collation or writing a sympathy card or visiting a shut in, or knitting a prayer shawl, in all those moments, the Divine is on display.

Just as the Divine can be experienced as the women of this parish gather for Women of Grace. Deb Lukens now serves as lead organizer of these gatherings, and from monthly meetings to a spring retreat to even a joint session with the men, I have no doubt, God is present. And of course, much the same can be said about our men’s group, Theology on Tap. Brent Bostick “herds these cats,” and I am so grateful that he provides these men with a monthly opportunity to engage in thoughtful conversation.

Truly, the relationships we enjoy provide so much comfort and joy to so many. They undergird the many celebrations we share, and I must say that in these celebrations, I experience the Divine so very deeply. Whether it is the ordinary Sunday celebrations which I referred to earlier or the special occasions, such as the “Celebration Sunday” and Newcomer Brunches,” or our Tower Centennial or the Dinner, Dance and Auction, I love it that we never miss an occasion to celebrate. I thank you all for that spirit of celebration. Specifically, let me thank Anna Pilkington, Paul Ruggieri, and Deborah Collins, who so often take point on our brunches. Likewise, I want to thank Laura Sullivan and Deborah Collins, who did such a wonderful job both telling the history of our tower and engaging the wider community in that celebration. (I loved seeing cars parked in our lot, windows rolled down, as people were enjoying the weekly bell concerts.) And a big thanks should go out to all who worked on our Dinner, Dance, Auction fundraiser, especially, to Jon Jacaruso, Deborah Collins, Bill Warburton, and Deb Lukens. Not only was that evening successful in raising over \$20,000 but also it was just a lot of fun!

Perhaps here is a good place to include mention of our various liturgical celebrations. In 2023 we¹⁴ celebrated the baptisms of Lilian Ruth Veitch, David Bruce Burns, Heather Mary Anable, John Thomas Sherman Jr., Lincoln John DeCataldo, Liam Lee Dugas, Jackson Rhett St. Jean, Isla Marie St. Jean, Theodore Robert Roldan, Eleanor Laleh Aliloo, Ethan Joseph Kern, and Lylah Patricia Wilbur. We celebrated the marriages of Nicholas James Pardy and Ross Paul DiSegna, Madeline Patricia Jenkins and Kyle Alan Gervers, Katherine Ann Glinka and Michael Peter Ryan, and Linda Jeanne Marty and Carl Frederick Hoyer. And we celebrated the lives of W. George Potts Jr., Betty-Joyce Andrews, Baby William R. O'Brien, June Cook, Stanley Greenwood, James F. Wilkinson Jr., Lois N. Hunter, William T. Prifty, Clarence H. Soderberg Jr. M.D., Robert Francis Clare, Norma Wiley-Colechia, Pamela Wright Kelly, Kathleen Beaton, Ann Hamilton, Kirsten D. Schenck, Beverly N. Hewitt, Judith N. Brinckerhoff, and Deborah A. MacKinnon.

Regarding this last category, I think it is a powerful part of our faith that we consider funerals a “celebration of life.” It speaks not only to the Easter story which lies at the heart of our faith but also the promise that God shows up even in our most difficult times. I want to note that is true not only as we might grieve someone’s passing but more generally as we might engage in the sometimes-challenging work of being the church. Without a doubt, I do experience the Divine in this work. Whether we are wrestling with the question of how we might reach out to new members or with how to engage youth and families or our existing financial challenges, God moves in and through this work. That reality certainly was my experience as we concluded 2023 with a financial town hall, and it gives me hope as we face whatever challenges are to come in 2024.

In fact, I have hope in all that is to come, and that is in large part because of our vestry and staff leadership. The vestry has been so thoughtful, faithful, and wise in all their deliberations. You should know, whether we are talking about money matters or mission, you are well served by the vestry.

I am grateful for the time, the work, and the wisdom of Holly O’Brien, Tracey Sampson, and Bruce Stevens, who conclude their terms with the upcoming annual meeting. Each has brought their own particular gifts and understandings to make our deliberations and efforts richer.

I am grateful to our treasurer, Mike Sullivan, who works so diligently to provide us a thorough and timely accounting of money matters. I have never worked with a treasurer who could explain with such clarity (and patience, I might add) our financial life.

I am grateful for our Wardens, Bill Warburton and Deborah Collins. Bill concludes his term as Sr. Warden at the upcoming annual meeting. During his term, he has done everything from provide me invaluable counsel, to manage insurance claims, to take out the trash (I am not making that up). And he has exercised these duties with nothing but kindness, diligence, and grace. I will miss his sincere and constant, “Anything I can do for you?” question. But even more than that, I will miss his smile and unwaveringly positive presence. The only thing that saves me from despair is knowing that Deborah will succeed him as our next Sr. Warden. She is equally dedicated, tireless, faithful, and generous of spirit. I/we were so blessed to have them as a dynamic duo.

Finally (Yes, really, I am about to wrap things up here!), I/we are equally blessed to benefit from the leadership, dedication, and talents of our staff, my fantastic partners in ministry. Rodney is so

dedicated and thoughtful, and forward thinking. And of course, he's an amazing musician/choral director. Christina is so organized, diligent and caring—she is the brains and the heart of our operations. I'd be lost without her. Jonathan's pastoral gifts, deep faith, and passionate preaching enriches our entire community immeasurably. And personally, I know I've never enjoyed working with a clergy partner more. Theresa's obvious love for both our children and our God is such a joy to witness. Emma's creativity not only continues to grow our following on social media but challenges me to be my creative best. And Amy amazes me with both her creative planning and organized delivery. She is such a wonderful addition to the team. I can't wait to see how she impacts our youth and family ministries in 2024. For the talents and efforts of this entire team, I am immensely grateful.

Osho, an Indian mystic once wrote, *"To be creative means to be in love with life. You can be creative only if you love life enough that you want to enhance its beauty, you want to bring a little more music into it, a little more poetry, a little more dance."* I think this quote describes much of what animates St. Luke's. And I think this quote captures why I so frequently experience the Divine in our shared life.

All of which is why I feel so blessed to be your rector.

Submitted by the Rev. Tim Rich, Rector

ACOLYTES

Our team of acolytes serve on Sunday and occasionally through the week whenever their services are required. The numbers have decreased greatly over the past few years and have not recovered as we still emerge from COVID. We have had some new members join, including adults, which we welcome. All youth in the parish from fifth grade up to twelfth grade and adults 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. Charlie will review things prior to the 10:00 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

As we began 2023, we planned to widen our offerings for Adult Faith Formation to include more in-person gatherings. Several times this year we held lunch and discussions seeking to attract a wider group of parishioners. Because of its success, we also continued our book discussions on Wednesday night by Zoom. Our participants ‘Zoom’ in from all over to be part of this book discussion. We have regular participants who live in Colorado, North Carolina, and our parishioners who travel can join us from wherever they are...and they do!

Our first book study began on January 11th on Zoom. We read **WHEN FAITH BECOMES SIGHT**, by David and Beth Booram. The authors are trained spiritual directors and co-founders of Fall Creek Abbey retreat center. This book helped us deepen our awareness of God at work all around us in our lives.

Our Lenten book study was **GENDER AND THE NICENE CREED** by Elizabeth Geitz, through which we explored the gender inclusive theology of the Trinity. Elizabeth is an Episcopal priest with several books to her credit. This book was described by Archbishop Desmond Tutu as “A cogent and persuasive plea for a return to the full catholic tradition which would make a critical contribution to the debate about gender in matters of faith.”

After Easter, we decided on a change of pace by offering two Rob Bell videos rather than a book in our Wednesday night Zoom class. Rob Bell is an author and speaker as well as a former pastor. His short films bring forth wonderful questions that lead to great discussions.

Back by popular demand, in May we returned to complete the third part of **WHEN FAITH BECOMES SIGHT** which we began in Epiphany.

Over the summer we planned three “Dinner and a Movie” events. These events were held on Wednesday evenings – June 21, July 19, and August 16. After a potluck dinner, we viewed in three parts **Mission JOY! Finding Happiness in Troubled Times. Mission JOY!** It was filmed during a week’s visit between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama. As they met together, their humor and wisdom are shared amid their joyful friendship.

We began the fall season on September 24th with an in-person luncheon event following our Sunday 10 am service. Jeremy Langill, Executive Minister of the RI State Council of Churches was our guest presenter, and his topic was unpacking the Nicene Creed, discussing those ancient words of faith which is equally foreign and familiar to us.

Beginning on October 4, our Wednesday night book discussion was on **UNCOMMON GRATITUDE: ALLELUIA FOR ALL THAT IS** by The Most Rev. Rowan Williams and Sister Joan Chittister, OSB. This book provided a series of reflections from these two prolific authors “as they offered a sweeping set of things and circumstances to be grateful for, things for which we can sing alleluia.”

Focusing on our commitment to have discussions on antiracism as part of our schedule each year, on Sunday, November 12, our after-church lunch and discussion focused on several exercises from **DO THE WORK – AN ANTIRACISM WORKBOOK** which is written by Kamau Bell and Kate Schatz. Beginning with conversation about awareness, we had excellent table conversations about our world today and our own biases.

For our Advent and Christmas book discussion, we chose **SURRENDER TO LOVE** by David Benner, PhD. This book explores the themes of love and surrender as the heart of Christian spirituality.

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 each day by participating in our blogs. This past year, more than 45 parishioners offered to write a brief blog post on the scripture of the day which is then shared on our website and sent to 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 on the readings and write a blog post 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 14.

Adult Faith Formation Committee

Betsy Fornal, chair

Joseph Gomes

Pam Gregory

Sally House

Patricia Warburton



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 to 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 services. Each team serves for a two-week period about 4-5 times per year.

Judy Elliott, Cynthia Newton, Pat Savage, Kathy Lynch, and Pam Naylor make sure the linens are clean and pressed to set the Lord's table. We are grateful for our wonderful clergy who are always available to assist and answer questions.

We thank Pat Savage for serving as flower chair these past years. We look forward to getting a few people to help with the flower memorials, including Easter and Christmas.

We welcome anyone who might find our group one to find fellowship and spiritual growth in. Please let us know if you would care to join us.

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



BUILDING & GROUNDS

The building committee is responsible for responding to smaller issues and projects that present themselves during the church year.

The present committee consists of myself, Doug MacPherson, and Steve Nichols. Additional volunteers are always welcome.

Projects we have accomplished this years are:

1. Completing the Kitchen Punch List.
2. New hinges and shelf relocations in the sacristy cabinets.
3. Electric light bulb replacements through the church.
4. Constructing and mounting a memorial plaque.
5. Reconstructing the Memorial Ash Box to hold the new ash urns.
6. Wire brushing and painting all outside metal railings.
7. Gluing and aligning several tables in the altar area.
8. Reattaching the holding blocks for the exterior doors.
9. Periodic monitoring of the exit signs and emergency lighting.

A future project of concern is to replace leaking hydrolic door opening units. Many of the doors have these units.

If something around the property catches your eye and needs attending, please relate your concern to one of the members. If we don't know about it, we can't fix it.

Submitted by: Doug MacPherson
Steve Nichols

Gardens and Grounds

For 2023 we have continued to increase our awareness of the environment; its impact on our ability to care for our grounds and the impact of our plantings. We also looked at ways to protect fragile areas.

The cemetery saw some major cleanup around the sarcophagi with the removal of aging hedges that were impinging on the stones. The bush next to the auditorium stairs was also removed, opening up the pathway area.

Many proactive moves were made to improve our environmental impact in our gardens:

The pond was re-established to limit chemical intervention. We currently use Barley extract, barley straw, and oxygen rich plantings in the pond to control algae and provide us with clear water so we can view our lovely fish.

Many native plants were planted around the pond to support local pollinators and improve pond health.

Restoration began on the area around the community entrance that had been dug up during the sewer repair. Holes were filled in, and new soil, compost, and mulch were laid to further the health of the soil in preparation for new plantings.

100+ bulbs were planted in the area near the stairs to the auditorium and at the community entrance to the building. The bulbs will provide us with spring color as well as reducing the appearance of weeds and grass.

Re-usable lawn bags were obtained, reducing future costs for paper bags.

Three discreet green containers are now composting away our leaves, small twigs, and grasses. In the spring we should have leaf mold to benefit the gardens, and by the end of summer we should have our own compost!

I am happy to report that by the end of the summer the results of our efforts have included more nesting local birds, multiple sightings of a local rabbit family, and numerous new pollinators flying around! We have also become a favorite spot for one of the local cats, who frequents the courtyard looking for head pats.

We welcomed Britt Burch to Twilights and John Lukens to Gardens/Grounds this year.

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 Twilights** meet twice a month in the late afternoon for weeding and light planting.

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 2023 there was one interment of ashes in a niche in the cemetery and one interment of ashes in a niche in the memorial garden. There was also one interment of ashes inground in the memorial garden.

Anyone wishing further information please contact Fr Tim, Christina Imondi, our parish administrator, or Jack Newton (338-1064)

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 invite our guests into 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. Several volunteers, who have no affiliation with any local church, have also enthusiastically pitched in to help.

While we routinely served between 80 and 120 guests in the days before Covid 19, our numbers have been a bit smaller since we re-started our dinners in September 2022. Guests and volunteers are always well fed and leftover food is sent to the Hotel on Main Street or the House of Hope in Warwick. We are grateful for the culinary skills of Paul Ruggieri who has recently taken on a leadership role in the kitchen. Ross DiSegna, who manages Tio Mateo's Restaurant, provided our dinner in September. Ross has been a faithful supporter of CCK for many years, and we're always grateful for his contributions.

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. In March our faithful friends from Our Lady of Mercy Roman Catholic Church transformed our dining room and filled our kitchen with delicious scents as they created their amazing corned beef and cabbage tribute to St. Patrick. The October dinner was hosted by the great folks of the United Methodist Church of East Greenwich. The women of the First Baptist Church of East Greenwich contribute baked goods for every dinner, along with the members of the West Bay Women's Club.

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. 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.

It has taken many years to establish the reputation of CCK in the community we serve, and we are grateful for the relationships that we have established with our volunteers and our guests. It has been my pleasure to serve as the organizer of this important outreach for the past nine years

and I thank everyone who has offered their support. As of January 2024, Rob Walsh, Margaret Clifton, and Paul Ruggieri will be stepping in to lead this important feeding ministry, extending a warm invitation to anyone who may be suffering from food insecurity or the need for a caring community.

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.”

The Coffee Hour ministry has had a faithful group of hosts after the 8am service over the last year. A few new hosts signed up to help which is great, however, we need more hosts-especially during the first half of the year when several of our early service hosts are away for extended periods!

The 10am Coffee Hour also has a small but dedicated group of hosts. Please consider volunteering to host one Sunday a quarter. The sign-up sheet is located in the atrium next to the mosaic mural. Many slots are open for February/March.

This ministry is such a joy and so easy to do! Bake or buy some goodies, set up and greet parishioners as they leave the service. It doesn't need to be fancy. Coffee is always made by the St. Luke's staff, so the host simply brings a baked treat or snack, coffee creamer and some juice for the kids. I often bring several jugs of apple juice and keep them in the armoire for anyone to use. There is also powdered lemonade mix that you can whip up and refrigerate while attending the service. Afterwards, simply wash out the urn and other used dishes, store in Blackburn Room and you are done. Marcia or I would be happy to run you through the very simple process of hosting.

Hospitality is as much a gift for us as the intended recipient! Romans 12:13 tells us “Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” This *action* has nothing to do with how we entertain, but instead how we welcome. Please join our group of welcomers!

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



DIGITAL EVANGELISM

I feel comfortable saying that 2023 was an intimidating, but very exciting year for Digital Evangelism at St. Luke's. Since I joined the team in February of 2022, my major goals have been to **reach more families** and **build a strong digital presence** through social media, as well as **establish a clear brand** on social platforms, and **create a strong digital asset library** for future marketing and communications materials. This year has shown immense growth in all of these areas!

In May of 2023, **we created a St. Luke's TikTok account!** While this platform has been a learning curve for all involved, it has been an immeasurable resource when trying to keep up with current social media trends. Our weekly sermon reflections are shared to this channel, and Father Tim and I have stepped out of our comfort zones to create high-performing videos with viral and trending sounds and video clips.

Our initial goal of 2-3 social media posts on both Facebook and Instagram each week has been exceeded most weeks, averaging 4-5 posts on these platforms. This is an accomplishment that I can only take partial credit for, as so many of the photos and videos that we share have been taken for me by our community members. I am so thankful for all the support that I receive from all of you on a weekly basis!



For those of you who may be unfamiliar and/or new to our social media pages, I'll break down some of our weekly content goals, as well as some of the language that you'll see in the data analytics to follow...

Our weekly posts include one 60-90 second reel with a sermon reflection, and 2+ additional posts keeping our current and prospective audience up to date on what is happening in the community and at the church. A number of these posts each week reflect on where we see the Divine in our daily lives, particularly in relation to our time with the faith community. We also boost Facebook events like major holidays and fundraisers, which bring thousands of additional eyes to our pages throughout the year.

I have pulled the most relevant data from our social media channels, taking note of changes from the previous year when a comparison is available. Facebook has the most comprehensive data available of these platforms, but uses much of the same metrics as Instagram, as they are both owned by Meta.

I am looking forward to seeing what we can accomplish in 2024!

Emma Peterson

Social Media Specialist & Digital Evangelist

Terminology to look out for:

Reach: Reach is the total number of people who see the content.

Organic: Organic refers to free, non-paid content shared.

Impressions: Impressions are the number of times content is displayed, whether it was clicked or not.

Interactions: An interaction is any form of communication, including likes, comments, shares, and tags.

Reactions: A reaction is a specific interaction, including Like, Love, Haha, Wow, Sad and Angry.

Engagements: Engagement is a measure of all interactions with social media content.

2023 Social Media Analytics:

2023 Facebook Analytics:

Reach: 47.3K (up 69.9% from 2022)

Reach Breakdown:

From Organic: 22,395

From Paid Ads: 21,385

Paid Reach: 62,930

(up 322.2% from 2022)

Paid Impressions: 207,670

(up 351.1% from 2022)

Content Interactions: 4.3K (up 113.6%))

Followers: 979 (72 new follows)

Link Clicks: 2.1K (up 15.5% from 2022)

2023 Instagram Analytics:

Reach: 7K

Content Interactions: 2.1K

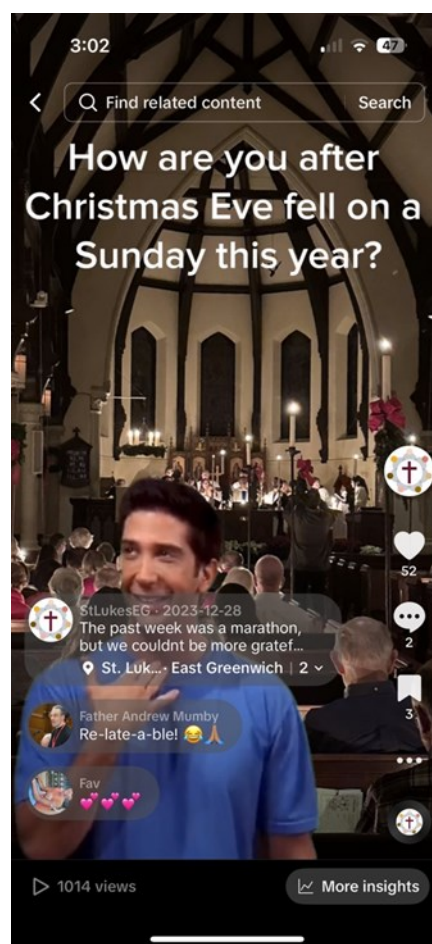
Followers: 459 (133 new follows in 2022)

2023 TikTok Analytics:

Followers: 121

Likes: 851

Posts: 63



Top Performing Posts of 2023:

Facebook:

[Invitation to Service in the Park Reel](#)

4,821 Reach

4,821 Impressions

15 Interactions

[Laura and Stacey Bell Chiming Reel](#)

2,088 Reach

2,088 Impressions

37 Interactions

[Kick-Off Sunday Hype Reel](#)

1,202 Reach

1,259 Impressions

36 Interactions

Instagram:

[God gives us what we need – Sermon Reflection](#)

587 accounts reached

629 plays, 62 likes

[How do we endure in the face of evil – Sermon Reflection](#)

559 accounts reached

597 plays, 58 likes

[Memorial Day Parade Prayer Reel](#)

544 accounts reached

1,070 plays, 42 likes

TikTok:

[Post-Christmas FRIENDS Video](#)

1K plays, 51 likes

2 comments, 3 saves

[Bell Chiming Video](#)

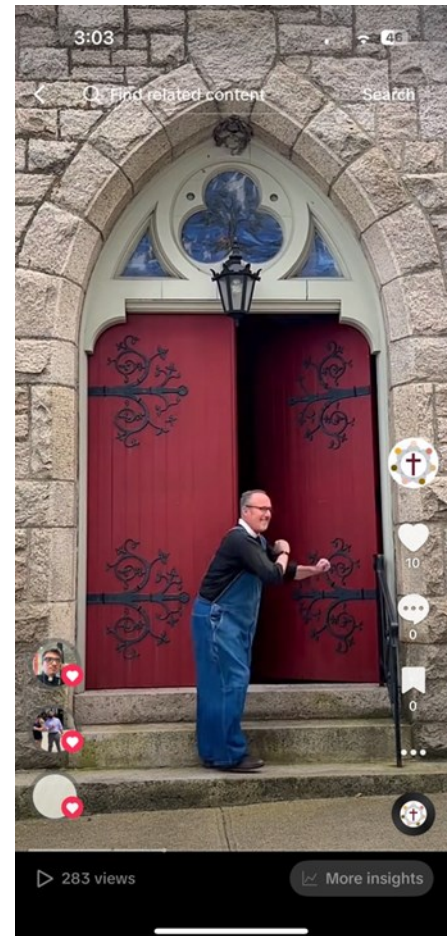
933 plays, 99 likes

1 comment, 4 saves

[We are called to be the good news – Sermon Reflection](#)

652 plays, 16 likes

1 share



Paid Ad Data:***Taizé Service Video Ad***

\$149.98 spent over 27 days
 7 Conversations Started
 2,953 Reach
 50 Link Clicks
 33 Post Reactions

Easter Boosted Event

\$250.00 spent over 29 days
 39 Event Responses
 379 Post Engagements
 278 Link Clicks
 98 Post Reactions

Blessing of the Animals Boosted Event

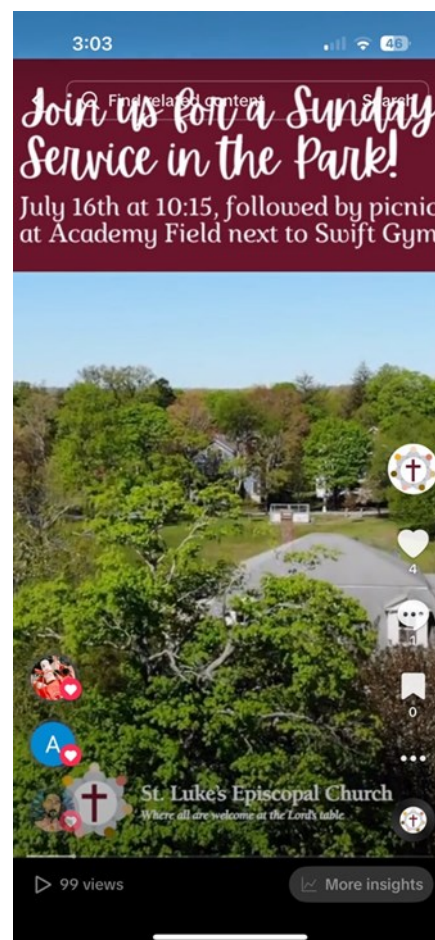
\$50.00 spent over 11 days
 41 Event Responses
 78 Post Engagements
 33 Link Clicks
 32 Post Reactions

Step Out... Step Up! Graphic Ad

\$70.00 spent over 10 days
 4,377 Reach
 161 Link Clicks
 182 Post Engagements

Christmas Boosted Event

\$300 spent over 19 days
 103 Event Responses
 535 Post Engagements
 332 Link Clicks
 176 Post Reactions



FINANCE COMMITTEE

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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: Stacey Nakasian, Judi Nichols, John Rannenberg, Greg de Groot, Lisa Rivard, Fran Gammell-Roach, John Lukens, 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 of Steve McLoughlin, Pam Dresselhouse, and George West. The team performed its examination and submitted its report to the Vestry over the summer. The Finance Committee has addressed and responded to the audit findings, which were minimal. From 2021 through the autumn of 2023, the Committee worked on the Financial Best Practices Document, which was adopted by the Vestry at its October 2023 meeting. The Vestry and Committee thank Stacey Nakasian as editor and John Rannenberg as initial drafter and document "owner" for their work on the document, which went above and beyond in scope and time commitment. Thank you, both, for your efforts, without which the document would still be in draft form and not a "living" and workable reference for our staff and leadership.

At the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023, three long-term members of the Committee resigned: Pam Dresselhouse, Steve McLoughlin, and George West. The Committee was enriched by these members' thoughtful contributions and thank them enthusiastically for their years of service. With the departure of these three individuals, in 2023 we welcomed new members: John Lukens, Lisa Rivard, and Fran Gammell-Roach, all of whom bring a wealth (pun intended) of financial expertise and knowledge and whose contributions to the Committee's efforts in 2023 were gratefully received.

The Finance Committee looks forward to 2024, 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 and Greg de Groot, Finance Committee Co-Chairs

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

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Step Out Step Up was the name of our successful fundraiser. The event was held at Potowomut Golf Club on the Harvest Moon date of September 30, 2023. Over 100 revelers grooved to the DJ as they entered the newly renovated Potowomut ballroom to a sophisticated and inviting decor thanks to the talented Deb Lukens.

The night was billed as a charity event to enhance spaces for engaging the community. From continuing education and leisure learning, to support with addiction, mental health, and other social issues, to concerts and community events, our facility is home to more than fifty events each month and houses two important community support centers - The Interfaith Counseling Center and the East Greenwich Interfaith Food Cupboard. Together, our sponsors contributed \$11,000 to support the upgrade of physical spaces that serve our neighbors from across the West Bay Community.

As guests enjoyed savory hors d'oeuvres, they bid on numerous silent auction items which included various gift cards from local businesses to unique items or experiences such as gardening with Melissa and a Ladies Night Bunko Party! As guests finished their delicious entrees, "The Headliner" Father Tim took to the floor in a glitzy pope ensemble that Vogue is still talking about to begin an entertaining live auction. An array of items were auctioned off which included gateways, a Kentucky Derby party, wilderness weekend with Jonathan Malone, Evening with the Three Amigos and the always popular Gourmet Dinner with Daine & Tim. The night concluded with a full dance floor and a great time had by all!

A special night like this does not happen without wonderfully talented people:

Auction Committee - Sue Clement, Ruth Haynsworth, Judy Horton, Deb Lukens, Mimi West and Merry Whittaker

Fundraising Committee - Deborah Collins, Nora Hall, Shareen Knowlton, Deb Lukens and Holly O'Brien

With this blessed group at the helm, the night netted a whopping \$25,403 in profit!!!

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

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 tenth year of supporting this statewide mobile ministry dedicated to feeding and clothing the homeless and needy of Rhode Island. On the third Saturday of every month for the past 10 years we have carried out our St. Luke’s LFRI feeding ministry in Woonsocket. Our monthly mission starts early each month with the distribution of a Sign-Up Genius list of food and clothing needs. On the morning of the third Saturday one of our volunteer drivers goes to Barrington to pick up the food truck which we share with 11 other churches and brings it to St. Luke’s. Meanwhile, back at the church a team of volunteers makes sandwiches, cooks hot dogs and hamburgers, and put together at least 100 food bags with sandwiches, snacks, and drinks. We set aside 20 of these food bags to take to our neighbors in need at the Greenwich Hotel on Main Street. We also have clothing including socks, underwear, sweatshirts, and coats to take with us. When our preparations are complete, we drive to a parking lot next to a train trestle in Woonsocket where the local needy population tends to congregate. We arrive in a caravan consisting of our truck and 3-6 cars where 5-15 volunteers from St Luke’s and friends from the community are greeted by 60-100 men, women, and children who are anxiously waiting for us. We distribute the food bags, hot dogs and burgers, and drinks for our clients from the truck and distribute clothing and blankets from the backs of our cars. The children and adults are always appreciative of the socks, underwear, sweatshirts, jackets, and other clothing items that have been generously donated. We are completely depleted of food and clothing within an hour.

Throughout 2023 we saw a remarkable change in the needs of the population in Woonsocket. At the beginning of the year there would be around 20-30 people waiting for us as we arrived on Saturdays. As the year progressed, the numbers of people in need of food and clothing increased back to pre-COVID levels of 80-100 or more served. In addition, over the past 6 months we have seen an incredible increase in the number of people living under the train trestle in tents and makeshift shelters.

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. In 2022, 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 17 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, we have been delivering 17-20 bags of food containing enough ingredients for 5 meals for 5 people on the first Friday of every month since October 2022. 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 EG 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 12 partner churches who share resources, including the food truck. St. Luke's Dana Sparhawk is the current president of the LFRI Board of Directors. Last year LFRI conducted over 50 runs on Saturdays with the food truck to Woonsocket, over 30 runs on Sundays to Kennedy Plaza in Providence, over 25 deliveries of 15-25 bags of food and books to schools throughout Rhode Island for needy school children, as well as deliveries of food to soup kitchens and homeless shelters throughout Rhode Island. The LFRI organization has been recognized for its tremendous efforts, and last year we received grants from The Rhode Island Foundation and Episcopal Charities. We also received donations from churches, corporations, and various private individuals.

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 would love to hear from you! 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.

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 year we saw the return of Lunch on the Hill 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 Saint Luke's Community Kitchen. We also continue to provide lunch to our neighbors at the East Greenwich Hotel on a regular basis. 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.

Over the year our lunch guests have grown to see each other as a warm community of support during tough times as well as celebration of good times. The "Community/Family" 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

2023 was a vibrant musical year at St. Luke's. 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 (Jan.-June)/10AM (Sept.-Dec.) celebrations of the Eucharist. I cannot imagine our worship without these fine groups. I was thrilled that all three choirs experienced growth in numbers in the Fall. 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 2023.

The year began on Sunday, January 1, with a beautiful service of Lessons and Carols. The following Sunday, January 8, we offered our treasured Epiphany Pageant for the first time since 2020 due to the pandemic interruption. It was truly a joy to bring back this beloved tradition. Thank you Caitlyn Holmstedt, home during her Freshman year at American University, for directing.

Saturday, February 2, the St. Cecilia Choir joined with the choristers of Grace Church, Providence, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fairfield, CT, for a demanding yet incredibly rewarding choir festival held at Grace Church and led by Dr. Barry Rose from England. Conductor, composer, organist, cathedral musician, BBC producer, amongst other things, Dr. Rose is one of the leading choir trainers of our time. It was a privilege to sing for him, and the choristers triumphed. We are thrilled to be coming together again with Dr. Rose and everyone for another chorister festival this year on Saturday, February 3. The culminating Evensong will be at 4pm at Grace Church, Providence.

Sunday, March 19, the Canterbury and St. Cecilia Choirs offered a moving mid-Lent Choral Evensong at St. Luke's. Early 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 9. June 4, our St. Cecilia and Canterbury choirs and the Amigos performed a spectacular “end of program year” concert. Benjamin Britten's renowned cantata *Rejoice in the Lamb* was the central piece. Additionally, a wide variety of music was sung, and many soloists were featured.

Sunday, June 25, the parish began a celebration of the Centennial of the Goodwin Tower and Tower Bells. For weeks prior and weeks after, Bruce Dearnaley, our chief bell ringer, worked with eight new bell apprentices, including three eager and talented youth - Tori Cormier, Charlie

Knowlton, and Nina Rannenberg. For five consecutive Tuesdays beginning June 27, we and the ³⁶ whole “hill community” enjoyed hour long bell concerts played by Bruce and our other bell ringers. We continue to hear our bells played from time to time by this new group of ringers, and Ben Lovejoy, Bruce Stevens, and Laura Sullivan now assist Bruce regularly each Sunday and on other special occasions. I thank Bruce Dearnaley deeply for his immense gifts of time and talent in keeping our bells sounding now and for generations to come.

In August, St. Cecilia choristers Tori Cormier, Ryan Scarber, Shawn Scarber, and I joined with the choristers of Grace Church, Providence, for a 10-day choral trip to England singing daily services at Salisbury Cathedral and Southwark Cathedral, London. Christine and Jay Scarber also joined us on the trip. The last day at Salisbury Dr. Barry Rose (see paragraph about February chorister festival) led our Evensong. These trips are life-changing in the very best of ways, and Tori, Ryan, Shawn, Christine, Jay, and I will cherish the memories of this trip always.

Sunday, November 12, the Canterbury and St. Cecilia Choirs combined with the Choirs of Grace Church, Providence, to offer a stunning Evensong. Saturday, December 9 found both choirs singing for the festive East Greenwich tree lighting celebration. Then on December 17, the choirs and the Amigos joined together at St. Luke’s to present a joyous Christmas concert. A very special treat this year were the instrumental solos played by parishioners Patricia Cichy (oboe), Roger Cichy (soprano saxophone) and the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Malone (bassoon), plus we got to sing a lovely piece composed by Roger with the composer himself conducting. 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. On New Year’s Eve morning, the choir sang a lovely service of Christmas Lessons and Carols.

Sunday, January 7, 2024, we capped off the celebration of Jesus’ birth with our annual Epiphany Pageant. 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 for a second year. Enormous thanks to Bruce Stevens for stepping up and playing the organ and piano while I was out with Covid.

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

Thank you to Ben Lovejoy, Judy Stenberg, Laura Sullivan, and Bruce Stevens for your phenomenal and inspired teaching in the RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) program with our St. Cecilia Choir. Thanks also to Catherine Pilkington and Geo Borgia for all their 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 2024 at St. Luke's.

Faithfully,
Rodney



NEWCOMERS COMMITTEE

The Newcomer Team was busy as ever over the past year and there is much to show for their efforts. Top of the list of their projects was completion of the St. Luke's Church Directory—produced in print and available virtually. The printed directory lists 345 families, with 129 of these families pictured in the directory. We continue to collect information and pictures from new families, so please contact us to be included in the virtual app and receive a personal ID for accessing the online directory.

The directory could not have been completed without assistance from many of you. Dotty Fleming was the champion of our master list and worked with Jan Burch to confirm information for the final directory submission. What was most memorable throughout this project were the connections, conversations, and laughter that accompanied the production moments when we came together, met new friends, and/or reestablished connections across our community. Immense thanks to all who helped and thank you, parishioners, who participated in making our directory a reality.

Our Welcome Brunch for newcomers, returning parishioners, and anyone visiting St. Luke's in their search for a faith community was held on Sunday, June 11, following the 10:00am worship service. The team took on set up, prep, serving, and clean up as well as preparing food for the event. Our vestry and program leaders also pitched in with food, clean up, and kitchen duty. We are blessed to have such an energetic and outgoing team, not to mention the host of clergy, vestry and program leaders who made for a joyous and informative event for the 14 families (23 adults and 5 young people) in attendance. We look forward to more Welcome Brunch events in 2024!

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, sang along with the Amigos, 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!

We look forward to more new faces at St. Luke's and across the ministries we provide. Thanks to all for coming together and being the community that welcomes all!

Faithfully submitted by The Newcomer Team
Deborah Collins, Jan Burch, Nora Hall, 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 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. 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 2023 our ministry has grown in membership. 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 Margaret Clifton continues to oversee the prayer shawl ministry. 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 had a comparably light workload, coming after an over-active 2022.

We completed three major projects: replacing the first floor carpeting, replacing several faulty windows in the Choir room, and doing some painting in the Sanctuary. In addition, we had the normal number of smaller projects that did not require hiring contractors.

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



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Your pledge makes St. Luke's possible

Once again the stewardship committee worked to design and implement a provocative and faithful commitment campaign. The 2024 campaign was focused on the two related questions of “Where do the Divine and daily meet?” and “Where do you experience the Divine at St. Luke’s?” Individuals and families were filmed reflecting upon those questions and the Walsh brothers created a video which featured responses from a wide variety of parishioners. In addition to this media element, the campaign also featured two-minute testimonials offered by Sarah Curtis, Corie Jacaruso and Shareen Knowlton.

Once the campaign launched, vestry and stewardship committee members served as leaders of cohort groups, communicating directly with individuals from their groups. Midway through the campaign, the rector’s letter was mailed with an enclosed pledge card, inviting parishioners to pledge. Finally, the campaign concluded with a celebration brunch attended by some 120 people. Using a “word cloud” application, we invited those present to shout out their responses to the theme’s central prompts and watched as the most frequent responses grew in size on the screen.

At present time, the campaign has received 188 pledges totaling \$511,008. In the month of January, the cohort leaders will contact those members of their group who have not yet pledged, inviting them to join others from the parish in making a 2024 pledge. In February, cohort leaders will write thank you notes to each pledging member on their cohort list.

Members of the stewardship committee included Deborah Collins, Dotty Fleming, Mike Grady, Jon Jacaruso, Shareen Knowlton, Steve McLoughlin, Holly O’Brien, Anna Pilkington, John Walsh, Rob Walsh, and Bill Warburton.

Peace,
Tim

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 22 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, Deborah, Helen, Lois, Sue, Nora, Ruth, and Mary



THEOLOGY ONTAP

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.

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.

When we wanted to understand the origin and history of the St. Luke's Chapel, 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 continue a long-standing tradition of the 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

Reviving The TOT Christmas Tradition



SAINT LUKE'S USHER MINISTRY

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



The Usher Ministry is made up of ten teams of over 40 men & women who 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 8:00 and 10:00 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 continues to be a group of women who fill my heart each month with love for each other and love for our God. In May 2023, almost two dozen women came together for a retreat at Rocky Hill Country Day School. The rainy weather may have dampened the outdoors, but the spirit of Jesus remained bright and alive in the hearts of those indoors. Thanks to an awesome committee, a great day was had by all. And thanks to our program planning committee: Lois, Pam, Laura, Ruth, Judy, Judith, Sue, and Donna, follows a summary of our gatherings in 2023.

January 2nd: Taking Care of the Physical Self

A presentation from Stretch Lab focusing on health awareness.

February 6th: Getting Gardens Ready for Spring

A presentation by Karen Asher, master gardener and former President of RI Wild Plant Society followed by discussion.

March 6th: An Evening Celtic Service

April 17th: What is she/he saying?

Fr. Tim facilitated a very lively and informative discussion on different communication styles.

May 20th: Women's Retreat at Rocky Hill Country Day School.

What Does it Mean to be a Modern Christian Woman?

June 12th: Celebrating our Christian growth with an end of the year social gathering.

October 12th: Little Dresses for Africa

WofG cut out patterns in the evening. Subsequently over eighty dresses were lovingly made by WofG in the following weeks.

November 6th: *Her War, Her Story: World War II.*

The team of Roger and Pat Cichy facilitated a fascinating discussion of the role of women during WWII.

December 4th: A Yoga Service

WofG experienced yoga and communion to deepen their faith in God.

Women of Grace is open to all women of St. Luke's. This year we were happy to welcome friends and visitors outside of St. Luke's who heard of our programs. The first half of 2024 WofG will continue to explore: The Power of God in our Lives, A Wilderness Journey through the eyes of Pastor Jonathan Malone, A Celtic Service, Environment and its Impact on Us and a discussion on *You are a Wonder Woman* – as a child of God.

Please join us for fellowship on the 1st Monday of the month (occasionally the schedule changes due to a calendar conflict) at 7:00pm in the St. Luke's Community Dining Room. The program begins at 7:30pm.

Grace and Peace,
Deb Lukens



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

Amy Weigand was hired as the Director of Youth and Family Ministries in July 2023. Over the summer, she participated in multiple meetings with Father Tim, Theresa, Rodney, Emma, Christina, and a select group of stakeholders. During those meetings, it became clear that the church was desiring a change in their youth faith formation offerings. Over the past few years, attendance has declined, especially since COVID. Ultimately, it was decided that we would try an eight-week module framework where teachers, students, and families would hopefully have an easier time navigating around different sports seasons, holidays, and school vacations while still providing consistent and thoughtful lessons. Amy's top priority is to excite and engage the youth of St. Luke's through Sunday school classes and youth group activities so that they will establish connections with other youth at St. Luke's and build a community in which participating in the life of the church is something they enjoy and look forward to.

Amy spent her time over the summer researching a variety of resources, themes, and corresponding curricula that she felt might be of interest to our youth. After some careful consideration, she narrowed it down to four modules for the 2023/2024 school year. They are Relationships, Spirituality, Racial Justice, and Climate Justice. Relationships and Spirituality are borrowed from the Virginia Theological Seminary Episcopal Curriculum for Youth and Racial Justice and Climate Justice from Lesson Plans That Work published by the Episcopal Church. Each theme or module spans a total of 8 Sundays, with 7 lessons and a culminating event or project. All the lessons accommodate teacher choice and can be easily adapted for both groups, grades 6-8 and 9-12.

For Relationships, our two middle school teachers were Stacey Nakasian and Theresa Deiters and for the high school teachers, we had Alison Poirier and Tom Sprague. So far, the high school group has struggled to get off the ground often without a single student attending. Middle school on the other hand has a steady 3 or 4 who come almost weekly. As a result, we decided to cut down to two teachers each week and combine groups as needed. We still had Stacey for Spirituality and welcomed Kate Golbitz to the team. Racial Justice will begin in February and Climate Justice in April. We will discuss our teacher and group needs for the last two units very soon.

As far as youth group programming, we're taking things slow and getting on our feet. In October we had 16 kids and 7 adults attend the Jack O'Lantern Spectacular at Roger Williams Park Zoo. In December, the church hosted a cookie decorating party with our amazing creations being donated to Loaves and Fishes. For that event, we had 29 kids and 12 adults! Both events were a smashing success and we can't wait to make plans for the spring!

Overall, we believe that with a robust curriculum, steady attendance, gentle guidance, genuine relationships, and a variety of fun opportunities, we can build something incredible together for our children at St. Luke's. It's most definitely a growing year, but it is exciting just the same.

Godly Play

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. 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.

Respectfully, Theresa Deiters Muscat

