



*St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter*  
Spring 2017

**A Letter from Our Priest-In-Charge**

Dear People of God at St. Luke's,

It seems that this will be my last letter to you so I will use it to say good-by.

To tell you the truth, I don't really want to say good-by but that is the nature of Interim Ministry. I'm not sure I can fully express to you what serving St. Luke's has meant to me. By your acceptance of my ministry, you have restored my faith in myself as a priest as I move finally to retire. Aside from laughing at my corny jokes, you have been instrumental in the deepening of my own spirituality. Your willingness to actively engage in study, of both Scripture and of the books we used for our Advent and Lenten studies, has been inspiring to me and has made me want to go even deeper.

Although it is important that clergy not seek approval of our sermons, your appreciation of the work I do to prepare the sermons has inspired me to work even more and read even more. Many of you have expressed doubts about the whole God thing, yet you still come back, and you still continue to read Scripture and study. One of the things I have come to realize more fully is that it is possible to hold faith and doubt together. We have struggled together on this but I believe God is there in our struggle.

I am 76 and I am here to tell you that one can never stop learning about God and life. I think that is something this community can offer to the larger community, a spirituality for the latter part of life. It is never too late!

I know if I try to thank all of you who have been important to me I will leave someone out, but there are two people I particularly want to thank for their ministry to St. Luke's, and also to me. These are Lisa Lindsay and Corey Walmer. When I first arrived, Lisa was very helpful in filling me in on all the ins and outs of St. Luke's. We have had some great conversations, sometimes about the church, and I will miss that.

Your Deacon, Corey, has also been of great help. As you know, she selects the hymns and writes the Prayers of the People. Although I have veto power on the hymns, I very seldom felt the need to exercise it. Corey considers this part of her ministry and I am grateful to her for her willingness to do this as it relieved me of a very time consuming job. We, too, have had some great conversations and I have enjoyed working with her as a colleague.

There seemed so much more I wanted to say, but you know how it is. Eloquence in the wee hours of the morning escapes us in the light of day. So I will just tell you how much I have loved being your priest and pastor. You will always be in my heart and my prayers. May God bless you on your continued journey with God.

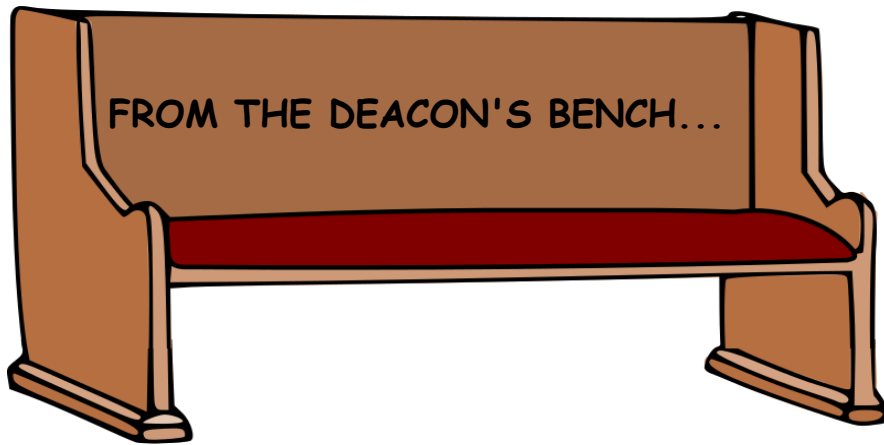
Yours in Christ,

Barbara +



Pentecost is the third major feast day of the church year and some would argue that it is more important than Christmas for this is the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples and the church began. We will be doing several things to mark the day. We will begin outside by the labyrinth. After blessing the labyrinth, we will burn the prayers of the Sunday School children as a symbol of their rising to God. Of course, we will have incense and maybe a few other surprises. I'm hoping for a party, after all it's a birthday!

Barbara +



The past few weeks has brought much change to our community life at St. Luke's. As I look around the sanctuary, there is new flooring, fresh paint, furniture moved every which way and generally, lots of anticipation for the time when the renovation is completed. Our youth group pitched in and raised nearly \$200 toward the project with a lovely brunch and we thank them for their efforts. A note about our youth group: we are very small, but those who attend are faithful and care about the church and their relationship with God. I am grateful to spend time with them and am also thankful to Debbi Hiltz and Lisa Lindsey for their efforts to support the youth group. We plan to have two more meetings before the end of the school year; one to work on a prayer project and the other as a fun activity to celebrate the end of the school year. Stay tuned for details.

Besides the sanctuary changes, we are also preparing to receive our new rector Suzanne Cole and her husband in mid-August. I am excited to see what is next for St. Luke's under her leadership. Along with this, we will be preparing to say goodbye and God speed to Barbara, who has lived among us and holds a special place in our hearts. We will miss her even as we look ahead to the next chapter of our life together.

I continue to stay involved in diocesan activities; I serve on Diocesan Council, the Deacon's Board and the Living Local diocesan team. I also recently attended the Spring Training event, as did several other folks from St. Luke's. I attended workshops on music (surprise!) as well as Dinner Church and Messy Church. Others attended workshops about vestries, aging, storytelling scriptures and more. If you haven't attended a Spring Training yet, I encourage you to take advantage of this event next year!

As a heads up, I plan to be gone for three Sundays this summer: June 25, July 2 and July 9, but I will be back after that! My mom has also arranged her vacation around our lobster roll preparations so she can lend a hand.

I am blest to be a part of the St. Luke's family and am thankful for the many ways you all show love to each other and to those outside our walls. Blessings as we move forward on this journey.

~Corey Walmer

### A message from the Sr. Warden



Dear fellow parishioners,

It's time to celebrate! God's grace, as well as our prayers and discernment process, have given us a new rector! Her name is Suzanne Cole. For the past three years she and her husband Jack, a school photographer, have resided in Hulls Cove, Maine where Suzanne has been Priest-in-charge at Church of Our Father. They are also the parents of three adult children.

Our discernment committee, so ably run by Brenda Holman was unanimous in its recommendation of Mother Sue to St Luke's. She impressed everyone as a community oriented, down to earth, joyful and energetic servant of God, who is deeply committed to both her faith and the service of others. She was ordained in 2002, and served as Rector of Christ Church in Walton New York from then until 2014 when she and Jack decided to head to the coast of Maine. And now with eager anticipation, we welcome them both to the glories of the western foothills!

Suzanne will begin her St. Luke's sojourn with us on Sunday, August 11. In adherence to diocesan tradition, that means Barbara's last Sunday will be July 16th. So, as I said, it is time to celebrate, both the long anticipated arrival of our new priest, as well as Barbara and all the ways her wonderful wit and wisdom and spirit have contributed to the life and times of St Luke's. Stay tuned for the dates and places.

With a grateful spirit,  
Michael Cooper

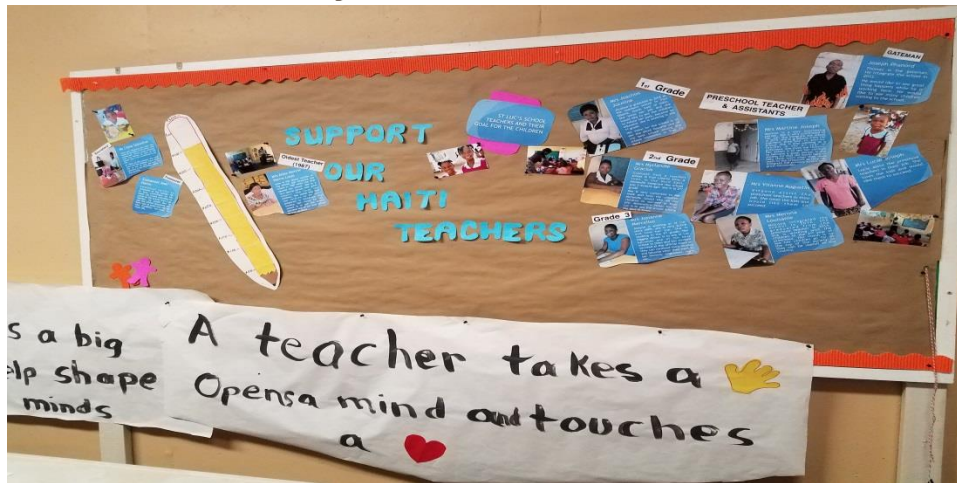
## Vestry Doings

I want to thank the Vestry for the hard work they have done over the past year and a half. They have been willing to tackle some difficult issues, such as the Sanctuary renovation, which is finally being realized. I hope that starting with prayer and Bible study will continue as I think that has helped us put our work into perspective. Leading a congregation during an interim time can be difficult, but your vestry has taken on the challenge with grace and joy. Most recently they have agreed to read the book “Dignity: The Essential Role it Plays in Resolving Conflict” as part of their retreat work. This book has been promoted by the Diocese and been the subject of two Clergy Days.

And, in an effort to foster more communication, individual vestry members will be assigned to a Sunday, much like our readers are, to serve as a sounding board or conveyer of information. They will be identified by a name tag. Be on the lookout.

BJC+

## St. Luke's Sunday School



This last quarter we are finishing up with Moses from the crossing of the Red Sea to the Israelites' time in the wilderness. We have done some unique crafts and experiments to remind us of the Bible story. Our Bible verses are not only spoken but also done in sign language. The Sunday School also raised over \$700 for teachers at the school at St. Luc. We are a small group but mighty in learning Bible lessons.

~Justy Nazar



## Church Library

The library has not seen much in the way of circulation in the past few years. Last Sunday, with the assistance of Rev. Barbara Barth, the non-fiction was weeded out. There are many books to be taken for free. Left overs will go to a book sale. I will be working on processing new books this summer.

There is a wonderful section of Christian Spiritual Journals called Weavings. Some titles are: Grace Abounding, Many Gifts, Steward of Creation, and many more. They were donated by Richard Joseph. As they are not cataloged there is paper and pen at the library to write the title, your name & the date.

Feel free to make use of our church library.

~Justy Nazar

### Barbara's Artwork

Several of you have asked what I am going to do when I retire. The answer is simple - paint. I hope to devote more time to that endeavor. Others have asked if the paintings in my office are for sale. YES, they are. Please speak to me if you are interested.



~BJC+

### The Church Website, Social Media

This week I had a good call with Heidi Shott from the diocese and she helped me with a few tricks that I need to try for more improvements to the website. After *years* of considering putting St. Luke's on social media, we are now on Facebook. I see it as an extension of the website—easier to share current events to a wider audience which will become more important as we invite performers to use our improved space. I encourage you to Like the page and invite your friends to Like it, as well. Go to our website: [stlukeswilton.org](http://stlukeswilton.org) and you will see the Facebook add button. ~Lisa



Greetings, fellow parishioners!

I hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. I just realized that I will have been church secretary for four years next month. That means I'll be on my fifth lobster lunch fundraiser this summer. The years fly by. I have lost my Special Assistant Nora to full-time school but she, and sometimes Toby, will be back with me this summer. Find us here or at swim lessons across the street!

So we are about to travel that journey again together where we are without a priest in charge. This time, however, we have experience and the knowledge that things will settle down again soon. While we wait for Mo. Sue to start after Barbara's departure, please let me know if there is anything you need from the office. Deacon Corey is also a great resource, especially if there is a need for pastoral care during this transition. Special thanks to the Discernment Committee for their dedication and for their faithfulness in calling a new rector.

I am not very good at goodbyes. I usually get around this by pretending they are not imminent. I have learned a lot from Barbara. She knows her way around office equipment, has a sense of humor (thank the Lord), and an always ready ear for your secretary. She has blessed us with her sermons and Bible studies and evening book and study groups. Thanks, Barbara, for guiding us through this transition. We are healthier for it.

Our family will be on vacation July 22 – 29<sup>th</sup> and during that time, you can contact Michael Cooper or Carolyn McLaughlin with immediate needs. I will remind you when the time comes. Recently, I went to a meeting with my fellow Parish Administrators from around the diocese. We get together twice per year to share ideas, documents, the latest software, etc. I returned with lots of great resources, particularly regarding transition. I will be attending the diocesan adult retreat at Bishopswood the second weekend in June and look forward to sharing my experience this year.

I am constantly grateful for this work. I always feel loved and appreciated and like I can give a little back. Thank you! See you in church.

~Lisa Lindsay

### HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS!

*Do you know someone who could use convenient gift card?*

*Would you like a simple way to support the church?*

Hannaford Gift Cards are a simple solution! *Using the card for regular purchases and gifts benefits the church, as St. Luke's receives 5% of every \$1000 purchased, an easy way to support valued programs at St. Luke's. It really adds up!*



*Please see Tony McLaughlin for more information.*



It maybe only May, but I am already thinking about the lobster lunch fundraisers, our biggest of the year. Just a note about the dates this summer so you can mark your calendars: We will deliver to the Farmington area on **Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**, the day before their Summer Fest. We will *\*not\** be selling in the park this year. On

**Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**, we will deliver and do the tent sale in the front churchyard. All hands on deck.

Announcement: The St. Luke's Tea will be on vacation for the summer and will return the third Wednesday in September. Thank you to Janet O'Neil for hosting this monthly gathering.





## Where Go the Boats?

*By Robert Louis Stevenson*

Dark brown is the river,  
Golden is the sand.  
It flows along for ever,  
With trees on either hand.

Green leaves a-floating,  
Castles of the foam,  
Boats of mine a-boating —  
Where will all come home?

On goes the river  
And out past the mill,  
Away down the valley,  
Away down the hill.

Away down the river,  
A hundred miles or more,  
Other little children  
Shall bring my boats ashore.

## For Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love:

So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and forever. Amen.

~BCP p. 815

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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## St. Luke's Who to Contact

<b>Priest-In-Charge</b>	Mo. Barbara J. Clarke	645-2639 or 645-2103
<b>Deacon:</b>	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5252
<b>Sr. Warden:</b>	Michael Cooper	897-6387
<b>Jr. Warden:</b>	Carolyn McLaughlin	645-2312
<b>Clerk:</b>	Jeannine LeVigne	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Dick Condon	

## ***Other Vestry Members:***

Tony McLaughlin, Carolyn McLaughlin, Elecia Pillsbury,  
Michael Cooper, Ed Ferreira, Michelle Ouellette

<b>Secretary:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
<b>Altar Guild Director:</b>	Chris Cox	645-2829
<b>Eucharistic Ministers:</b>	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5752
<b>Church School:</b>	Justy Nazar	645-2783
<b>Acolyte Mentor:</b>	Brenda Holman	778-3397
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Lisa Lindsay	645-2639
<b>Episcopal Church Women:</b>	Carolyn McLaughlin	645-2312
<b>Lectors/Lay Readers:</b>	Rev. Corey Walmer	778-5752
<b>Search Committee Chair:</b>	Brenda Holman	778-3397