



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter
September - October 2017

A Letter from Our Rector



A New Beginning

One of the first items I found on the desk of my office was a book entitled, "New Beginnings--A pastorate start up workbook". It was left for me by your interim, Rev. Barbara Clarke. She has much experience with starting in a new parish and knows what all

of us need to start off on the "right foot".

Starting off right involves working together as a team. The congregation and the priest need to learn about each other before anything else happens. In order to help this learning along, I have posted a sign-up sheet for lunch dates between me and the parish members. Please sign up on the dates listed, and if they do not work for you, let me know and we can find what is best for you. Another way to get to know each other is for me to visit you at home. If you have a date in mind, feel free to call the office and let Lisa know or call my cell phone at 607-434-2148. I should have a landline by this newsletter's publishing, and will make sure it is listed.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you at St. Luke's and thank you for the wonderful gifts, cards, and warm wishes of welcome!

Blessings,
Mother Sue Cole

Senior Warden

Dear Parishioners,

There have been a lot of changes here at St Luke's in the last few months. The big one of course has been the hiring of Mother Sue as our new rector. What a perfect fit she is! We have truly been blessed, just as we were blessed with Barbara, our Interim, and Corey, our Deacon, although it's been difficult to say goodbye to two such wonderful people.

The fall is shaping up. The two most pressing issues on my mind are finishing of our chancel alterations, and a long term plan for St Luke's music ministry. Moving forward is sometimes a very slow march, almost imperceptible some of you might say! True, but I have faith the tempo will pick up soon.

I also want to say that I am honored to be holding the position of Senior Warden at this time, and hope that you all feel free to tell me what your concerns and suggestions are for a well-functioning vestry and parish here at St Luke's. Communication is so very important, and I pray its roots grow deeper in me every day.

Blessings,
Michael Cooper

Church Library



St. Luke's does have a small church library. What's neat about it is that there are no due dates or fines. You just write your name on the card & the date taken out. Put the card in the box and the book is for your reading pleasure or enlightenment. This past year older books have been weeded out and 13 new books are being added to the collection. Books like, *Why is God Laughing*, by Deepak Chopra or *Stitches: A Handbook on Meaning, Hope, and Repair*, by Anne Lamott. We are still a work in progress but do check us out (pun intended).

~Justy Nazar

Sunday School



This fall we will again be using Deep Blue Curriculum for early elementary students. The fall session began with Hannah praying for a child and continues through Solomon dedicating the temple. Bible verses will again be learned in sign language. We will use the God box for prayers by the children and a chain using church seasonal colors for thanks to God.

The Sunday school at St. Luke's is small but mighty. To start their time, they gather around their sacred space and offer prayers for themselves and others. The young children love the craft projects—a hands-on way to better understand the lessons. The Sunday school runs from September – May at 8:45 – 9:30 am and is for children in kindergarten – 5th grade. Instructor Justy has been working with children for many years. She continues to volunteer at the public pre-K here in Wilton.

~Justy Nazar

The Junior Warden Report

With summer almost behind us, it's time to turn our thoughts toward the winter season and to focus on things that need to be done soon. The roof was patched two years ago and at that time I was told that we have several breaks in the shingles and that at least half of the roof should soon be shingled again. I am now waiting for a quote from roofer and in his opinion whether it would hold until spring. More to come on this later.

Sign Works replaced some lettering on the front sign and placed Mother Sue's name on it as our rector. We recently purchased a new table for the Sunday School as the old one had been repaired so many times it was deemed and destined to be in the yard sale!

Repairs to the down stairs flush has at last been completed. The on-going altar project will continue when the carpenter becomes available later this fall. Once completed, I will arrange to have both upstairs and down carpets shampooed. Watch for a notice in the bulletin for a date to clean up leaves from the maple trees once they fall!

~Carolyn McLaughlin



The Church Website, Social Media

Have you “liked” St. Luke’s Facebook page? If not, please do and share with your other friends on Facebook! We only post about once per week so as not to annoy and we are careful about what we do post. I am trying to keep the website current, as well. If you have anything you would like posted, please let me know.

~Lisa Lindsay

Halloween at St. Luke’s

The town of Wilton has decided to close off High St. again on Halloween night to allow trick-or-treaters to be able to walk freely without fear of traffic. There will also be a trunk-or-treat at Kinneowatha Park. All this means that St. Luke’s will be very busy. We had over 250 last year. Here’s what we will need:

- *Two carved pumpkins for jack-o-lanterns
- *Apple cider—six + gallons
- *Candy, candy, candy
- *In addition to donations, we need kitchen angels (to supply the upstairs with cold and hot cider), two people to serve cider, and two or three to hand out candy. Costumes strongly encouraged.



~Lisa Lindsay

Volunteer Opportunities at St. Luke's

If you have been a member of St. Luke's for any length of time, you know that volunteer opportunities abound. Here is a list:

*Bulletin Boards: Justy brought it to my attention that we could really use volunteers to spruce up the bulletin boards—there are several around the undercroft. The priority is the one over the coffee hour table. A fall theme? Something that inspires us? Get creative! Enlist a friend. Let me or Justy know if you need craft supplies!

*Altar Flowers: While not a necessity, traditionally we have flowers on either side of the altar for the service. There is a white board in the sacristy (that room off the sanctuary where Mother Sue and crew get ready for the service) where you can pick a Sunday and sign up. If you would like to have a memorial or dedication printed in the bulletin, just tell Lisa in the office by the Wednesday before.

*Coffee Hour: I feel like coffee hour is an important ministry of fellowship. There is usually someone here to help make coffee and do dishes. Signing up for coffee hour means bringing in snacks to share with your fellow parishioners. You have surely noted the beeline most of us make to the coffee table. Welcomed snacks include fresh fruit, cut veggies, crackers and cheese, DONUTS, homemade baked goods...There is always a sign-up sheet on the coffee table if you would like to contribute some Sunday(s). Thanks!

*Bake Sale: On the second Sunday of the month, Brenda Holman runs a bake sale to benefit St. Luke's. Baked goodies and even casseroles are very popular. There is no sign-up, just bring your homemade treats to church that morning.

Upcoming:

*Fall Clean Up—stay tuned in October for word from Carolyn McLaughlin, our Jr. Warden.

*See my article about Halloween above!

*Thanksgiving Pie Sale—watch for sign-up sheets in November for bakers for our yearly pre-order only pie sale on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving!

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.



For the Chipmunk in My Yard, By Robert Gibb

I think he knows I'm alive, having come down
The three steps of the back porch
And given me a good once over. All afternoon
He's been moving back and forth,
Gathering odd bits of walnut shells and twigs,
While all about him the great fields tumble
To the blades of the thresher. He's lucky
To be where he is, wild with all that happens.
He's lucky he's not one of the shadows
Living in the blond heart of the wheat.
This autumn when trees bolt, dark with the fires
Of starlight, he'll curl among their roots,
Wanting nothing but the slow burn of matter
On which he fastens like a small, brown flame.



A prayer for Our Time and for the Earth

Dear God, Creator of the earth, this sacred home we share;

Give us new eyes to see the beauty all around
and to protect the wonders of creation.

Give us new arms to embrace the strangers among us
and to know them as family.

Give us new ears to hear and understand those who live off the land
and to hear and understand those who extract its resources.

Give us new hearts to recognize the brokenness in our communities
and to heal the wounds we have inflicted.

Give us new hands to serve the earth and its people
and to shape beloved community.

For you are the One who seeks the lost,
binds our wounds and sets us free,
and it is in the name of Jesus the Christ we pray.

Amen.

From The Episcopal Church House of Bishops meeting in Fairbanks, Alaska (Diocese of Alaska)



An ingathering to the United Thank Offering will be included in the closing worship of the October 28th Diocesan Convention. Churches are encouraged to hold a congregational ingathering and bring checks for the offering at

Convention. Envelopes are in the pews if you would like to participate. Mother Sue will announce the date of the in gathering here.

What is UTO? The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity. UTO is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the monies to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Treasurer:	Dick Condon	

Other Vestry Members:

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

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