



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter

Early Pentecost 2016

From Our Priest-in-Charge

Dear People of God at St. Luke's,

I had written a rather dense discussion of worship and then I decided to offer something different in honor of Trinity Sunday, May 22. One person in our church has said we seem to be saying the Nicene Creed by rote. One of the things I do for Trinity is have people recite the Athanasian Creed for a change. It's found in the Historical Document section of your prayer book, p. 864. But I offer yet another way of looking at the Trinity in my Credo, which I also often recite on Trinity Sunday.

For my theology class in seminary we had to develop our own credo and support it with appropriate documentation. My theology professor was a Barthian, which means he was very traditional. But as you will see, I have reversed the order of the persons of the Trinity so that we start with the Holy Spirit and then proceed through the other persons. I could give you the rationale for my credo but the paper is back in Brewer. My main thesis is that if all the elements of the Trinity are equal, then it shouldn't matter in which order we recite them. No rote recital here.

Yours in Christ,

Barbara+



Credo by Barbara J. Clarke

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I believe in the Triune God, three in one, one in three, the God who forever lives in loving, dynamic community, and the God who is forever in loving conversation with the creation.

I believe in the one God, the Holy Spirit, who moved over the waters to create order out of chaos, who was, and is, and will be the ultimate giver of energy to the universe. I believe in the Holy Spirit that is present with me, gives me life, and empowers me to witness to the Word of the Spirit in the world.

I believe in the one God, the Word, Jesus, the Christ, the anointed one, conceived by the will of the Holy Spirit, born to a peasant woman Mary, wife of the carpenter, Joseph. He taught in the synagogues and in the country, he healed the sick, gave hope to the poor in spirit and wealth, the marginalized, and also the rich. He preached the Good News that the people are loved, that God desired relationship with them, that all are included in the kingdom of God. He proclaimed

the breaking in of the reign of God on earth. For his radical preaching and his love, which gave him freedom from the powers and principalities, he was killed on the cross. But death had no power over him, for on the third day, he rose from the dead and was seen by the disciples, first Mary Magdalene and then the others. I believe in the always present Christ, present now, present from the beginning and present forever. In this Christ, all are included, all are desired to be present at the dance of life.

I believe in the one God, Creator Spirit, Holy and Anointed One. Who was and is and ever will be. From God's womb came forth all that is, all the planets and their suns, all the creatures, big and small. I believe in the broken-hearted God, who weeps for Holy Spirit's creation and suffers with the broken-hearts of humanity. I believe in the liberator God, who desires that the creation be free from the oppression of perceived worthlessness. I believe in the joyful God who resides in our hearts.

I believe in life everlasting, feasting with the triune God, three in one, one in three, who was, is, and ever will be. AMEN.

The Deacon's Corner

LABYRINTH... THE SAGA CONTINUES.....



This past week, several gathered to dig holes, haul out rocks, dig out grass and spread very ripe compost on the garden area of the labyrinth. We are into the second phase of our project, to create a beautiful, inviting space for our friends, neighbors and ourselves to sit, pray and walk. Once the shrubs and trees have been planted, we will mulch, plant grass seed, add a

bench and signage as well as an informational brochure, which will be available in a plexiglass box for all visitors.

So, how does one use a labyrinth, anyway? Labyrinths are used as a tool for spiritual growth and to promote self-reflection, stress reduction, and quieting of the mind. Labyrinths have been described as a pattern with a purpose. The many turns along the path can represent the mystery and journey of life, as we change course, retreat, advance, and wind our way through. Experiencing a labyrinth is a chance to take a break from our busy lives. Consider walking a labyrinth as a gift to yourself.

Here's what I do: I pause at the beginning of the path and ask God to walk with me through the journey of the labyrinth. I ask for an open heart. I take one step at a time, intentionally, recognizing that each step along the path is meant to be, kind of like my life, in God's loving hands. Others may be walking their own paths, as we do in our community of St. Luke's but all of us is on the way to a deeper connection with God. Once I reach the center, I close my eyes and thank God for the journey then, I turn around and go back the way I came. The path outward seems different,

somehow, than the journey inward. It seems like an invitation to go out into the world, refueled by the Spirit.

Stay tuned; we will be planning a labyrinth dedication, hands-on instruction and also, possibly a moonlight walk for the community. Thanks to all who have shared their time and resources to make this labyrinth possible. It is not too late to contribute if you feel so inclined. It truly is a gift in honor of all the saints of St. Luke's.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.... AN INVITATION TO PRAY



Over the past several months, we have tried several types of prayers of the people; some are fairly generic with opportunities for our own intercessions; others may be somewhat more structured with themes of the readings incorporated. None of the recent prayers of the people have been directly from the Book of Common Prayer, however, we have used the basic guidelines as prayers have been constructed.

Your deacon is open to having others contribute prayers for our communal intercessions and thanksgivings. If you feel God calling your name, please speak to Corey about helping to craft prayers of the people. This would be a collaborative effort. Thanks!

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP FORMING!

Interest has been expressed in forming a youth group for members of our congregation and their friends. As kids age out of our Sunday school program, the need for ongoing formation and community is increasingly important. Here's the thinking: A few folks will plan a monthly (to start) event that includes cooking a meal together (with instructions for the kids), a bible study and discussion as well as opportunities for outreach activities in the community. The first event will be happening in June, prior to the end of the school year. Please talk to Deacon Corey for more information. This is going to be GOOD!

A thank you...

Thank you for your prayers, love and support at the loss of my good friend Melissa this past week. I can't describe how loved we felt as St Luke's friends brought a meal, flowers and loving wishes. You all were truly God with skin on to us. Thank you again, for being Christ to us.

~Dn. Corey Walmer

PRAYER (for the beauty of the earth)

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of the earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. Amen.

~Book of Common Prayer, p. 840

Joining God in the Neighborhood

Our diocese is encouraging Maine congregations to go outside their church walls to encounter God in the community. On a recent Saturday, I joined a large group of Maine Episcopalians gathered at Christ Church in Gardiner to hear about the need for going out and to participate in exercises and discussion about ways this can be done -- and is being done now.

We began with Bible study, reading Luke 10:1-12, "dwelling in the word," and sharing responses to the reading. I recommend this passage as a good way to begin thinking about going out -- or, rather, being sent out -- carrying the gospel. Then Craig Van Gelder presented statistics showing the decline in church attendance and religious affiliation, indicating the necessity of going out if we hope to reach people. After lunch we went out in small groups to walk around the neighborhood, then reconvened to share what we had observed. Next Craig Van Gelder described four types of congregation: reactive, developmental, transitional, and transformational. We were asked to decide which description best fit our own congregation and then join others from churches of the same type and tell what we were doing to put us in that category. I decided to identify our St. Luke's as "transitional," not so much because we are in transition between priests as because I sense we are in the process of changing and want to move in a new direction. The big question (to which I did not get an answer) is what is that new direction and how do we head that way? I hope we will have conversations about that. In the meantime, if you would like to explore the "God in the Neighborhood" idea some more, I suggest you read the book *People of the Way* by Dwight J. Zscheile, which you can find in St. Luke's library or borrow from me.

~Emily Scribner (escrib@myfairpoint.net)



Update on our Haitian Partner

St. Luc's, Trou du Nord, is doing well. Their new priest in charge, Sadoni Leo, there for about six months now, has come with energy, management skills, and ideas. In December, he visited our co-partner St. Alban's in Cape Elizabeth. Marianne Richard and I attended the service there that he took part in and enjoyed talking with him briefly afterward. Earlier this month, St. Alban's Fr. Tim Boggs and a parishioner made a quick visit to Trou du Nord. Fr. Boggs has shared his impressions from that trip.

Pere Leo wants to make St. Luc's one of the best schools in the region. Steps he has

already taken to move it in that direction include arranging a teacher training session by a Port au Prince training group; moving toward French, rather than Haitian Creole, as the language of instruction; providing students with a cooked meal every day (something always in the plans, but not previously implemented regularly); and ensuring that families who can do pay tuition. All teachers' salaries formerly in arrears have been paid, partly with money from St. Alban's and also with money Pere Sadoni raised in Haiti. Fr. Boggs found the school neat and well furnished. There is now a garden on the grounds which it is hoped will provide vegetables for the student meals.

In addition, Pere Leo has given new life to the church. Attendance has increased, especially by students and their parents. There is now a youth group with about 20 young people, led by a young man who is a coach.

One of St. Alban's fund raising projects is now a water purification system, which it is hoped will not only provide clean water for the school, but may make it possible for St. Luc's to sell water as well.

In his trip report, Fr. Boggs says "We have come home with a renewed sense of confidence, enthusiasm and hopefulness for our partnership and the prospects for the entire St. Luc's community." We at St. Luke's in Wilton are blessed to be part of this partnership.

~Emily Scribner



St Luke's Tea

The Wednesday afternoon teas have continued for the third year. Attendance has varied with at least a dozen parishioners coming during the year. The fellowship has been continuous. There is no set agenda except to socialize and enjoy each other's presence with tea and goodies available. The tea is open to everyone from

the congregation and is usually held the third Thursday of the month from 2:00 – 4:00 at the home of Janet O'Neil.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

This last quarter of Children's Sunday School we have been focusing on the Catechism. We have talked about the New Covenant, Trinity, what church means to us and the creeds. The Sunday our supply priest spoke of the Athanasian Creed we had just looked at it in the Historical Documents in the prayer book. We have been a small group and have had some lively discussions on God's Word. Our last Sunday will be June 5th until next fall. ~Justy Nazar

Notes from the office

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this newsletter—it belongs to the church so I appreciate receiving updates to include. Everyone wants to hear about your ministries and what you are passionate about. Very soon after this newsletter goes out, we will be launching a new website. Many of the "bones" of the current site will remain, but there is a different look and feel. For example, there will be a slideshow on the homepage, a calendar, and it will look and function less like a blog. This new site was offered to us by the diocese for free, and it comes with free

technical support. We couldn't say no! It is still a Wordpress site but with customization by a designer hired by the diocese with the intent of gaining more consistency in the web presence of all churches across the diocese.

A yearly reminder that my hours become rather inconsistent over the summer as I have both kids with me and they attend lessons at the local park. This means we are back and forth often both in the morning and afternoon, so call ahead if you really need to catch me in the office. Otherwise, I am faithful about answering emails and phone messages so please feel free to contact the office anytime. Thanks to everyone for allowing us that flexibility. I am attending the adult retreat starting June 17 and then going on vacation for the rest of that week, returning on June 25th. Messages and emails will be checked and, of course, Mo. Barbara Clarke will be here.



A short note about LOBSTER ROLLS. The decision was made to *not* sell lobster rolls in the park at the Farmington Summer Fest this year. We will sell by pre-order only by delivery to the Farmington area on Friday, July 22nd and again, two weeks later, on Blueberry Festival Friday, August 5th. You know you'll be hearing lots more about this as we get closer and we start asking for donations and volunteers! Please mark your calendars in the meantime.

Finally, continued thanks and prayers for our priest-in-charge, Barbara. I appreciate her knowledge, support, and sense of humor.

~Lisa Lindsay

Visit from Knights Templar, June 26

(It has been two or three years since we were joined in worship by the Knights Templar so I asked Sir Knight Jeffrey C. LeDoux to provide an article to enlighten us about who they are and what they support. I am grateful to Jeff for his contribution to our newsletter.)

Originally they were known as the Poor Knights of Christ and the Temple of Solomon, or, more simply, as the Knights Templar. These were the original 9 Knights in 1118 AD. As they grew they became the "Pope's army" or soldiers of Christ. They ultimately grew in stature and power through around 1300. In 1307 Philip the Fair King of France and Pope Clement V conspired and in October of that year charged the Order with Heresy. Outlawing them and excommunicating them. The Last Grand Master Jacques Demolay and his two lieutenants were tortured and after admitting their "crime" to the inquisition were burned at the stake. Many of the order fled, their "treasure" was not found, and many of them joined other orders or went to other countries. As it now stands a Vatican Librarian has found documents that exonerated the Templars.

The current Knights Templar are 200 years old this year. We are still a Christian Order and as such adhere to the teachings of Christ our Redeemer. In order to become a night Templar one must first be a Freemason, then become a member of the Royal Arch Chapter of Royal Arch Masons and Council of Royal and Select Masters. While we are not a religion we do adhere to religious

principles. Freemasons profess a belief in a Supreme Being, and those of us as Knights Templar express a belief in the teachings of Christ.

We support four main philanthropies.

1. The Knight Templar Eye Foundation which provides research grants for the study of eye diseases and the research to find better ways to treat them.
2. The Roger Crockett Scholarship fund which provides scholarship monies to students planning to attend a 2 year institution of higher learning.
3. The Grand Encampment Scholarship fund that provides scholarships to students attending 4 year institutions of higher learning.
4. The Holy Land Pilgrimage which will send a minister to the Holy Land, all expenses paid. In this way the minister gets to walk where Jesus walked and see what Jesus saw. In talking with some that have made that trip, they were very impressed with the results.

~Jeff Le Doux

HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS!

Do you know someone who could use convenient gift certificates?

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. *Please see Tony McLaughlin for more information.*



THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Bake and Buy Sundays: Every Second Sunday after the 9:30 service. Please consider donating (and purchasing!) homemade baked goods. Tell your friends and family! Please contact Brenda Holman if you can assist this ministry.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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