



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Newsletter

Epiphany 2014

Letter from our Rector



Dear People of St. Luke's,

Some time ago Steven Spielberg made the movie "Hook," starring Robin Williams as Peter Pan and Dustin Hoffman as Captain Hook. It was a wonderful movie, but I bring it up for an exchange that takes place between Hook and Smee, who tells the Captain, "I've had an apostrophe!" "I think you mean Epiphany," says Hook.

This is the Epiphany edition of the newsletter, and I don't guarantee any epiphanies, though perhaps a few apostrophes. One of them for me was continuing to reflect on the session we had in which several people described particular ministries they do. That theme is continued in this newsletter: there is an article

about lector training, a date on which acolytes are being recognized, and an article from our secretary on what she does.

This ministry theme is particularly appropriate for Epiphany, which is about the light of Christ shining forth, and one obvious way that happens is through folks' ministries. Also, the theme is timely as we continue to reflect on where we go from here this year. I am well aware that we're probably all a bit tired of the "C" word—change; but it continues to go on regardless. How we continue to adapt to it will depend on a variety of factors, including our own budget and how St. Barnabas' is doing. But *whatever* form adaptation takes, how we frame it is crucial. The question will be do we have the imagination and faith to trust God for new life and new possibilities. In saying this I feel a little bit like Tom Sawyer saying, "Whitewashing this fence is a blast!" But in truth, there is opportunity in all we face—which brings me back to the theme of ministry. I think we're all invited to grow in ours.

Please note I'm not talking about inventing yet more ways in which to be busier than we already are. Instead, I'm thinking of focusing on what we're particularly equipped to do. For instance, given my own time constraints my church new year's resolution is to major in my gifts (and delegate some other things). I believe that God has indeed equipped us to be who we're called to be, and that as we move forward in whatever way we're led, we will find new opportunities awaiting us. We'll need a bit of imagination, faith, and hope—which God will be happy to supply!

Blessings and peace,

Fr. Tim



Grace Place Update from Rev. Corey Walmer

Grace Place after school program will resume on Friday, February 7 at 3:30 pm and run through May 23. We will be focusing this semester on the life and ministry of Jesus: as a child, teacher, healer and savior. We will also be sharing Palm Sunday and the Easter story. We are grateful to Laurie Guay, Jen, John and Kathryn, Rick, Alison, Fr. Tim and Corey for their efforts to share the Good News with area kids. As always, we welcome offerings of healthy snacks for our kids as well as donations of funds to help with the purchase of needed supplies. We also welcome your presence; we often need adult hands to help out with craft or cooking projects.

Ministry Matters

Ministry Matters features a guest columnist each newsletter.

Church Secretary

When Fr. Tim first approached me about this job, I had just enrolled in a real estate course to become a sales agent. I said I was interested but continued with the sales course and passed, completely uninspired. I am at a place in my life where I don't have a lot of time, but I'd like to make a little money and have some fulfillment outside of kid/home duties. I decided I could do one job at the moment and chose the one I felt would provide more meaning.

Once I got settled in post-training (thanks to Gwen and Emily), I realized quickly what this job's priorities are for me. The first is to support Fr. Tim's/St. Luke's ministries. The second is to make sure that our sacred Sunday is taken care of. This means getting the bulletin and illuminations right (if you hear me grumble or see me shake a bulletin, there's a typo or worse). I go around the church straightening kneelers and pews. And Nora and I usually stop for a prayer or hymn while we're at it. (Fear not, I only sing solo when the church is empty.) My other priorities include fulfilling requests from parishioners and vestry members and getting the word out about St. Luke's—via the newsletter, the website and in my own life.

Honestly, my challenges are not many. Fr. Tim is not exactly an overbearing boss/priest and I admit to enjoying not working in an office full of cubicles. My hours are flexible and little Nora comes to work with me and Toby too when he's not at school. Having the kids can be a blessing and a curse! I thank you for your patience when you've called or stopped by while a Disney movie blasts in the background. There are some crunch times that are usually anticipated—getting out the newsletter or during events. Figuring out the Wordpress website was a temporary challenge, but the kind I enjoy.

Fr. Tim's projection of calm, caring and love is a gift. Corey is also a constant source of encouragement and gratitude. Fr. Tim asked that I include in this article the joys and rewards of this job so I will end on that note. The job, like the church service, brings me peace. Peace to all of you in the new year.

~Lisa Lindsay

Haiti Trip November 2013: Emily Scribner



It was the continuation of former acquaintances and my return to places visited before that made my time in Haiti last November even more meaningful than previous trips. Now that Pere Louis, our partner parish priest, and I know each other better, we understand each other better and our conversations can go deeper. Now I can find my way around Institution Univers, understand its routines, and be more helpful than the last time. Having seen the countryside and a little of Cap Haitien two years ago, I could notice more and make more sense of what we were seeing.

Our team of eleven Mainers began our visit with the regular Sunday morning worship service at Ouanaminthe's large Baptist church. The two hour service was filled with exuberant, powerful choral music.

The school week was devoted to helping out at Institution Univers in Ouanaminthe, a non-denominational Christian School with kindergarten through high school which teaches English from the early grades on. Most of us served as teacher's aides in both elementary and high school classes. A few of us also worked with more advanced and ambitious students preparing for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). All the students, even those who only waved to us in passing in the corridor or grabbed our hands on the playground, seemed to enjoy having us there. We were especially moved by personal stories the older students shared with us.

On Saturday we made a hotel in Cap Haitien our home base and from there traveled out to visit our partner St. Luc's Church and School, St. Barnabus Agriculture School, and the trade school of St. Esprit in Cap Haitien. Kyle Evans, the American missionary assisting Suffragen Bishop Beauvoir, was our guide. Dan Tuttle, an American doing a survey of Episcopal schools in northeast Haiti, was with us for a while and shared some of what he had learned.

At St. Luc's, Pere Louis greeted us and showed us around. I presented him with the suitcase full of school supplies donated by the people of Wilton St. Luke's. I was very pleasantly surprised by how nice the school looked, with fresh paint, rooms all very clean and neat, even a little grass growing in the yard. In the church there was a white cloth on the altar and rows of chairs all ready for service the next day. The school has a new principal and with Pere Louis now there full time is functioning more smoothly. However, it is struggling to adjust to a major change. Because President Martelly is supporting free public schools, church and private schools are losing students. Now instead of continuing to increase the grades offered by adding one each year, St. Luc's has eliminated the upper grades. Because the building is now large and solid, thanks to help from our co-partner St. Alban's Church in Cape Elizabeth, there are rooms waiting to be put to good use. Last summer, during school vacation, Kyle Evans held a week-long leadership development workshop there for Episcopalians from across Haiti. Bp. Beauvoir and Pere Louis' long term plan is to use the space for (continued on page 4)

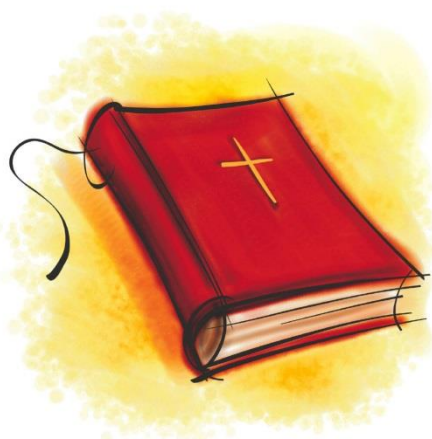
(Haiti continued)

vocational classes. They are ready to go except that they need electricity. There is a power line across the road and the school building has a place ready to hook it up; but making the connection costs \$1,000, which they do not have. During our visit, Pere Louis emphasized the need for electricity.

At the last minute we Mainers decided to leave Cap Haitien a day earlier than originally planned in order to avoid the national holiday on Monday and the predicted civil disturbances. That meant we missed worshipping on Sunday with Episcopal partners. (As it turned out, the violence was mostly in Port au Prince, with only minor demonstrations in Cap Haitien.) There is no overlooking Haiti's intolerable dysfunction and poverty, but just as apparent are the beautiful people full of faith, hope, loving kindness and joy.



CALLING ALL HOLY READERS!



The Book of Common Prayer tells us the ministry of lay persons is to *“represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world and to take their place in the life, worship and governance of the church.”* As we begin this new year, it is important to stop and take note of the many ministries that take place fairly seamlessly at St. Luke’s. One of those ministries is that of lay readers, those who read Holy Scriptures aloud for the assembly. This is a sacred ministry and one that is often not acknowledged; for all those who have taken their place at the lectern over the years, WE THANK YOU! We would also like to acknowledge St. John Craig, who has quietly and faithfully recruited readers over many years’ time. John has recently resigned from the ministry of lay reader scheduling and for the time being, Deacon Corey will be taking on this role. We are most grateful to John for his efforts over the years.

As a way of enhancing the role of the lay reader in the life of the church, we will be offering a brief, **mandatory** training for all interested in liturgical reading, followed by commissioning on Sunday, February 2 at the 9:30 am service. Training will be offered on Wednesday, January 29 at 7 pm and Saturday, February 1 at 9 am. Please let Corey know which training you would prefer to attend. If you are unable to attend one of the trainings, please talk to Corey and she will make accommodations. Thank you again for taking your place in the worship of the church!

Annual Meeting

This year our annual meeting will be January 26th. The service will be at 9:30, followed directly by the meeting. As is our custom, we will “eat and meet,” which expedites the process. The hospitality committee is working on this, so if you have any questions related to food, please speak with Brenda.

The annual meeting is always an important occasion to gather, elect new vestry, adopt a budget, and reflect on where we’re going and give thanks for the past year. Please join us for this important piece of community life.

Advance Notice of Bp. Lane’s Visit

Bp. Lane will be visiting St. Luke’s on Sunday, April 27. That seems a long ways away, but it isn’t. In weeks to come I will be conducting a class called “Episcopal 101” for folks who want to prepare to be confirmed or received or simply want a refresher. We’ll cover some basic things about how we use the Bible, what’s in the Prayer Book, how we do things. This is always an enjoyable time for me, and I hope it will be for you as well. If you have any questions, or are wondering if maybe this might be helpful, talk with me.

Santa's Workshop

A big thank you to everyone who assisted with Santa's workshop from getting posts to the school, purchasing gifts, setting up, working the workshop day and cleanup crews. We had a successful day. We fine tune the program each year and will do so again next year. Information about Santa’s Workshop lives on the St. Luke’s website year-round for anyone interested in donating items or getting involved next year.



Before



During!

HANNAFORD GIFT CARDS!

Did you know that using Hannaford Gift Cards for regular purchases and gifts benefits the church, as St. Luke's receives 5% of every \$1000 purchased? This is an easy way to support valued programs at St. Luke's!

Please see Tony McLaughlin for more information or to purchase.

Please remember our Food Pantry needs this season!

For the month of **January we will collect CANNED TOMATOES**

for **February we will collect EVAPORATED MILK**

and for **March we will collect TOILET PAPER**

These collections will be for the food pantries in Farmington and Wilton

Please bring these items to church with you. Thank you!

*United Thank Offering (UTO) is a spiritual practice found throughout the Episcopal Church. When we find ourselves thankful for something, we put some change--it can be any amount--in "the blue box." Once or twice a year this small change is gathered up to become grants which make a real difference. **We are currently in need of a UTO Coordinator**, whose primary job is to put together the ingathering and remind us to use the blue box. If you might be interested, please see Fr. Tim.*

<http://www.stlukeswilton.org>

St. Luke's new website continues to fill out and is current with information and posts of interest. It is very easy to share a post to your Facebook or Twitter. If you would like to "follow" us to be notified of new posts, simply enter your email address in the box located in the upper right of each page.

Let me know if there is an upcoming event or something you want to write about that you would like posted to the website and I can help with that.

~Lisa



WECO LUNCHES – Second Saturday's January – April

On the second Saturday of the month, Wilton Ecumenical Community Outreach (WECO) is offering a free lunch of soup, bread, and dessert, followed by time for informal socializing. The lunches run January through April. The first two are scheduled for **January 11th** from 11 am to 1 pm at the Wilton Methodist Church and **February 8th** from 11 am to 1 pm here at St. Luke's. All are welcome!



Crucifer Levi and Acolytes Toby, Cady and Cooper on Christmas Eve

Acolyte Training Schedule

Jan. 12thMeet with Fr. Tim

Feb. 9thTraining, Acolyte Recognition and special coffee hour!

March 9th ...Training

April 13thPractice for Easter

May 11thPractice for Pentecost

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~BCP, p. 213

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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St. Luke's Who to Contact

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|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Rector: | Fr. Tim Walmer | 645-2639 or 778-5252 |
| Deacon: | Rev. Corey Walmer | 778-5252 |
| Sr. Warden: | Janet Morris | 778-6019 |
| Jr. Warden: | Rick McKinney | 897-1029 |
| Clerk: | Irene Berry | |
| Treasurer: | Dick Condon | |

Other Vestry Members:

John Sytsma, Carolyn McLaughlin, Jeannine LeVigne, Janet O'Neil, Carole Trickett

****Vestry members list subject to change. New members will be elected during the Annual Meeting.**

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|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| Secretary: | Lisa Lindsay | 645-2639 |
| Altar Guild Directress: | Ann Prentiss | 778-2300 |
| Eucharistic Minister: | Rev. Corey Walmer | 778-5752 |
| Church School: | Justy Nazar | 645-2783 |
| Acolyte Mentor: | Brenda Holman | 778-3397 |
| Newsletter: | Lisa Lindsay | 645-2639 |
| Episcopal Church Women: | Carolyn McLaughlin | 645-2312 |
| Lectors/Lay Readers: | Rev. Corey Walmer | 778-5752 |