

WLTAL

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THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

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December



Thanksgiving Greetings from the Wardens

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We have so much to be thankful for here at St. Luke's; our worship, outreach and warm fellowship, just to name a few. Fundraising endeavors proved very successful in November. The Run Sherry Run event raised \$2860 for the CNY Autism Society, and we raised \$2056 at our Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction to help fund our outreach programs! Lots of fun, fundraising and fellowship! A few people asked if we might make the dinner and Silent Auction an annual event!

Our Rector's search is in full swing and the Search Committee has already completed skype interviews with potential candidates! We ask for your prayers for both the search committee and the candidates as they discern in this process. Soon we will be celebrating the call of our new rector! That said, we will soon be saying farewell to our incredible interim, Mother Kathy. Remember, she told us she would be with us only during our transition, and would help us through that process. So, stay tuned for (secret details) as we plan to celebrate Mother Kathy's ministry with us!

One last, but not least item, the Diocesan Convention was held November 11-12. St. Luke's was well represented by Mother Kathy, Vladimir Hart-Zavolli, Sam Leitemann, and Bambi Carkey. One of the highlights of the convention was "A Conversation with Bishop Elect, the Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan- Probe". She introduced us

to her family, then asked if we would share what about our life in the Church brings us joy. That was a timely and insightful question following a contentious political campaign and election. We were able to focus on what brings us together, our shared values, and our joy in Jesus Christ! The Rev. Dr. Duncan- Probe will be ordained and consecrated as the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of CNY on Sat. Dec. 3, 2016, a joyous occasion indeed!

*Blessings to all in this Season of Advent,
 Bambi Carkey & Jeryl Wright
 Wardens*



As we enter Advent...

The days grow darker earlier and our lives get busier with planning the holiday season. We are aware that the world is changing around us. Some of that change is quite wonderful – we will consecrate our new Bishop DeDe the first Saturday of the month! Some of the change is uncertain – which rector candidate is the ‘right’ pick? And will that candidate feel the same way about us? And when will these changes take place?

Other changes are even less certain. Will the new administration, coming into office in January, bring the changes they’ve promised? We hope new jobs are created, that the middle class is shored up and the poor find relief. Other promised changes are worrisome – how will the threatened round-up of undocumented immigrants take place? We’ve heard rumors of internment camps and reminders of the round-up and mass deportation of Mexicans (and American citizens of Mexican descent) in 1954. We are already seeing a rise in hate-crimes – we’ve had two Episcopal churches desecrated with hate words and symbols recently.

We’re entering the season of darkness, but we must remember that this season is also a season of hope and preparation. It’s a time for discernment. What do we do now?

I recently read a meditation on the disciples’ confusion in following Jesus. It was posted to a website called ‘Episcopal Café’ and was written by Kristen Fontaine. She writes that she finds it hopeful that even though the disciples so often are confused by what Jesus says to them, they still follow and they still take action. Yes! Isn’t that also where we live! ‘Where in the world is God in this mess?’ is a question I often ask myself – not very faithful, perhaps, but often what I feel. And then I wonder, ‘What do I do now?’

We’ll be asking ourselves this question many times throughout the next couple of months because of all the changes we face. Now that Bishop DeDe is here, what do we do now? When your new Rector begins his or her work with you, what will you do? What will I do?

And what do we do if we see our neighbors and friends (and family, too) facing hatefulness and discrimination? What do we do if we feel our government is not living up to our values? What do we do?

Kristen ends her meditation with these words:

*Do the thing that you can do. Be persistent in faith and in actions
and follow in the best tradition of the slightly clueless disciples
who paved the way for a whole new faith.*

Do the thing that you can do. Whatever that thing is. That’s the thing that God is calling us to do. We can’t do everything. We can each do something. Mary could carry the Christ-child. Joseph could protect and care for her. The donkey could carry Mary. The barn could shelter the couple. The shepherds could look for the child and then celebrate. The Magi could bring gifts that would help pay for a getaway to Egypt. And then they could find a different route home.

Do the thing that you can do. May the Christ-light burn brightly in us and may we bring light and hope in the darkness.



Kathy+

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Here are a few organizations to help us discern what we can do now to help our community and country:

Episcopal Public Policy Network – the arm of the Episcopal Church that contacts governmental agencies with the concerns raised at General Convention

Website: advocacy.episcopalchurch.org

Episcopal Peace Fellowship – Episcopalians working for peace around the U.S.

Website: epfnational.org

Interfaith Works – located in Syracuse, an interfaith group working on behalf of immigrants, the aging, and the needy in our area.

Website: interfaithworks.org

Fellowship of Reconciliation – the oldest peace organization in the U.S. Interfaith and a great resource, there is a local chapter in Ithaca.

Website: forusa.org

Lunch Bunch

ALL are welcome to join us on Tuesday, December 6 at Kirby's Restaurant in Westvale at 11:30 am for our annual Christmas Luncheon. Bring a wrapped gift (\$1-\$2) and get a gift. We have to let Kirby's know how many to expect, so please call Gerry Wright, Pat Smarzo or Pat Marrs and let them know you will attend.

Search Committee Update

The Search Committee has received the names of the candidates for our Rector position. We have scheduled preliminary interviews via the ZOOM software. Once we have completed the initial interviews, we will do reference checks and schedule the in-depth interviews. When we have completed our search process, the top candidate(s) will be invited to visit our parish. They will meet with the Vestry, tour the rectory, talk with the Bishop and deliver a sermon to the combined Search committee and vestry.

The Search Committee will recommend our chosen candidate to the Vestry and the Vestry will then complete the process of calling our new Rector.





Roast Pork Dinner and Silent Auction

St. Luke's held their second Fall Roast Pork Dinner on November 5. This year it was combined with a Silent Auction. It was a glowing success.

There were many very nice items which were auctioned. Items included jewelry, gift baskets, cheese boards, cutting boards, hand turned wooden bowls, gift certificates to local restaurants, an aquarium with 3 months of service, S.U. basketball tickets, a quilt rack and

a quilted table runner, to name a few. A nearly overflow crowd of 120 attendees enjoyed the dinner – many of which were walk-ins attracted by advertising. The dinner and auction raised \$2056 to support St. Luke's ministries. A festive atmosphere, good food, and a worthy cause made for great fellowship.

Thanks to all who made it possible and to those who attended. It will become an annual affair.



Mother Kathy looks very pleased with her winning bid.



Outreach News

The Thanksgiving food drive is winding up and we have, once again, given generously to help fill the shelves of the St. Charles food pantry. We have prepared the items from the mitten tree to be donated to St. Charles food pantry. This year so far we collected 68 hats, 47 pr. of gloves, 22 pr. of mittens, 8 scarves, 5 pr. of socks, 2 hat and glove sets, 1 hat and scarf set, 1 pr. ear muffs, 3 shirts, 1 baby hat and booties and 2 pair of child size shoes. The tree will remain up for 2 more weeks so there is still time to add to our donations.

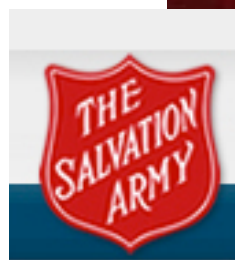
We will be creating 36 new client welcome kits for the Meals on Wheels clients. We have found a source for 4 ml. plastic bags with an integrated handle. These new bags will be an improvement over the paper bags we have used in the past, and be more convenient for the drivers that deliver for Meals on Wheels.

We will supply a gift for the Meals on Wheels clients again this Christmas. In the past we have hand-crafted a gift with the youth group and we hope to be able to do this again in the future; however, this year

the gift is a snowman diorama that lights up and changes color.

By the time this Vital Signs go to press we will have Angel Tree gift tags. The request for our 60 tags was made on October 23 and we are still waiting for them to be mailed.

We will be presenting a check for \$2800 to the CNY Autism Society. This is the result of the \$1400.00 in pledges made by our congregation to support Sherry Brescia as she ran in the Empire State marathon. Sherry generously offered via her company to match our contributions.





THANKS & PRAYERS

december

We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...

Marilyn Farrell, Nolan Brown, Ann, Peter, Mark, Carol Ann, Helen, Elizabeth, and Christine

(Note: Call the church office to add anyone to our Sunday prayer list. However, the name will stay on for only one month. You must call each month to have the name put back on the list)

Also Members of the Armed Forces:

Note: We will continue to pray for our loved ones serving in the military, but only for those who are deployed in harm's way. Please call the church office to submit a name.)

Happy Birthday

- 5 Bill Bishop
- 6 Cathy Martin
- 8 Carolyn Woolworth

- 11 Francis Smith
- 16 Renay Kelley
- 18 Jill Nightingale
- 24 Michael Bille
- 28 Diane Goldych

Happy Anniversary

- 20 David & Elisabeth Beebe
- 28 Bill & Lori Erlenback



Greening of the Church



Everyone is invited to help with the greening of the church on Sunday, December 18 after the 10:30 a.m. service. After all your hard work decorating the church and Christmas tree, you are invited to stay for a simple lunch.

Christmas Service Hours

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
AT 8:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY SOLEMN SERVICE
AT 9:00 A.M.



New Years Day - One Service at 9:00 A.M



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