

WITALL

signs

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 13 Issue 7 July/August 2016 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York



Genesis 8:22

"While the earth remains, seed time and harvest, And cold and heat, And summer and winter, And day and night Shall not cease."



SUMMER VACATION FOOD DRIVE

In the latter part of June when school gets out for the summer the kids celebrate, but for the parents who struggle to put food on the table there is constant worry. During the school year children receive breakfast and lunch at school. The Outreach Committee proposed a special six-week food collection to help stock the food pantry at St Charles to sustain struggling families over the summer.

The collection began on June 5 and will end on July 10. Please join us in this initiative and make this summer food collection a HUGE success. Thank you for caring and sharing.

- July 3 Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta
- July 10 Canned Vegetables and Apple Sauce



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Congratulations to Michael Brescia, son of Sherry Brescia. Mike graduated from West Genesee High School and will continue his studies at Onondaga Community College in the fall.

Drive Thru BBQ

St. Luke's held their annual drive-thru Chicken BBQ on Saturday, June 18. As usual, the folks from Tony's Restaurant did a fine job of supporting the effort with their grilling skills. The meal consisted of 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes and coleslaw. Thanks to Fran and Reggie Smith, Joan Conley, Milt and Mary Stevenson, Kyle Bova, Mother Kathy, Bob Shafer, Kathy Kinane and Jeryl Wright for their dedicated help on a very hot day.

Parishioners who did not drive thru, missed a great event!



“Bidden or not bidden, God is present.”



This quote is on a plaque in my office. Carl Jung had it carved over the door to his home and on his tombstone. He found it in the writings of Erasmus of Rotterdam, who attributed it to a Delphic Oracle... To me, this quote is the answer to the question “Where is God in this mess?” God is present in our lives, whether we ask for God’s presence or not. God is present in all of our moments of joy and equally present in our moments of loss. God is present at the slaughter of the innocents. God is present in all of humanity’s war zones. God is present when we are the best we can be. God is present when we are at our worst.

There are moments when it’s difficult to imagine God’s presence and we reel in despair. As I write this article, we’re coming to grips with America’s worst mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, and remembering the mass shooting in the Mother Emmanuel Church in Charleston, SC, just one year ago. What can we do to work for peace? How can our voices make a difference in a culture so steeped in and immune to violence against ‘the other?’ Where is God in this mess?

God is present. God is with us. God is with those whose lives have been turned upside down by violence. God is with those working for justice. God is with the family members of the victims and the families of the perpetrators of violence. God is even with the perpetrators. The Spirit longs to lead us, longs to work in and through us, to love the world through our words and actions.

What ought we to do? Listen to what the Spirit asks of us. Allow ourselves to be open to God’s love for those like us and those unlike us. Remember that we are all God’s children, each in need of love and forgiveness. Take heart and remember that out of death comes new life – we are Easter people, after all. Remember that bidden or not bidden God is present.

Summer Blessings,

Kathy+



Holycow Analysis

When looking at the analysis it is good to keep in mind that the 6 responses to the questions are grouped into three categories. Those categories are: Clearly agree, clearly disagree and on the fence.

Holycow's database includes 1,154 churches that have taken this survey. This indicates that we can rely on the validity of the analysis.

It is also important to recognize that we have an aging congregation. The demographics from the survey indicate that 89% of the survey responders are 55 or older.

The top 4 goals identified in the survey are.

1. Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
3. Provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life.
4. Develop ministries that work toward healing those broken by life circumstances.

3 Other strong goals identified are:

1. Work as an advocate for social and institutional change so that society might better reflect the values of the kingdom of God.
2. Work to renew and revitalize the community around the church by building coalitions with partners that share this vision and commitment.
3. Willingness to try new things musically.

Robin Strain did our analysis and tells us that we are a stable congregation but are suffering from malaise. She sees that many of the congregation members are reluctant to get involved in our ministries. Robin suggested that this may be the result of a former management style.

Theological perspective indicates that we may need a new rector who is moderate theologically but is able to develop diversity in worship around scripture. That requires the ability to allow others to believe what they believe and respect each other despite the differences.

It is also suggested that we need someone to walk along side of us and support us in our efforts to effect change. We also need to have a well-articulated plan to evaluate change and decide to keep the change or let it go. When considering changes we need to ask what we would miss, what are we willing to embrace and how will we adjust.

We have a congregation that is reluctant to commit to long term service to a ministry but are always willing to sign-up and volunteer on an event by event basis.

The survey suggests that we are struggling with our Spiritual vitality. That indicates a need to explore and develop faith, explore formation and connect that faith to everyday life.

In order to allow our new rector the ability to focus on strategic leadership this will require expanding the role of our lay people.

Overall 46% of our members are clearly satisfied with things in our church. This indicates a level of vitality that is typical for churches across the US. This provides a good foundation for new endeavors; however a higher level of vitality is required for growth.

Our survey shows we have a strong commitment to this church and are ready for movement and change.



Before you know it, the outreach Treasures and Bake sale will be here. The date is Saturday, July 16. We are inviting vendors to set up outside for free. Their presence lets the community know that there is an event happening. Let your family, friends and neighbors know that we are accepting donations for treasures beginning on June 19. The last day for donations is Tuesday, July 12. Baked goods will be accepted from July 14-16. A signup sheet for bakers and helpers will be up on June 19. Please help make this year's fundraiser a big success.

Update from the Wardens

Dear Friends,

What an exciting time at St. Luke's! The Search Committee for our next Rector has completed our profile and will publish it pending approval of the vestry at our next meeting Monday, June 27th. We are entering into an exciting and challenging time in our search process! Many thanks to our Search Committee for their hard work! In early August we will know who will be our new Bishop. The special convention to elect the new Bishop will take place on August 6th. Delegates to that convention from St. Luke's are Bambi Carkey, Vladimiro Hart- Zavolli, and Sam Leitermann. We now have five candidates for Bishop. There will be "walk abouts", (opportunities to meet the candidates) in July. The "walk abouts" are scheduled as follows: Wed. 7/20 6 p.m.- 9p.m. Trinity Church, Watertown What an exciting time at St. Luke's! The Search Committee for our next Rector has completed our profile

Thurs. 7/21 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. St. Peter & John Church, Auburn

Fri. 7/22 6 p.m.- 9 p.m. St John's Church, Oneida

Sat. 7/23 1 p.m.- 4 p.m. St. Paul's Church, Owego

Since Auburn is closest to us, we will organize a carpool from St. Luke's, for those who want to go. Please visit the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York, The Search for Our Eleventh Bishop website for information on the candidates. Please give your feedback to St. Luke's Delegates! We have had two successful fundraisers this Spring, the Delta Sonic Car Wash and the ever popular Chicken Dinner Drive - Through. And, we have the annual Treasure and Bake Sale in July! We are thankful to all who support our efforts!

Our "Seeds of Faith" garden is growing, the sun is shining, and we have much to look forward to and celebrate at St. Luke's this summer!

Blessings to all! Bambi Carkey & Jerry Wright, Wardens

A Different New Year's Celebration

This year I had the opportunity to visit Cambodia during the Cambodian New Year celebration April 13-16. The day I arrived was the first day of the New Year. The official start was at 8 p.m. My friend's oldest son prepared the tray of fruit for the offering table. There were also cans of milk, drinks, candles, flowers and greenery on the table. At 8 p.m. everyone stopped what they were doing--we were finishing dinner-- to light incense and pray to the new angels and watch a dramatization of the changing of the angels on TV or, in our case, the ipad.

The next day I went out to Kampong Speu to visit with my friend Poch and his family. Water is

a big part of the celebration, so we ventured to a park not far from the house where young people were involved in an organized water fight. Spending time with family and eating are other customs for celebrating the New Year.

When we returned from the water activities, Poch's siblings were already present and were busy making a huge feast of my favorite Cambodian food--banh chao. This was a massive undertaking as there were about 30 of us.

On Friday we were at Poch's brother's house in another province. That evening we visited a number of different pagodas to experience the local activities. At the first pagoda we did the

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THANKS & PRAYERS

july & august

We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...

Christine, Annabell and Hannah Baker, Ann, Mary, Nancy, Elizabeth, Mike Greene, Arlene Gardner and Peter

(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 July Birthday

- 10 Mary Jane Olson
- 14 Julia Catalano
- 15 Carolyn Muratore

- 17 Carrie Widrick
- 18 Mary Ellen Hoag
- 19 Arlene Gardner
- 20 Audrey Lunson
- 23 Mike Greene
- 27 Barbara Puchalski

Happy July Anniversary

- 6 Reg & Frances Smith
- 20 Morris & Mary Parish
- 23 Robert & Joan Coulter
- 29 Luis & Patty Mendoza
- 30 Dick & Shirley Chrisfield

Happy August Birthday

- 1 Jane Wiley
- 2 Gary Carkey
- 7 Donald Olson
- 8 Martin Kaszubinski

- 10 Barbara Greene
- 13 Olivia Hart-Zavoli
- 15 Kathleen Hart-Zavoli
- 23 Joan Conley
- 29 Cheryl Young
- 30 Sharon Hoare
- 31 Wendy Snyder

Happy August Anniversary

- 19 Milt & Mary Stevenson
- 23 Gary & Bambi Carkey
- 24 Martin & Debbie Kaszubinski
- 29 Mike & Barbara Greene

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers can be given in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for a special occasion. We have July 24, 31 and August 14 open for altar flowers. Please call the church office 487-1771 to reserve a Sunday.



NEW ADDRESS: FR. ED CALDWELL

The Hearth at Greenpoint Apt 239
 150 Old Liverpool Rd, Liverpool, NY 13088
 315-200-1305

MARK YOUR AUGUST CALENDAR FOR TOWPATH DAY

August 13, 10-4:00

Theme: **Stepping Back in Time on the Erie Canal**

Free admission and parking, shuttle cart transportation from DOT.

Rotary 5 K Mule Skinner Race at 9 A.M. Fun for the whole family!

We will transform the Museum area into a Village Green. Artisans will surround the perimeter and center stage will include a Maypole and entertainment by the Morris Dancers, Gospel Singers and a visit by Suffragettes.

"Kids stuff" will feature Make and Take, Home Depot crafts and old fashioned games. Packet boat and wagon rides will bring you along the canal. Visit the Mules. Enjoy the craft venues and demonstrations. Great food and music by Diamond Someday and the Soda Ash 6.

Above all, please help Bob Shafer turn ice cream at the St. Luke's booth.

For more information, call Liz at 391-7020.



New Years continued from page 6

traditional washing of the Buddha statue, then lit incense. After a short prayer we walked the area around the Buddha statues, stopping at each corner to place a stick of incense in a pile of sand and offer a prayer. When placing the incense in the sand we also took some sand from a bucket to add to the pile. From there we checked out the modern Khmer music, then the



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more traditional music where they were having a traditional line dance competition. The monks were presiding over this event.

In the early evening of the final day of the New Year celebration we were back in Kampong Speu. In the early evening we all walked down the street to the new park area we had visited on Thursday. This time there was music and dancing, and kids were driving little motorized go-carts free range. (You had to be careful or you would be run over!) I felt like it was a miniature version of the chaotic driving of the adults driving on the roads. Poch gave me some lessons in traditional Khmer dancing. I am not very coordinated, so I either had the steps correct or the hand movements. I couldn't get them working together!

Kathleen Hart-Zavoli

A vibrant community bringing all to God's healing embrace.