

VITAL

signs

THE PULSE OF SAINT LUKE'S PARISH LIFE

Volume 20 Issue 7 July/August 2023 St Luke's Episcopal Church Camillus, New York

Ask, and it shall be given
you; seek, and ye shall
find; knock, and it shall be
opened unto you:"



Matthew 7:7



Warden's Report

Sunday attendance remains steady with a handful of persons Zooming in. That technology does provide a means of staying faithfully present when traveling or feeling under the weather. A solid 10-12 faithful Monday Bible Study folks are taking a short summer recess. Father Jon does a great job organizing this effort and we'd encourage anyone to join in whenever you can. If you're a bit curious, you can find bible study notes and materials under On-Line Resources via our website.

Outreach wise, we continue to graciously provide food to the St. Charles Food Bank and they remain very grateful for the contributions St. Luke's makes to their pantry. The shopping chart seems to regenerate itself week to week. We're sure those in need who are dependent on other's generosity is greatly appreciated.

Building and maintenance wise, progress continues on the repair to the basement wall on the west side of the sanctuary with the final engineering design going out (hopefully) this week. We will be soliciting bids from three construction companies who have all visited St. Luke's and expressed interest in doing the work. They are Drulyk Construction, The Basement Brothers and Mid-State Basement. We will be asking them to provide their proposal within two (2) weeks of receipt. We recently had two (2) fire alarm activations in June/July. One did not result in trucks coming, while the other did. Volney Multiplex Inc. was in twice and finally replaced a sensor in the Parish Hall basement. All sensors and alarms have been quiet since. Also, in June we had our annually contracted bee exterminator in to spray around the building where there was a need.

Our energy consumption for the first half of the year is running below average despite some heated weeks. As we have discussed our electric supply will now be provided by National Grid thru their variable rate structure. We expect this to add cost to our energy bills as we had

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been under a "fixed" rate for the last few years and enjoyed the economies associated with this plan. Our gas supplier (ENERGO - formerly Marathon Gas) will continue to provide natural gas until May 2025. NY State's requirement for the energy supplier for our classification of service to be provided from sources of energy (generation) to be 50% derived from renewable sources (aka. solar, wind, etc.). That too may add some cost to our energy budget.

All that said finances remain in good shape. Despite our Treasurer Sherry being in Florida, she keeps us up to date in that regard. As Father Jon alluded to during recent service announcements, the foundation repair that we're about to undertake will be expensive and will quickly erode any recent gains we've made.



A Word from...

Though I've been out of school now for many decades, I still retain my schoolboy notion that summer is a time to take it easy and not worry about accomplishing much. Of course, as a grownup, they rarely work out that way – I still show up for work as usual for the most part, unlike my childhood self – but this summer seems more packed than usual.

Our daughter is in Japan with the Girl Scouts, my son gets dropped off to camp Monday-Friday, we have a trip planned to join my in-laws to celebrate their 50th anniversary, and we're planning to gather in Colorado with some family to finally lay my mom and step-dad's remains to rest.

So, it's pretty full, but some of our ministries are on a summer break, and even our vestry is forgoing a meeting, so that hopefully will allow me to carve out some time to rest and recharge. As we read through Exodus this year in Bible Study, I noticed again how much weight God puts on the practice of Sabbath. It is truly a sacred act to take some time to gather ourselves and reconnect with what's essential in our lives, those we love, our God, and God's creation.

So I hope all of us are able to regularly make some time for sabbath in our lives and especially during these warm summer months.

Peace, Jon



From the Diocese

LICENSED PREACHER PROGRAM

Apply by August 15 for this two-year training program

The Episcopal Church has a number of licensed ministries for lay persons, including: Preacher, Worship Leader, Eucharistic Visitor, and Eucharistic Minister. If you feel you might be called to the ministry of Licensed Preacher, we are starting a new training cohort this fall! Licensed Preachers go through a 2-year program of training, at which point they may be licensed by the Bishop to preach at parishes in the diocese.

You need to have been confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church and have the support of your rector or priest-in-charge. If your parish is without resident clergy, we can connect you with a clergy person to serve as your sponsor and mentor. You can find more about the program at the diocesan website (cnyepiscopal.org) or by contacting the Rev. Canon Tom Ferguson (tferguson@cnyepiscopal.org).



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Vestry Minutes

5402 West Genesee Street, Camillus, NY 13031

June 19, 2023

Attendance

Rector: Jon White

Wardens: Milt Stevenson and Jack Young

Vestry Members: Rich Conley, Jim Shake, Sherry Brescia, Mary Parish, Debbie Kaszubinski, and Eileen Robertson

Treasurer: Sherry Brescia

Vestry Clerk: Alison Conley

Opening prayer

Jon began the meeting at 6:01 p.m. with a prayer.

Review of previous minutes

There was an error in the spelling of April (as April) in the minutes from the May 22nd meeting. Debbie made a motion to accept the minutes from the May 22, 2023 vestry meeting with that correction, and Eileen seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Reports

Treasurer- verbal report given by Sherry

Our total cash is about \$15,000 instead of \$2600, which it was last year at this time. St. Mark's has been prompt with their payments to us. Sherry anticipates getting updated statements on our investments very soon. We are about a grand or two behind in contributions. Rental income is down a few thousand currently, for some unknown reason. Maintenance is elevated for various reasons, as is the Gas and Electric because prices have risen. We were anticipating a surplus of \$4700 and we're at \$4100. Jack said the energy contract will run out and then we'll be with National Grid for our electricity supplier with a variable rate instead of a fixed rate.

Eileen made a motion to accept the financial report. Jack seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Wardens:

Milt is on the road again and was in his car participating in the meeting. The wardens have been busy with the basement. The structural report is coming within days. A third company is consulting with us to look at alternatives to moving the electric to a new spot.

Jack had the Basement Brothers' second visit today. The engineering specifications will come in on Wednesday. One construction company would not move the electric and they would take the wall out from the outside. It's not a weight-bearing wall. If the panels have to be moved it has to be replaced back at the pole and transformer. We're having the construction companies follow the recommendations of the engineering company. Milt added that by getting multiple bids and having the engineering plan done minimizes the risk the vestry takes on. The engineering bill is \$6,000. We are trying to put together a Request for Proposal (RFP) that we will want vestry members to comment on. Jon said we don't need to have another meeting for that, but Jack should send an email out to inform vestry members. Milt, Bob, and Jerry have been working on this. Rich brought up the drainage



issue again to make sure water drains away from the building. Jack agreed that we will want to make sure this is part of the plan.

Rector:

Jon will be away with his family on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of next week. Deb will be on vacation the week of 7/3-7. Bible study is taking a break for a couple of months. There is a new candidate for choir director. The prayers of the people were written by Jon and his friend. They've been offered a book contract to collect them into a book. Jon is excited about this, and so were vestry members. Jon shared that they are overspending their endowment at St. Mark's, so they are spending some time as a parish to figure out how to decrease their spending. Consequently, they may have less money to spend on a rector. Jack offered to work with them to reduce their electric expenses. Attendance has been pretty solid for the last year at St. Luke's. In-person attendance is down a bit, probably due to the nice weather and travel during the summer. Adam Muratore's funeral is on Saturday. Jon is doing another funeral this week, and has a wedding to do at St. Mark's the next week.

New Business

Worship Laptop

We needed a new laptop. Jon just bought one on sale and is looking for reimbursement for \$536. Vestry members approved this expense.

We are trying to raise the money to pay for the basement job. We may try to get a grant if we can't raise the money ourselves. We may need to do a funding campaign. Jon wondered if we still have the line of credit to draw on if we need to do that. Sherry thought that we do. We may need an extra meeting this summer to discuss this.

Old Business

Sanctuary Foundation Update: discussed under Warden's reports

Convention Delegates:

Mary Stevenson volunteered to be a delegate. Jon will ask a couple more people to find the second delegate.

Run Fundraiser:

Mary had their first kick-off meeting with Sherry and Eileen. Mary wondered if there are concerns about having enough time to prepare for the run this year. Eileen found a comprehensive list of things to think about that outlines the steps they have to take. We may need a permit or may have to hire off-duty police to work during the run. Eileen thought if we put it off for a year we can have all our ducks in a row. Jon would say we should proceed for this year, and we should call Jim Nightingale to see what the town requires. Mary will forward the meeting minutes and will call Jim Nightingale. Eileen asked Mary to send the article Eileen sent her about things to consider when planning a run. Sherry recommended the slogan "Keep St. Luke's Standing". They are hoping to hold the race at the Erie Canal. The first option is October 7th if we can pull it off.

The next vestry meeting will be determined in the future.

Adjourn- Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Rich seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Conley, Vestry Clerk

ST LUKE'S OUTREACH

Special Food Drive The Outreach committee runs a special food collection to help stock the St. Charles Food Pantry to sustain struggling families over the summer. Some suggestions for the collection are **tuna, mayonnaise, peanut butter, jelly, boxed mac and cheese, canned soups, crackers, spaghetti and sauce, canned vegetables, cereal, applesauce, juice, juice boxes, individual fruit**

cups and microwave meals. Please help us and make this summer food collection a huge success.



Sacred Ground

Our Sacred Ground gatherings are taking a summer break and will resume in September. If you weren't able to participate in Sacred Ground, but would be interested in doing so, please let Fr Jon know so we can gauge interest in hosting the sessions again next year.



THANKS & PRAYERS

July & August

We Ask Your Thoughts & Prayers for...

Tish, Doug and Carol Law, Diane Synakowski, Fran Smith, Dick and Shirley Chrisfield, Michael, Jennifer Brady, Steve, Mary Lynch, Carol Greis, Joan Conley, Andy, Lynn, Kevin and Sue Fullerton, Joe Marshall, Mark Miller, Kristen O'Hara, Elizabeth, Anna, Ken and Barb Guy, Donna Sweeney, Carol Andrews, Silas, Audrey Kerswell, George Hoare, Peter Henderson, Patty Gordon, Vlad Hart-Zavoli, Adam, Nick & Mary Alice Zimmer, Carolyn Woodworth, Marilyn Farrell, Liz Beebe, Chip.

(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.)

Happy July Birthday

- 2 Norma Bullock
- 10 Ashlynn Houghton
(Marie Tackman's granddaughter)
- 15 Carolyn Muratore
Brad Wiley
- 17 Patrick White
- 18 Mary Ellen Hoag
- 25 Mary Parish

Happy July Anniversary

- 5 Kate and Jer Williams
- 20 Mary and Mo Parish
- 30 Dick and Shirley Chrisfield

Happy August Birthday

- 1 Jane Wiley
- 2 Gary Carkey
- 8 Scott Kaszubinski
- 10 Barbara Greene
- 13 Olivia Hart-Zavoli
- 15 Kathleen Hart-Zavoli
- 18 Cortney Ruland
- 21 Carol Law
- 29 Cheryl Young
- 30 Sherry Brescia
Sharon Hoare

Happy August Anniversary

- 19 Milt & Mary Stevenson
- 23 Gary & Bambi Carkey



Farewell to Adam

Adam Muratore, the son of Carolyn and the late Fred Muratore, died June 2 of this year. Adam had been a member of St Luke's in his youth; he was confirmed in 1994 at St Paul's and sponsored by Father Caldwell. In recent years he was an active member of St Matthew's Episcopal Church in Liverpool. Adam still regularly accompanied his parents to services here at St Luke's, and his smile was a welcome treat. Please keep Adam's family and friends in prayer. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Join us for our parish picnic on
August 27th at Reed Webster
Park on Warners Rd in Camillus.



Church Picnic

This year's picnic will be held jointly with St Mark's following a combined worship service **at 10:00am** at St Luke's.

